

Reading: International Women's Day

On 8th March every year, people come together to celebrate International Women's Day around the world. Women's Day began in the early 1900s.

Before that time, women mainly worked at home. They cared for their families, or they helped on family farms. But in the 1900s, women in many countries were starting to enter paid work. They worked mostly in cloth factories.

These factories were not very safe., the working conditions were very poor, and they had to work long hours. At this time trade unions were developing. These groups worked to protect the rights of all workers.

Women also joined these protests. The Social Political Party formed a women's national committee. This group called for the party to give one day each year to women. In 1908, 15,000 women in New York went on strike because of low pay and terrible conditions in the factories where they worked.

..... In the year 1910, Women's Day celebrations became more popular. Many women joined the protests in the USA. Some of these women went to the International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen in Denmark.

Other women fought for a right to vote. She proposed that women throughout the world should unite in the struggle for their rights. They should do this on a particular day each year and planned to suggest that Women's Day become an international event. The idea grew and many countries celebrated the International Women's Day on March 8th, 1911.

The United Nations declared 8 March International Women's Day in 1975. Since then, IWD has become a global event that is supported by charities, institutions, companies, and governmental organizations. A lot of special events take place around the world. There are exhibitions, shows, talks, discussions, tours, films, workshops, and much more. Overall, the events are designed to celebrate the role of women in society and to take a moment to appreciate all that has been done to increase equality between men and women.

..... In some places, like Russia, this day is an official holiday for both men and women, while in other countries, like China, only women get a day off. Even in places where Women's Day is not a holiday, people still celebrate. In Chile and Albania, for example, men may give women small presents, like flowers or chocolate.

Although women are becoming more powerful in business, entertainment, politics and many more areas, there are still a lot of inequalities around the world which call for mobilization to grant women the status they should have.

Choose one of the sentences A-F to fill in the gaps

One of these activists was Clara Zetkin.

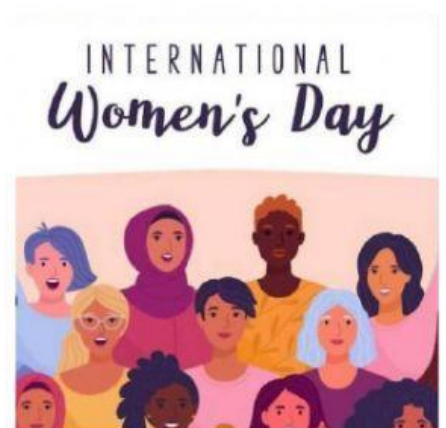
It was a time of great social crisis in Europe and the United States.

The workers on these factories worked for low pay.

National Woman's Day began the following year, in 1909.

They organized mass strikes – the workers stopped working for some time.

Women's Day is an official holiday in many countries.



Adapted from www.octoeducation.com and <https://english-portal.com.ua/>