

2022 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



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Stellenbosch Women Alumnae Network



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If you don't already have International Women's Day
marked in your calendar, there's still time to get
organised before **8 March 2022.**

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

IS A

PANDEMIC!

men → Protect women, children & the LGBTQI+ community

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY?

International Women's Day (IWD) is a day for us to join voices with people around the world and put across our message about equal rights loud and clear: **"Women's rights are human rights!"**

We celebrate all women, in all their diversities. We embrace all our facets and intersections of faith, race, ethnicity, gender or sexual identity, and disability. We celebrate those who came before us, those who stand beside us now, and those who will come after.

It's a time to celebrate the achievements of women, whether social, political, economic, or cultural.

WHAT IS THE THEME FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN 2022?

The theme for International Women's Day in 2022 is #BreakTheBias. Whether deliberate or unconscious, bias makes it difficult for women to move ahead. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough, action is needed to level the playing field. You can break the bias in your community, your workplace, or your university. Together, we can create a gender equal world.

www.internationalwomensday.com

ARE MEN WELCOME TOO?

International Women's Day is a time for everyone, regardless of gender or gender identity, to celebrate the progress that women have made towards equality and remember how much further there is to go. Male allyship, especially when men are prepared to use their privilege to support gender equality, is a welcome amplification of women's voices. And remember, feminism isn't just about improving the lives of women, it's about dismantling ALL damaging gender stereotypes and roles. Achieving gender equality should be as important for men as it is for women.



WHAT DOES PURPLE HAVE TO DO WITH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY?

The Women's Social and Political Union in the UK started using purple, green and white to symbolise women's equality as far back as 1908. Historically, purple was a colour that denoted justice and dignity, and now it is used to represent women. Green is a symbol of hope.

Today, purple is the colour of International Women's Day, and combined with green represents the feminist movement.



THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In 1908, against a backdrop of terrible working conditions and exploitation, 15 000 women took to the streets in New York protesting for shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

The next year the Socialist Party of America announced a National Women's Day to honour the strikers, and in 1910 it went global – the Socialist International voted for the creation of a Women's Day to advocate for suffrage. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911, and more than a million people turned out to rallies in Europe.

For most of the 20th century International Women's Day was acknowledged and celebrated by people at the grassroots level, a rallying point for social justice. It wasn't until 1975 – International Women's Year – that the United Nations adopted International Women's Day on 8 March, when it is still held.

