OMNI WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY, WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE DAY, 19th Amendment, AUGUST 26 [1920], 2013 GENDER JUSTICE NEWSLETTER #3 (see: UN International Day of Women March 8 and Women’s Equal Pay Day April 17 Newsletters). Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace.

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change. Here is the link to the Index: http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

OMNI’S NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT

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For Immediate Release August 23, 2013

**Presidential Proclamation -- Women's Equality Day, 2013**

**WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 2013**

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On August 26, 1920, after decades of organizing, agitating, and demonstrating, our country achieved a major victory for women's rights and American democracy. The 19th Amendment was certified, extending the vote to women and advancing our Nation's long journey toward full equality for all Americans. The ratification of the 19th Amendment paved the way for more women to participate in American politics -- as leaders, candidates, voters, and volunteers. Today, women make up the majority of the electorate, and last year a record number of women were elected to the United States Congress. On Women's Equality Day, we celebrate the progress that has been made, and renew our commitment to securing equal rights, freedoms, and opportunities for women everywhere.

From the beginning, my Administration has been committed to advancing the historic march toward gender equality. We have fought for equal pay, prohibited gender discrimination in America's healthcare system, and established the White House Council on Women and Girls, which works to ensure fair treatment in all matters of public policy. In March, I signed a reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which provides better tools to law enforcement to reduce domestic and sexual violence, strengthens support systems, and extends protections to even more women. And earlier this year, the Department of Defense announced plans to remove roadblocks that prevent women from serving the country they love at the highest levels their extraordinary valor and talent will take them.

Yet we have more work to do. A fair deal for women is essential to a thriving middle class, but while women graduate college at higher rates than men, they still make less money after graduation and often have fewer opportunities to enter well-paid occupations or receive promotions. On average, women are paid 77 cents for every dollar paid to men. That is why the first bill I signed was the Lilly Ledbetter
Fair Pay Act. It is also why I established the National Equal Pay Task Force, which is cracking down on equal pay violations at a record rate. And it is why I issued a Presidential Memorandum calling for a Government-wide strategy to close any gender pay gap within the Federal workforce. To build on this work, I will continue to urge the Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that would strengthen the Equal Pay Act and give women more tools to challenge unequal wages. My Administration will also continue our campaign to engage women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers, and we will broaden our efforts to empower women and girls around the world.

As we reflect with pride on decades of progress toward gender equality, we must also resolve to make progress in our time. Today, we honor the pioneers of women's equality by doing our part to realize that great American dream -- the dream of a Nation where all things are possible for all people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2013, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate the achievements of women and promote gender equality in our country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

LIBRARY OF ARTICLES FROM HUFFINGTON POST
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/womens-equality-day
22 articles with links from page one alone. Here is the first one:

Womens Equality Day

Celebrating Women's Equality Day and Continuing the Fight for Voting Rights
Elisabeth MacNamara | Posted 08.23.2013 | Women


On Monday, we observe Women's Equality Day, commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment and the culmination of over 70 years of advocacy fighting ...

Read Whole Story
(The following arrived too late from WAND for OMNI’s 2012 Newsletter, but with its historical account and call to action it is highly relevant in 2013.)

Dear friend of WAND,

Exactly 92 years ago today, women were granted the right to vote. Since then, women have made immeasurable progress in improving our nation and the world. Thanks to the late Congresswoman Bella Abzug and her 1971 U.S. Congressional Resolution, we celebrate “Women’s Equality Day” each year on August 26th. Bella was a formidable champion promoting both women’s empowerment and peace. She had her start in 1961 helping lead Women Strike for Peace, calling for an end to atmospheric nuclear tests. As a leader in the women’s movement and the peace movement, she would have been first in line to sponsor the Women, Peace and Security Act of 2012.

The Women, Peace and Security Act recently introduced in Congress is designed to support the implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security launched by executive order last December. [D: see 2012 Newsletter]. With the leadership of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, America joined the ranks of more than 30 countries in developing its National Action Plan to promote the essential role of women when it comes to securing peace. All of this started with a movement of women that has risen up across the globe and been developing through the United Nations.

