

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for moving towards gender parity."

- International Women's Day website



In 1975, IWD was adopted by the United Nations as an official, world-wide celebration of women's rights and world peace.

THE MAIN AIMS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ARE:



to celebrate the achievements of women around the world



to encourage action on issues of gender equality



to empower women and girls around the world

IMPORTANT KEY WORDS

- **Celebrated (adjective):** an important event or occasion where you do something special
- **Campaign (noun):** a planned series of actions that are intended to achieve something, or persuade people to do something
- **Dozen (noun):** twelve of something
- **Turn of the twentieth century (noun):** at the beginning of the century
- **Inequality (noun):** an unfair situation
- **March (noun):** protest about something
- **Sure (adjective):** certain
- **Annual (adjective):** happening once a year
- **Highlight (verb):** to emphasize
- **Official (adjective):** with authority
- **Across the world (adverb):** all over the Earth
- **Celebrate (verb):** to commemorate
- **Spread (verb):** to expand

1. Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

International Women's Day (IWD) is ⁽¹⁾ _____ around the world on March 8 every year. It began as a ⁽²⁾ _____ for better working conditions by women in New York at the ⁽³⁾ _____ of the 20th century. The first official IWD was on February 28, 1909. No one knows for ⁽⁴⁾ _____ why the date changed to March 8, but this is the date when thousands of women started ⁽⁵⁾ _____ marches in New York's streets. The first international women's conference took place in 1910, in Denmark. Since then, IWD has spread around the world. Today it is an important day to ⁽⁶⁾ _____ the economic, political and ⁽⁷⁾ _____ contributions women have made to our world. Women can now be happier that things are moving in the right ⁽⁸⁾ _____.

IWD is an ⁽⁹⁾ _____ holiday in many countries, including Algeria, China, Cuba, Italy, Poland, Vietnam, and Zambia. All ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____ the world, men give flowers and other gifts to the women in their lives - mothers, wives, girlfriends, sisters, teachers, etc. In Portugal and Romania, women ⁽¹¹⁾ _____ by having "women-only" dinners. IWD is a big ⁽¹²⁾ _____ in India, where people hold celebrations throughout the day. Indian men want to show how important women are to their ⁽¹³⁾ _____. All around the world women are becoming more ⁽¹⁴⁾ _____ in business, entertainment, politics and other areas. There are over a ⁽¹⁵⁾ _____ nations today with women leaders. However, IWD is still necessary to ⁽¹⁶⁾ _____ the inequality millions of women still face.

highlight

turn

sure

social

celebrated

direction

annual

campaign

society

celebrate

highlight

event

official

powerful

dozen

across

2. Listen and check.