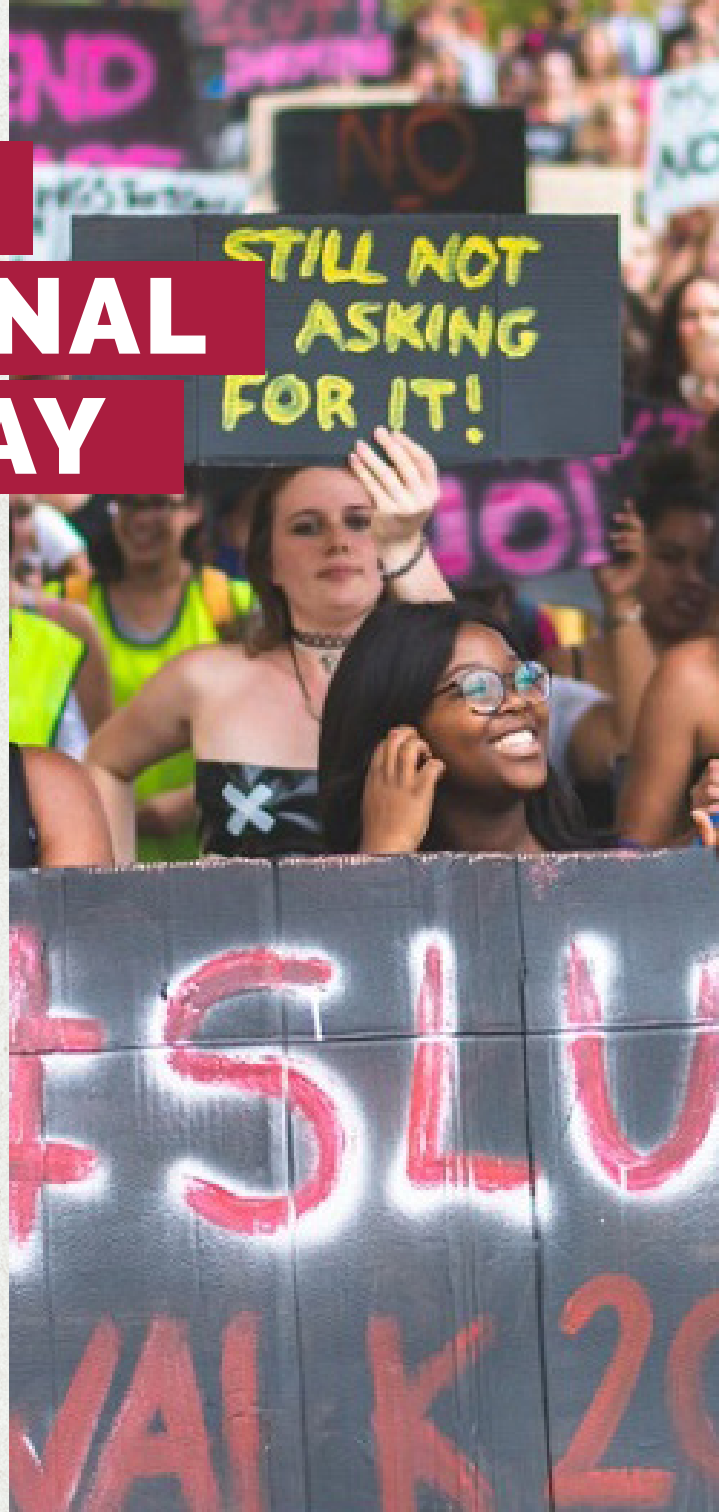
WHY DOES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY MATTER?

Because we're not there yet.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 states: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by 2030. IWD is a day to recognise how far we've come towards gender equality, and how far we have left to go.

Back in 1911, only eight countries allowed women to vote, equal pay for equal work was unheard of – if women were allowed to work at all – and reproductive rights were non-existent.

We have come a long way. Whereas once women couldn't vote, we're now leading countries. While we once faced restrictions on where we worked, we're now running corporations. In countries such as South Africa we have rights our grandmothers could only have dreamed about, but we still don't have complete equality. And the majority of the world's women aren't anywhere near as close to that goal as we are.





More than 100 years ago, that first march was about ending harmful workplace conditions, equal rights, equal pay, and an end to exploitation. And sadly, those aims are still relevant today.

Progress should be linear, but it's too often accompanied by a step back. Sometimes, even once laws and rights are established, they are ignored anyway.

For example:

- Despite domestic violence laws, public awareness and access to legal protection, 51% of women in SA say they've experienced GBV, with 76% of men saying they've perpetrated GBV at one stage in their lives (2010 Gauteng sample). A similar study revealed that one in five women report that they have experienced violence at the hands of a partner.
- Of the nearly 73 000 assault cases reported during the period July to September 2021, more than 13 000 were domestic violence related.
- 9 556 people were raped between July and September 2021. This is 7% more than in the previous reporting period. It equates to almost 10 thousand people being brutalised and sexually violated in just three months in South Africa – a disgrace and deeply disturbing. The majority of people raped are women and those most vulnerable in our society. Statistics show they are often violated by people they know and trust, in the comfort of their own homes or in places where they thought they were safe (SAPS Crime Stats).
- In 2019/20, a total of 2 695 women were murdered in South Africa. This means a woman is murdered every three hours.
- Femicide is five times higher in South Africa than the global average, with South Africa having the fourth-highest female interpersonal violence death rate out of the 183 countries listed by the WHO in 2016.

IWD is a once-a-year chance to remind governments, businesses and everyone else watching that women aren't going anywhere, and we're prepared to take action to achieve our human rights.

Because progress hasn't been equal.

Some women feel they have not encountered discrimination or harassment, or faced systemic barriers to their success, but that's not the experience of all women. IWD is an opportunity to acknowledge the compounded challenges faced by women of colour, women with disabilities, and queer or trans women, and stand in partnership with them.