On this momentous day, let’s celebrate the many achievements made by women and realize that the progress continues. WAND has been working hard to promote women’s empowerment and engagement in Afghanistan. Now we are partnering with other colleague organizations to help implement the National Action Plan and bring our message for women, peace and security to policy makers on Capitol Hill. WAND is committed to ensuring that women are well-positioned to speak up and engage for peace, security and for the rights and status of women. Be a part of our work by sending WAND a check (payable to WAND Education Fund, mail to; 691 Mass Ave., Arlington, MA 02476) or by making an on-line donation in honor of Women’s Equality Day.

Click here to submit your online donation today!
https://npo1.networkforgood.org/Donate/Donate.aspx?npoSubscriptionId=1261

Many thanks, The WAND Team

691 Massachusetts

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MUSEUM

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Celebrate Equality Day

Celebrate Equality Day – August 26th!

August 26th is the anniversary of national woman suffrage. Across the seventy-two years between the first major women’s rights conference at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, thousands of people participated in marches through cities like New York and Washington DC, wrote editorials and pamphlets, gave speeches all over the nation, lobbied political organizations, and held demonstrations with the goal of achieving voting rights for women. Women also picketed the White House with questions like, “Mr. President, what are you going to do about woman’s suffrage?” “Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?” This was the first time in history that a group of people picketed the White House.

The woman suffrage amendment was introduced for the first time to the United States Congress on January 10, 1878. It was re-submitted numerous times until finally in June 1919 the amendment received approval from both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Over the following year the suffragists spent their time lobbying states in order to have the amendment ratified by the required two-thirds of the states. On August 24th, Tennessee, the final state needed for ratification, narrowly signed the approval by one vote. The vote belonged to Harry Burn, who heeded the words of his mother when she urged him to vote yes on suffrage. The U.S. Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed the amendment into law on August 26, 1920.

Fifty years later on August 26th, 1970, Betty Friedan and the National Organization For Women (NOW) organized a nationwide Women’s Strike for Equality. Women across the political spectrum joined together to demand equal opportunities in employment, education, and twenty-four hour child-care centers. This was the largest protest for gender equality in U.S. history. There were demonstrations and rallies in more than ninety major cities and small towns across the country and over 100,000 women participated, including 50,000 who marched down Fifth Avenue in New York City.

Several other acts occurred on that day to help the cause and prompt more press coverage on the women’s movement. For example, women in New York City took over the Statue of Liberty. In preparation, several women climbed up to measure the wind velocity. Later they returned to the Statue with two forty-foot banners to hang from the crown. One read: “March on August 26 for Equality.” The other: “Women of the World Unite.” An organized group stopped the ticker tape at the American Stock Exchange, and they held signs with slogans like, “We won’t bear any more bull.” Another action taken during the day was a lawsuit filed against the New York City Board of Education to gain equality for women in educational administration. The case lasted about ten years and finally resulted in a larger increase in female principals.

While the strike did not halt the activities of the nation, it drew national attention to the women’s rights movement. For example, The New York Times published their first major article on the feminist movement by covering the events of the day. It even included a map of the route the marchers took
through New York City. The following year in 1971, Representative Bella Abzug (D-NY) introduced a bill designating August 26th of each year as Women’s Equality Day and the bill passed. Part of the bill reads that Women’s Equality Day is a symbol of women’s continued fight for equal rights and that the United States commends and supports them. It decreed that the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of woman suffrage and the 1970 Strike for Equality. Women today continue to draw on the history of these brave and determined women.

Find Equality Day resources on the National Women’s History Project’s Web site

Read the Presidential Equality Day Proclamation for the past 12 years:

- 2005
- 2004
- 2003
- 2002
- 2001
- 2000
- 1999
- 1998
- 1997
- 1996
- 1995
- 1994
Join a Women's Equality Day demonstration Aug 23–26, 2013
Yes, count me in! I will attend an action to defend women’s rights August 23-26, 2013.

