



International Women's Day 2021



WHAT'S INSIDE

[Introduction](#)

[Timeline of women's rights](#)

[International Women's Day theme for 2021](#)

[United Nations](#)

[Inspiring women](#)

[Resources](#)

[How to support](#)

What is 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 accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Why is International Women's Day important?

International Women's Day (IWD) is an important day of the year which takes place every March in the UK. The aims of the day are listed below.

- Celebrate women's achievements.
- Raise awareness about women's equality.
- Lobby for accelerated gender parity.
- Fundraise for female-focused charities.



FOLLOW

Twitter: @Highlands_sch

Instagram: @highlandssch



TIMELINE OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS (UK)

- **1847** - The first-ever leaflet to advocate votes for women was published.
- **1961** - The contraceptive pill was introduced in the UK on the NHS in 1961 (for married women only). The contraceptive pill was important because it allowed women to choose the right time to get pregnant.
- **1967** - The contraceptive pill became available to single women in 1967, and was taken by over 3.5 million women in Britain between the ages of 16 - 49.
- **1967** - Abortions (the termination of a pregnancy) were legalised after the introduction of the Abortion Act. This is significant because before abortion was legal, many women had them performed illegally by unqualified people, it was common for women to become very unwell or lose their lives as a result of this. Although, people have strong opinions for and against abortion, safe and legal abortion is an important part of women's rights and women's healthcare.
- **1970** - The Equal Pay Act 1970 was introduced, it was brought in by the UK parliament to prohibit any less favourable treatment between men and women in terms of pay and conditions of employment.
- **1975** - The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 was an act brought in by the UK parliament, which protected men and women from discrimination on the grounds of sex or marital status. The act covered; employment, training, education, harassment, the provision of goods and services, and the disposal of premises.

THEME FOR 2021 #CHOOSETOCHALLENGE

A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day.

We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.

From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.



UNITED NATIONS THEME FOR 2021



UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

This year's United Nations theme for International Women's Day (shown above) celebrates the tremendous efforts of women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also aligned with the priority theme of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, "Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls", and the flagship Generation Equality campaign, which calls for women's right to decision-making in all areas of life, equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, and end all forms of violence against women and girls, and health-care services that respond to their needs.

Many women stand at the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, as health care workers, caregivers, innovators, community organisers and as some of the most exemplary and effective national leaders in combating the pandemic. The crisis has highlighted both the centrality of their contributions and the disproportionate burdens that women carry.

As well as pre-existing social and systemic barriers to women's participation and leadership, new barriers have emerged with the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the world, women are facing increased domestic violence, unpaid care duties, unemployment and poverty. Despite women making up a majority of front-line workers, there is a disproportionate and inadequate representation of women in national and global COVID-19 policy spaces.

To uphold women's rights and fully leverage the potential of women's leadership in pandemic preparedness and response, the perspectives of women and girls in all of their diversity must be integrated with the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in all spheres and at all stages of pandemic response and recovery.

To find out more, visit UN Women by [clicking here](#).

INSPIRING WOMEN

Born 1992, UK



Adwoa Aboah

The British model has been admirably outspoken about her struggles with mental health and has opened the door for many other famous faces to break taboos and talk frankly about mental health. She is a prominent activist for feminist issues, founding the online community 'Gurls Talk', to give girls and young women a safe space to discuss the issues they care about.

Amelia Earhart

Amelia Earhart became a record-breaking female aviator whose international fame improved public acceptance of aviation and paved the way for other women in commercial flights. She set many other records, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences, and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organisation for female pilots.



Born 1897, Died 1937, USA

Born 1973, USA



Tarana Burke

As an activist, community organiser, and executive, Tarana Burke has made quite an impact. Known as the founder of the 'me too' Movement, Burke's hashtag has been used more than 19 million times on Twitter alone. Since then, Burke has been widely recognised for her work to end sexism and sexual violence against women.

RESOURCES

Books

A good way to celebrate International Women’s Day in your own right is by reading up about it. A number of educational books and programmes are widely available for those who want to learn more about influential women throughout history. See below for recommendations.

- We should all be feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi (2014). This book includes anecdotes and focusses on what it means to be a feminist in the 21st century. The author argues that "feminist" isn't an insult, but rather a label that should be embraced by all.
- I Am Malala - The girl who stood Up for education and was shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai (2013). The book details the early life of Yousafzai, her father's ownership of schools and activism, the rise and fall of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan in Swat Valley and the assassination attempt made against Yousafzai, when she was aged 15, following her activism for female education.
- The moment of lift by Melinda Gates (2019). Melinda tells the stories of the inspiring people she's met through her work all over the world, she digs into the data and powerfully illustrates issues that need our attention.



For those who prefer to watch documentaries or use streaming platforms like Netflix, there are also options available. Please see below for a list of recommendations. Parental advisory is strongly recommended.

Prime video

- Hidden figures - Rating: PG. An incredible & inspiring untold true story about three women at NASA who were instrumental in one of history’s greatest operations – the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit.
- Suffragette - Rating: PG-13+. Inspired by early 20th-century Suffragettes campaigns for women’s right to vote, the story centres around Mulligan's character as a working wife and mother who comes to realise she must fight for her dignity both at home and in her workplace.
- Queen of Katwe - Rating: PG. A movie based on a vibrant true story starring Lupita Nyong'o and David Oyelowo. A Ugandan girl's life changes forever when she discovers she has an amazing talent for chess in this celebration of the human spirit.

Netflix

- Becoming - Rating: PG. Former first lady Michelle Obama discusses her life, hopes and connections with others.
- Self-made - Rating: suitable for ages 15 +. The untold story of black hair care pioneer and mogul Madam C. J. Walker and how she overcame the hostilities of turn-of-the-century America, epic rivalries, and tumultuous marriages to become America’s first black, self-made female millionaire.
- The story of Diana - Rating: suitable for ages 12+. Explore the remarkable life and private struggles of the late Princess Diana through her interviews with her brother and others who knew her very well.



HOW TO SUPPORT

- Never use any form of discriminatory language.
- Understand that discrimination is not only illegal, but it also goes against Highlands School's policy.
- Be an ally. Support each other.
- Challenge misconceptions and discrimination.
- Respect people regardless of their gender.
- Be kind and offer support.

How does Highlands School support International Women's Day?

- School ethos: DARE values.
- Behaviour policy and expectations (zero tolerance to any forms of discrimination).
- PSHE and RSE curriculum that is fully inclusive of women.

Other resources

Equality Now - Equality Now tackles the most difficult issues, challenge ingrained cultural assumptions and call out inequality. Social change often begins with legal change and so we use the power of the law to create enduring equality for women and girls everywhere.

United Nations Foundation: girls and women - The UN Foundation works with the UN and partners on initiatives that accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.

Gender Equality UNICEF - UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence. And we never give up.

