

TWFC RESOURCE KIT

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

2006

*on a podium or in a field,
or with babe clutched to her breast
women are as strong as ever
yet still we cannot rest*

*our cries for equality will be heard
from campus to city street
until we are no longer "other"
we'll not cease our marching feet*

CONTENTS:



introduction

herstory of International Womens Day

why still have a day for women?

the position of women in 2006

events, ideas and past examples

web links

introduction

Hello women of TWFG!

This International Women's Day Pack was made so you can inform and celebrate International Women's Day with the students on your campus.

International Women's Day is a day rich in history dating back to the beginning of last century and it has links to most of the major women's movements throughout the 20th Century.

It is a day when we as women can draw attention to the injustices that happen against women in our world and when we can celebrate how far we have come and look at how far we have to go. A day which most importantly gives women the chance to draw attention to whatever concerns we have in with our world. It is also a great day to launch your women's group or to start women's activities on your campus in 2006.

I encourage you to organise speakers, advertise events in your local area, set up a stall and give out (WD) herstories or leaflets or simply share a lunch with your women's group. To this end you can use the information and resources provided in this pack - there is a poster, herstory, event guide, and web links for more information.

However you choose to celebrate International Women's Day just remember it is a day where you can feel empowered in your cause through International recognition of the importance of the Women's Movement.

If you have any queries please contact me and have a happy and productive International Women's Day 2005!

Kind regards,

Jennifer Jones

National Women's Rights Officer

The New Zealand University Student's Association

herstory of International Womens Day

International Women's Day has its beginnings in 1908 when the Socialist Party of America's Women's National Committee recommended that a day be set aside every year to campaign for women's suffrage. Women had been organising politically around women's issues prior to this date, in regards to women's working conditions and pay, women's health issues as well as women's suffrage.

The following year in 1909 women from around American celebrated the first National Women's Day. This day was celebrated on the last Sunday in February until 1913.

In 1910 at an international meeting of women in Copenhagen it was unanimously decided that an International Women's Day should be established to honour women's rights and assist in the campaign for universal suffrage world wide. The motion was suggested by the German Socialist Clara Zetkin. She was a famous revolutionary who is said to have argued with Lenin over women's rights and known by a former Kaiser as "the most dangerous sorceress in the empire." **This launched International Women's Day as a worldwide campaign.**

In 1911 the first International Women's Day was observed in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Over 1 million people attended rallies on support of this day and the equality it demanded. Rights demanded were: the right to vote, the right to work, the right to hold public office and the right for a workplace free from discrimination.

Then in 1913 International Women's Day was celebrated in Russia. The day was celebrated as part of the peace movement before the start of World War I in order to protest against the pending war.

Four years later in 1917, with 2 million Russian soldiers killed, Russian women again protested against food shortages, high food prices, the world war and the suffering that they had endured. Four days after this protest Tsarist Russia was abolished and to honour the women's role in the revolution women were granted suffrage by the provisional government. This historic date fell on the 8th of March by Western Calendars.

The date of the 8th of March became the official date of International Women's Day in 1921.

In the 1960s with feminism growing there was a resurgence of interest in International Women's Day. Feminists began a celebration of women's lives and work and started to place an increased importance on the contribution that women have made throughout history.

Historically, International Women's Day has been an opportunity for women all over the world to celebrate acts of women's courage and determination. It has also been an opportunity to demand that women's rights be recognised and to call for change when injustice occurs. The herstory of International Women's Day is a herstory of taking action.

why still have a day for women?

In 2006, whilst celebrating International Women's Day, it is fundamentally important to focus on the reality for women internationally. Though in many countries women have legal equality with men this doesn't translate into actual equality. We must all continue to fight for women's rights until true equality is achieved.

Since its beginning, IWD has maintained its focus on the original issues of pay, work conditions and political rights for women. IWD is now used to reflect current economic, legal, political and social concerns. It has recently been used by governments as a day to give awards to women. Use International Women's Day on your campus to highlight issues for women in society (both New Zealand and internationally), challenge sexist attitudes and stereotypes, and celebrate the achievement of women in the world.

International Women's Day is
a day to reflect on the
achievements of women and to
celebrate the progress made
to advance women's equality.