Name:
First Required Last Required

* Email: Required

Street 1:

ZIP / Postal Code:

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☑ Yes, I would like to receive occasional email updates from WORD.
RIGHT NOW: Voices of the League

Celebrating Women's Equality Day and Continuing the Fight for Voting Rights
By: Elisabeth MacNamara

08/23/2013

As we celebrate Women's Equality Day and the anniversary of MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech, many Americans - women and men, young and old, rich and poor alike - still face barriers to voting.

Read More...

50 Years After the March on Washington, the Fight for Voting Rights Continues
By: Elisabeth MacNamara

08/23/2013

Tomorrow, as we galvanize Americans everywhere to voice their support for democracy and the hard-won victories of the 1963 March on Washington.

Read More...

- LWV Reacts to DOJ Announcement on Texas Voter Photo ID Law
- Growing the League to Safeguard Democracy in Montana
- League of Women Voters of North Carolina Files Suit Against Voter Suppression Law
- Join Us to March for the Dream on August 24!
- TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress to Fix the Voting Rights Act

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Lt. J.g. Jennifer Noonan becomes one of the first three female submariners to achieve the status of fully qualified officer. (Chief Mass Communication Specialist Ahron Arendes / U.S. Navy via Getty Images)

ACT LOCALLY » FEBRUARY 23, 2013

The Frontlines of Feminism
Is the end of the combat exclusion rule a win for all women?

BY REBECCA BURNS

It’s as if opponents have a script that they’ve been following for decades: The old argument about unit cohesion was also used to uphold racism and homophobia in the ranks.

On January 24, outgoing Defense Secretary Leon Panetta announced that he would lift the military’s long-held ban on women serving on the frontlines of combat. The decision followed decades of organizing by women in the military, as well as a federal lawsuit filed in November 2012 that challenged the ban as unconstitutional. Once implemented, the change could open up more than 230,000 military jobs to women.

Many service women have lauded the decision, noting that women were already serving in combat scenarios, but were denied recognition and opportunity for advancement. But should feminists treat the right to fight in the military as a battle for workplace equality like any other? In These Times discussed the ban’s lift with Cynthia Enloe, a feminist writer and researcher at Clark University; Maggie Martin, a field organizer with Iraq Veterans Against the War; and Ariela Migdal, a senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union who works on the case challenging the combat exclusion rule.

What prompted this change, and what will it mean for women in the military?
**Ariela:** The credit goes to service women themselves. A lot of women who have recent deployments under their belts and have been exposed to combat came back and were in shock that this policy was still in place. Servicewomen are refusing to be quiet about the gap between the policy that they were serving under and the reality that they found in Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Maggie:** At the same time, some women who have served in actual combat scenarios are still angry. This decision doesn’t adequately level the playing field. To do that, we need open jobs across the board, and standards that include all areas of job performance. Having upper-body strength isn’t the only indicator of a good military leader.

**Why does the idea of women in combat trigger such a backlash?**

**Cynthia:** It’s as if opponents have a script that they’ve been following for decades: The old argument about unit cohesion was also used to uphold racism and homophobia in the ranks. The backlash is almost laughably outdated, but it’s fueled by a real nervousness among some men that the last bastion of “true masculinity” is now being scaled by feminists. And so they’re asking, “Well, where can we be real men?”

**The definition of “combat” has shifted over time, yet women have been consistently excluded from participating in it. Why?**

**Cynthia:** The notion of combat— not violence, but combat—is basically a made-up idea. Should you send women out 5 minutes after or 20 minutes after combat? Should they go out in the third-to-last car or the fifth-to-last car? Over the past three decades, the Pentagon has tied themselves into pretzels in order to redefine what combat is so that it’s wherever women are not. In the 1980s, electricians and carpenters were among those military jobs that women couldn’t apply for. By the 1990s, the Pentagon had redefined combat so that a woman could suddenly be an electrician or a carpenter. My hunch is that we may next see the special forces exempted from the new rules, in order to preserve this as the new last bastion for true masculinity.

**Maggie:** I was in the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003, and when I deployed again in 2005, my platoon sergeant wanted me in the front of the convoy because I had a lot of experience. Later that same deployment, I had an opportunity to ride in a Blackhawk helicopter, but that time my platoon sergeant wouldn’t let me go. He said, “What am I going to tell your parents and your husband if something happens to you?”

