

## International Women's Day—March 8, 2010



International Women's Day is an occasion marked by people around the world. On March 8 women on all continents come together to celebrate their common [history](#) of struggle for equality, justice, peace and development.

Few causes promoted by the [United Nations](#) (*UN Languages*) have generated more intense and widespread support than the campaign to promote and protect the equal rights of women and girls. [The Charter of the United Nations](#) (*UN Languages*) signed in San Francisco in 1945, was the first international agreement to proclaim gender equality as a fundamental human right. Since then, the United Nations has helped create a historic legacy of internationally agreed strategies, standards, programs and goals to advance the status of women worldwide.

The theme for March 8, 2009 is: **“Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All”** We invite you to join members of the SSND family around the world in remembering the contributions and concerns of women and girls on March 8.

### Suggestions for celebrating International Women's Day:

- Invite your parish and other houses of worship to remember mothers, sisters, daughters and friends and to join you in prayer on March 8.
- Join the UN Campaign [Say No-UNiTE-End Violence](#) against Women (*UN Languages*)
- Send [International Women's Day greeting cards](#) to family and friends.
- Test your knowledge. Take UNESCO's [“Gender Equality Quiz.”](#)
- Explore this year's theme **“Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities: Progress for All .”** Organize teach-ins, workshops, cultural events, coffees, teas, and other activities.
- Encourage teachers, campus ministers, and youth group leaders to explore ideas about women and girls with young people.
  - UN CyberSchoolBus has developed an [International Women's Day Curriculum](#).
  - UNICEF's [Voices of Youth](#) provides space for young people to discuss gender equality. (*UN Languages*)
  - Learn more about the [Girl Effect](#).
  - Get youth involved in support of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (*UN Languages*) especially those goals that promote gender equality and empower women and girls.
  - Participate in this year's [Global Campaign for Education](#). (*English, German, Spanish*)
- Integrate gender issues into your work in the field of education. [UNESCO](#) offers teaching methods, learning tools, case studies, synoptic PowerPoint presentations, guidelines and so much more.
- Contact government officials and leaders—local, national or international. Tell them to do all that they can to end discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- Learn more about international treaties which protect the rights of women and girls and find out if your national government has ratified each of these important instruments.
  - [Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#) (*UN Languages*)
  - [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) (*UN Languages*)
  - [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (*English, Spanish*)
- Join the UN Millennium Development Campaign and promote the accomplishment of the [Millennium Development Goals](#), especially those directly related to women and girls.
- Join women from around the world as they follow the work of [54<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#), March 1-12 as they observe the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and review progress made in accomplishing the Beijing Platform

for Action..

### More Web Resources:

- Find the link to the official [UN Women's Day](#) website (*UN Languages*)
- [WomenWatch](#) is the central gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the United Nations system.
- [Women and Gender Resources in the UN System](#) (*UN Languages*)
- UNICEF's work on behalf of [Girls](#) and Girls' Education (*English and Spanish*)
- [INSTRAW](#) seeks to support research and training which promotes the advancement of gender equality worldwide (*English and Spanish*).
- [UNESCO and Gender Equality](#).
- YouTube offers a wide range of videos that deal with human rights and the situation of women and girls including:
  - [I Dare You](#)
  - [Because I'm a Girl Invest in Me](#)
  - [The Girl Effect](#)



### Prayer for International Women's Day:

Women are a reflection of the glory of God. Today we honor the women of all times and all places:

Women of courage.

Women of hope.

Women suffering

Women mourning.

Women living fully.

Women experiencing joy.

Women delighting in life.

Women knowing the interconnectedness of the human family.

Women honoring the sacredness of the relational, the affective.

Women quietly tending the garden of human flourishing.

Women boldly leading the transformation of unjust global structures.

Women seeking Wisdom.

Women sharing Wisdom.

Women receiving Love.

Women giving Love.

Women: life-giving.

Women: the image of God.

Loving God, we celebrate your faithfulness and love. On this day we commit ourselves to the promotion of the full humanity of all women everywhere. We know that whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is not of God.

Help us to be faithful to your call to love.

Amen.

From Center of Concern [www.coc.org](http://www.coc.org).



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