IWD has other purposes too:

- Challenge sexism and inequalities in society
- Put women's issues onto the agenda
- Influence public opinion
- Popularise feminist issues
- Assert women's rights and entitlements
- Demand legal, social, economic and political change
- Acknowledge the tiresome work at routine tasks women do without pay
- Celebrate acts of courage and determination of individual women
- Unite at a local and international level to empower women
- Reaffirm traditional goals

the position of women in 2006

World

- Girls make up two out of every three children in the third world who do not receive a primary education.
- 700, 000 women are trafficked each year across borders to do prostitution, domestic labour and sweatshop labour.
- In Jordan, Pakistan and India governments, ignore crimes committed by men who have been shamed by wives or female relatives. This includes murder.
- Only 1% of the world's assets are held by women.
- Women make up the minority of every parliament and governing body in the world.

New Zealand

- One New Zealand woman is killed by her partner or ex partner every 5 weeks
- The average female graduate will take twice as long to pay off her student loan compared to the average male.
- 90% of all sexual harassment claims involve men sexually harassing women.
- The average pay rate for women in New Zealand is only 84% of the average men's rate of pay.

In the words of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on International Women's Day;

“On this International Women's Day, as we prepare for the vital challenges before us, let us all be mindful that the achievement of women's rights is not the responsibility of women alone – it is the responsibility of us all.”

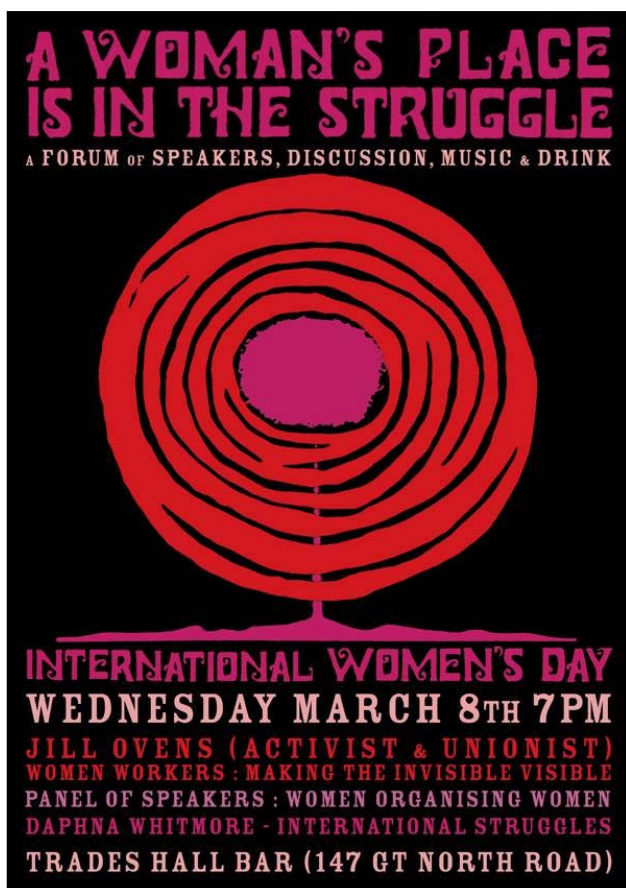


WD celebrated in Sydney 1978

events in your area

(This is not a comprehensive guide as not much information was available at time of print.)

Auckland: “A Woman’s Place is in the Struggle”



Wellington: “Women Say No to War”

Join the peaceful protest at 5:30pm at the US Embassy, 29 Fitzherbert Terrace, Thorndon. This is a response to the CODEPINK call to action – www.codepinkalert.org.

In the past five years, the US government has led the disastrous invasions and occupations of Afghanistan and Iraq, and is now apparently planning a military attack on Iran. Come along on International Women's Day, Wednesday 8 March, to add your voice to the call of women around the world who are saying NO to war and YES to peace. Wear something pink if you can, and bring pink streamers or ribbons, photos, cardboard or paper peace doves, and wool to decorate the embassy fence;

something to make a noise with - pot and spoon, drum, your voice - during the time of anger; flowers or candles to leave at the gate during the time of mourning; and a poem or reading to share during the time of reflection ... and bring your own banner or placard if you wish. All women welcome.

Victoria University

Paper Making Workshop, February 27th, and 2nd March @ 3:30pm and 1st March @10:30am,
Meeting Room Three, Level Two, Student Union Building. Facilitator: Kerry Tankard.