**Ariela:** The combat exclusion rule caused tremendous confusion on the ground. The question now is: Will whatever new policy the armed services implement lend greater clarity, or will it leave some of these barriers in place and create more confusion?
Conservatives mobilized opposition to women in combat in order to kill the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. Could the acknowledgement that women do fight on the frontlines impact workplace equality outside the military?

**Ariela:** I typically think of the influence going the other way around. Women are doing every job in the world—this was the only job that, on paper, they weren’t doing. Now, we may see women progress to the top brass of leadership roles. The so-called brass ceiling will be further eroded.

**Cynthia:** I think it also works in the opposite direction: Because the U.S. military is such an important institution in terms of its disproportionate funding, where it fits in the national culture, and its role in holiday rituals, anything that can be done to roll back sexism in the military could help to lessen its masculinizing effect on American culture.

**Feminists also have a strong tradition of opposing war and imperialism. Does lauding this decision as a victory obscure a critique of militarism?**

**Maggie:** I’ve definitely had a mixed reaction. As a former service member, I think that lifting the ban is a huge gain for women’s equality in the military. But as a peace activist, I worry about anything that strengthens the military’s ability to maintain the occupation. In Iraq Veterans Against the War, we often think about our position as veterans, and whether, by lifting that up, we’re also lifting up the violence that goes along with it. But we also leverage our credibility as veterans to talk about war and the military in a different way. Women organizing for equality in the military face a similar challenge.

**Cynthia:** In our culture, you can militarize even women’s liberation. We can’t regard gaining equality in the military as more important than gaining equality in other spheres of life, or think of soldiering as a more important signifier of women’s service than being a civilian worker at a battered women’s shelter.

**Ariela:** Among the service women I’ve represented, I don’t think anybody is arguing that feminists should privilege military service over any other kind of service. But huge numbers of women find themselves in a two-tiered system where they are treated as second-class, and so that’s the terrain where they’re organizing.

**Gay rights organizers have had a similar debate over whether the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is a real advancement. What are the potential drawbacks of organizing for inclusion in the military?**

**Cynthia:** Within the American gay rights movement, there’s perhaps been some uncritical thinking about soldiering as the highest form of citizenship, and the need to demonstrate that gays and lesbians can make “good soldiers.”

I think there’s been a lot more cross-fertilization between the feminist movement and the peace movement.
We have enormous incentive to try to think through how fighting for women’s equality should not be done in any way that could further encourage militarism.

ABOUT THIS AUTHOR

Rebecca Burns, In These Times Assistant Editor, holds an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, where her research focused on global land and housing rights. A former editorial intern at the magazine, Burns also works as a research assistant for a project examining violence against humanitarian aid workers.

My Journey from Silence to Solidarity

by Roy Bourgeois M. M. (Author), Margaret Knapke (Editor)

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OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

My Prayer: Let Women Be Priests

By ROY BOURGEOIS

Published: March 20, 2013
AFTER serving as a Roman Catholic priest for 40 years, I was expelled from the priesthood last November because of my public support for the ordination of women.

Catholic priests say that the call to be a priest comes from God. As a young priest, I began to ask myself and my fellow priests: “Who are we, as men, to say that our call from God is authentic, but God’s call to women is not?” Isn’t our all-powerful God, who created the cosmos, capable of empowering a woman to be a priest?

Let’s face it. The problem is not with God, but with an all-male clerical culture that views women as lesser than men. Though I am not optimistic, I pray that the newly elected Pope Francis will rethink this antiquated and unholy doctrine.

I am 74 years old. I first felt God calling me to be a priest when I was serving in the Navy in Vietnam. I was accepted into the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in New York and was ordained in 1972. After working with the poor of Bolivia for five years, I returned to the United States. In my years of ministry, I met many devout Catholic women who told me about their calling to the priesthood.

Their eagerness to serve God began to keep me awake at night. As Catholics, we are taught that men and women are created equal: “There is neither male nor female. In Christ you are one” (Galatians 3:28).

