



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Write a word in each gap to complete the text.

What is International Women's Day?

International Women's Day takes place **1)** _____ year on 8th March to celebrate the achievements of women **2)** _____ over the world. It started **3)** _____ a protest that took place in New York City in 1908 where women went out onto the streets **4)** _____ demand the right to vote, shorter working hours and better pay. Since **5)** _____ it has taken many forms and today it is a global event that is supported **6)** _____ lots of charities, NGOs, governments and academic institutions. In some countries 8th March is an official holiday, but **7)** _____ most it is a normal working day.

Why do we need an International Women's Day?

In today's world **8)** _____ may appear that women have all the **9)** _____ opportunities as men. If you watch the news, you will see women astronauts, women prime ministers and women leaders in business. However, **10)** _____ you look at the statistics, you realize there is still a long **11)** _____ to go. The BBC did a report a few years **12)** _____ that showed that in the UK women occupied only 30.9% of the most senior positions across a range of jobs in areas **13)** _____ politics, business and policing. So, although progress has been made **14)** _____ 1908, there is still a **15)** _____ to do before we see an equal number of men and women in the top jobs and receiving equal pay.

How is IWD celebrated in the UK?

A lot of special events take **16)** _____ in towns and cities all over the UK to celebrate International Women's Day. There **17)** _____ exhibitions, theatre shows, talks, discussions, walking tours, films, workshops, fun runs and so much **18)** _____. All the events are designed to celebrate the role of women in society and to make **19)** _____ all take a step back and think about the progress that has been made, but **20)** _____ about the changes that still need to take place to ensure the world is a fair and equal place for all **21)** _____ citizens.

Think globally and act locally

The message for women around the world is to 'think globally and act locally'. This means to learn **22)** _____ some of the key issues that women face around the world and then to try to take action close to home. Emma Watson, the actress who played Hermione in the Harry Potter films, is a great example of someone who **23)** _____ doing something to raise awareness about the issues that women face globally. She **24)** _____ launched a campaign called *HeForShe*, **25)** _____ aims to get people talking **26)** _____ all levels about gender equality. The aim is to create a 'gender-equal world'. The *HeForShe* campaign makes **27)** _____ very clear that it is the role of men as **28)** _____ as women to make changes in all areas of their lives, **29)** _____ at work and in the family, to help make this possible. With the support of UN Women, the United Nations organization to support women, Emma's campaign is surely **30)** _____ to make a big impact.

Adapted from: <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/read-uk/international-womens-day#>