Stencil Making Workshop @ 11am; March 3rd Meeting Room Three, Level Two, Student Union Building. and March 8th Hunter Lounge Level Two, Student Union Building. Facilitator: Ali

Screen Printing Workshop @ 1pm; March 3rd Meeting Room Three, Level Two, Student Union Building and March 8th Hunter Lounge Level Two, Student Union Building. Facilitator: Ali

Friendship Bracelet Making @ 3pm; March 3rd Meeting Room Three, Level Two, Student Union Building. and March 8th Hunter Lounge Level Two, Student Union Building. Facilitator: Ali

YWCA of Wellington and the Hutt Valley

IWD Breakfast : 8am – 9am Wednesday 8 March 2006, Olive café, Cuba St. This will be a relaxed, pay your own breakfast and a great opportunity to network.

Code pink – Using IWD to protest war and violence:



On International Women's Day 2006, women around the world are saying NO to war in response to the call from [CODEPINK: Women for Peace](#) to "revive the dream of the women who came before us and carved out March 8 as a day for us to be a visible, vocal and vibrant force for peace and justice."

Their call is to focus on the US-led occupation of Iraq, with women saying NO to war at US diplomatic outposts, military installations and other places that symbolise US power.

CODEPINK "is a women-initiated grass roots peace and social justice movement working to end the war in Iraq, stop new wars, and redirect our resources into health

care, education and other life-affirming activities. CODEPINK rejects the Bush administration's fear-based politics that justify violence, and instead calls for policies based on compassion, kindness and a commitment to international law."

Pink is a feature of actions and events related to CODEPINK; this comes from the name which is a play "on the Bush Administration's colour-coded homeland security alerts - yellow, orange, red - that signal terrorist threats. While Bush's colour-coded alerts are based on fear and are used to justify violence, the CODEPINK alert is based on compassion and is a feisty call for women and men to "wage peace"."

<http://www.codepinkalert.org/>

ideas for your campus

No Big Events happening where you are?

Hold your own! Hold your own International Women's Day Breakfast at a café and maybe invite a speaker to come along. Hold an international women's day stall at your campus. This can help you raise awareness of women's issues and gain new members for your women's group or raise awareness of your women's room. In addition, organisations like UNIFEM, Zonta International, and your local women's centre often organise International Women's Day celebrations too.

5 suggestions to get you started...

- **Choose a theme for the day...Pay equity, Violence against women, Human Rights, Reproductive rights, Achievements of women (in work, education etc)...**
- **Decorate notice boards with posters, painting etc advertising IWD**
- **Thursday's In Black stall and promotion**
- **Speakers/forum, perhaps on a particular topic of concern to women in your community or your theme - MPs, community organisations, lecturers, post graduate students**
- **Organise entertainment: a debate, forum, bands, comedians, theatre, movies, fashion show, wine and cheese evening, drink specials (but be safe) ...**

Or...

- Organise your own Code Pink rally or protest
- Lobby your institution on a particular issue (eg: childcare on campus, safety on campus)
- Share ideas and experiences with other women over food...
- Promote your Women's Room (or lobby to get one!)
- Hold a stalls and information day for women on campus
- Recruit members for your women's group/establish a women's group on campus
- Attend a local community organised event
- Hold a rally on campus/in your community (with speakers etc)
- Hold a fundraiser for a local women's organisation (Rape Crisis, Women's Refuge, Women's Centre...)
- Invite the Human Rights Commission to speak at a workshop, or Amnesty International
- Organise a breakfast or dinner
- Look into sponsorship from local businesses

- Be creative!

sources and links

- United Nations website – www.un.org
 - <http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/women/womday97.htm>
 - <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2005/>
 - <http://www0.un.org/cyberschoolbus/womensday/index.asp>
- CWLU website – www.cwluherstory.com
- US National Education Association – www.nea.org
- Coalition for Equal Value Equal Pay – www.cevep.org.nz
- National Women's History Project – www.nwhp.org
- UNESCO International Women's Day 2000 site - <http://www.unesco.org/women8>
- A History of International Women's Day (Australian focus)
 - www.isis.aust.com/iwd/stevens/
 - <http://www.isis.aust.com/iwd/stevens/contents.htm>
- Peace Action Aotearoa - <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/>
- Net Glimpse General IWD history - http://www.netglimse.com/holidays/international_womens_day/about_iwd.shtml
- Anti-war site with other links – <http://www.womensaynotowar.org/article.php?id=659>



International Women's Day Protest in the 50's