While Christ did not ordain any priests himself, as the Catholic scholar Garry Wills has pointed out in a controversial new book, the last two popes, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, stressed that the all-male priesthood is “our tradition” and that men and women are equal, but have different roles.
Their reasons for barring women from ordination bring back memories of my childhood in Louisiana. For 12 years I attended segregated schools and worshiped in a Catholic church that reserved the last five pews for blacks. We justified our prejudice by saying this was “our tradition” and that we were “separate but equal.” During all those years, I cannot remember one white person — not a teacher, parent, priest or student (myself included) — who dared to say, “There is a problem here, and it’s called racism.”

Where there is injustice, silence is complicity. What I have witnessed is a grave injustice against women, my church and our God, who called both men and women to be priests. I could not be silent. Sexism, like racism, is a sin. And no matter how hard we may try to justify discrimination against others, in the end, it is not the way of a loving God who created everyone of equal worth and dignity.

In sermons and talks, starting in the last decade, I called for the ordination of women. I even participated in the ordination of one. This poked the beehive of church patriarchy. In the fall of 2008, I received a letter from the Vatican stating that I was “causing grave scandal” in the Church and that I had 30 days to recant my public support for the ordination of women or I would be excommunicated.

Last month, in announcing his resignation, Pope Benedict said he made his decision after examining his conscience before God. In a similar fashion, in November 2008, I wrote the Vatican saying that human conscience is sacred because it always urges us to do what is right and what is just. And after examining my conscience before God, I could not repudiate my beliefs.

Four years went by, and I did not get a response from the Vatican. Though I had formally been excommunicated, I remained a priest with my Maryknoll Order and went about my ministry calling for gender equality in the Catholic Church. But last November, I received a telephone call from Maryknoll headquarters informing me that they had received an official letter from the Vatican. The letter said that I had been expelled from the priesthood and the Maryknoll community.

This phone call was one of the most difficult and painful moments of my life. But I have come to realize that what I have gone through is but a glimpse of what women in the church and in society have experienced for centuries.

A New York Times/CBS poll this month reported that 70 percent of Catholics in the United States believed that Pope Francis should allow women to be priests. In the midst of my sorrow and sadness, I am filled with hope, because I know that one day women in my church will be ordained — just as those segregated schools and churches in Louisiana are now integrated.
I have but one simple request for our new pope. I respectfully ask that he announce to the 1.2 billion Catholics around the world: “For many years we have been praying for God to send us more vocations to the priesthood. Our prayers have been answered. Our loving God, who created us equal, is calling women to be priests in our Church. Let us welcome them and give thanks to God.”

Roy Bourgeois is a former Roman Catholic priest and the author of “My Journey From Silence to Solidarity.”

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful
Remarkable
By Robert J. Ferkenhoff on January 19, 2013
Format: Unknown Binding Amazon Verified Purchase
This is a truly remarkable story of a remarkable man. His life journey and commitment to the Gospel gives genuine credibility to his positions. A must read for every Catholic that is deeply concerned about the issues of the day facing our church.

Comment   Was this review helpful to you?   YesNo
7 of 7 people found the following review helpful
My Journey from silence to solidarity by Roy Bourgeois, M.M.
By Donald L LaBranche on December 16, 2012
Format: Unknown Binding Amazon Verified Purchase
What I found very interesting was that the book well illustrated the title. Rev. Bourgeois' thoughts and feelings about the injustice that women are enduring because they are not allowed to be ordained priests did not come out of the blue, but are a reflection of his life's journey of working along side with women who were seen qualified to be in such a role. He is to be admired and emulated for the courage he is manifesting in risking the status of his own position as a priest in his church by challenging its authorities as to the injustice that is being committed against its most dedicated members,
The Film

[Show as slideshow]

*Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth* is a feature documentary film which tells the compelling story of an extraordinary woman’s journey from her birth in a paper-thin shack in cotton fields of Putnam County, Georgia to her recognition as a key writer of the 20th Century.

Alice Walker made history as the **first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction** for her groundbreaking novel, *The Color Purple*, which has been transformed from a novel, to a Hollywood movie and latterly to a successful Broadway musical. This universal story of triumph against all odds is not that different from Walker’s own story.