It's also a show of solidarity with our sisters living in countries where they may not be able to march out of fear for their safety.

On International Women's Day we remember that if one woman faces discrimination, harassment, inequality or oppression, we all do.

Because sometimes we need to remember we're not alone.

Between personal experience and public headlines, it can feel like we're not getting any closer to gender equality, or that it's too overwhelming (and exhausting) to keep challenging social norms. Maybe we're just tired of fighting the same fight. IWD is a great way to get re-inspired or re-energised, or to remind ourselves there are millions of women out there standing with us, and we're all facing – and winning – the same battles.

PHOTO: OLI AMOS / @OLI.AMOS





STATISTICS

47 000

Women and girls were killed by their male partners or family members in 2020 – and those are only the deaths we know about.

47

countries still have no repercussions for husbands who rape their wives.

45

countries do not have specific laws against domestic violence.

41.5%

SA women have higher unemployment rates and higher levels of poverty, with Black African women being the most vulnerable with an unemployment rate of 41.5%.

(Official unemployment rate by population group and sex StatsSA QLFS data Q3 2021).



1 IN 3 WOMEN

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, one in three women globally were subjected to intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner over the course of their lifetime; the figures were even higher for a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Now, after two years of the pandemic, there have been alarming increases of intimate partner violence and other forms of violence against women and girls, as numerous studies show. This uptick makes increasing investments in prevention and response to violence against women and girls even more urgent.

2.7 BILLION WOMEN

are legally restricted from having the same choice of jobs as men.

70%

OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN do not feel safe walking alone at night in their neighbourhood.

(StatsSA Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2018/19).

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN #IWD2022?

GET EDUCATED

Find out more about the fight for gender equality. Learn about intersectionality and the challenges faced by women of colour, trans women and women with disabilities. Read books by women from all walks of life or get inspired by a leading feminist scholar and activist. Find out more about extraordinary women!

EDUCATE YOUR FRIENDS

Celebrate your favourite women, women leaders, or feminist achievements by shouting them out across social media using #IWD2022. If you want to make it more personal, thank the amazing women in your life for all they do.

BE DELIBERATE IN YOUR CHOICES

Have a look at your bookcase and see how many books were written by men compared to women (balancing the books). How many women are in your music playlists? How many women own or run the shops where you shop? Think about whether there's a better way to support women through the media you consume or the products you buy.

DONATE TO BRIDGE THE GAP

#EndPeriodPoverty

Did you know that 35% of women in South Africa are faced with the choice of buying a loaf of bread or sanitary products? On average students across South Africa miss five days of education each month owing to a lack of access to sanitary products.

Consider donating towards the funding of sanitary product vending machines for our campuses. Students will be given tokens to redeem at the machines and receive sanitary products for free. This will ensure that these students will no longer have to sacrifice a meal or their education for a basic right.

Every rand raised will make a significant impact to ending #EndPeriodPoverty, one of the priority initiatives under the University's annual fundraising campaign, Bridge the Gap.

DONATE
ON SNAPSCAN





ATTEND OUR SWAN EVENT ONLINE

Please join a panel of incredible Matie women who are keen to share their respective journeys with you and lead a discussion on how we could all play a part to #BreakTheBias and help foster a world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive. The discussion will be facilitated by **Prof Ingrid Woolard**, Dean of Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences.



Our panel members have each carved out a significant reputation for themselves in law, finance and the corporate sector. They are:

Dr Nicky Newton-King, a corporate finance and regulation lawyer, and the first woman CEO in the 125-year history of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.



Prof Rachel Jafta, a widely respected and award-winning advocate of educational development and growth in South Africa and a lecturer in Economics.

Sinomtha Zake, a final-year Matie studying towards her BMus degree, and part of our award-winning Stellenbosch University Choir.



THE EVENT DETAILS:

DATE: Thursday, 3 March 2022

VENUE: Online from the Alumni Clubhouse at Die Stal

TIME: 12:30–14:00 SAST

RSVP: Send an e-mail to marvin@sun.ac.za if you would like to attend.



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