Born in 1944, eighth child of sharecroppers, her early life unfolded in the midst of violent racism and poverty during some of the most turbulent years of profound social and political changes in North American history. Alice Walker’s inspiring journey is also a story of a country and a people at the fault line of historical changes.

Alice Walker: Beauty In Truth offers audiences a penetrating look at the life and art of an artist, a self-confessed renegade and human rights activist. In 2010, Yoko Ono honored Walker with the **LennonOno Peace Award**.
WISCONSIN Women’s Equality Day 2013

Join the Wisconsin Women’s Network for our annual celebration of National Women’s Equality Day on Monday, August 26th! We will be joined by powerful and inspiring women leaders from across the state as we honor 93 years of women’s suffrage in the U.S. and look together towards a future of full equality for all:

Here are the details for this year’s event:

Many Voices, One Network: A Celebration of Women’s Equality Day
Monday, August 26, 2013
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Sunprint Cafe on the Square
10 W. Mifflin St., Madison

Sponsor Women’s Equality Day!:

Be part of a united movement to advance the status of women and girls in Wisconsin by sponsoring Women’s Equality Day! This great event would not possible without our generous sponsors, consider a tax-deductible donation today: WWN’s Women’s Equality Day Celebration is our only fundraising event of the year and we rely on your generous support to turn many voices into a united network. Please consider a tax-deductible sponsorship of this event at the $500, $250, or $100. Submit your sponsorship using our secure Paypal Button (above) or by downloading and sending back the sponsorship form at this link.

**Suggested donation of $15 at the door; all contributions greatly appreciated. Special reduced WWN memberships also available at the door. A Sponsors at the $50 level or higher will be listed in our event program. Contact Emily at (608) 255-9809 or info@wiwomensnetwork.org to learn more.**
2013 Theme: THE GENDER AGENDA: GAINING MOMENTUM

Over time and distance, the equal rights of women have progressed. We celebrate the achievements of women while remaining vigilant and tenacious for further sustainable change. There is global momentum for championing women's equality.

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organisations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media celebrate the day. Many groups around the world choose different themes each year relevant to global and local gender issues.

"The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum" is the 2013 theme of our internationalwomensday.com website. Last year our 2012 theme was Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures which supported the United Nation’s (UN) first International Day of the Girl celebrated on 11 October 2012. The UN declares an International Women’s Day theme and for 2013 it is “A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women”. In 2012 it was "Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty". Many organisations develop International Women’s Day themes relevant to their local contexts. For example, the European Parliament's 2012 theme was "Equal pay for work of equal value".

Previous United Nation International Women's Day themes:
- 2012: Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty
- 2011: Equal access to education, training and science and technology
- 2010: Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all
- 2009: Women and men united to end violence against women and girls
- 2008: Investing in Women and Girls
- 2007: Ending Impunity for Violence against Women and Girls
- 2006: Women in decision-making
- 2004: Women and HIV/AIDS
- 2003: Gender Equality and the Millennium Development Goals
- 2002: Afghan Women Today: Realities and Opportunities
- 2001: Women and Peace: Women Managing Conflicts
- 2000: Women Uniting for Peace
- 1999: World Free of Violence against Women
- 1998: Women and Human Rights
- 1997: Women at the Peace Table
- 1996: Celebrating the Past, Planning for the Future
- 1975: First IWD celebrated by the United Nations

Whats your International Women's Day 2013 Theme?
Please let us know your 2013 International Women's Day theme by clicking here.

Some previous themes around the world
- Global, United Nations: Empower Rural Women - End Hunger and Poverty
- Australia, UNIFEM: Unite to End Violence Against Women
- Australia, Queensland Government Office for Women: Everything is possible
- Australia, WA Department for Communities: Sharing the Caring for the Future
- UK, Doncaster Council: Women’s Voices and Influence
- UK, Welsh Assembly Government: Bridging the Generational Gap
- UK, Accenture: Stretch Yourself: Achieving 50:50 in the boardroom by 2020
- USA, IBM: Women@IBM: Success in the Globally Integrated Enterprise

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