

International Women's Day 2019: Celebrating the Revolutionary Power of Women

Suggested Agenda and Additional Resources

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Friday, March 8, 2019

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Brief Overview of IWD

- a. What is International Women's Day?
- b. Why are we celebrating it?
- c. Brief discussion of the #balanceforbetter theme

III. Revolutionary Women around the World

- Comandanta Ramona (1959-2006): Born into poverty, one of the seven female comandantes in the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, an advocate for social equality among the lower classes and for women, a co-founder of the National Indigenous Congress in Mexico.
- Dr. Nalla Tan (1923-2002): Physician, women's rights advocate, labor movement advocate, and writer who transformed sex education in Singapore and organized the country's first public health program in late 1960s into 1970s. Her two non-fiction books, *You Need to Know* (1976) and *Beyond Your Navel* (1977), tackled issues such as puberty, sex and reproduction, family planning and relationships for teenagers are still taught in schools.
- Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002): Latinx trans-woman and gay liberation activist born in the Bronx, co-founder of Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) - an organization for supporting homeless drag queens and trans women of color, one of the leaders of the Stonewall movement, sometimes referred to as the "Rosa Parks of the modern transgender movement."
- Emma Gonzalez: A Latinx activist and survivor the 2018 Parkland, FL shooting, co-founder of the Never Again gun-control advocacy group and an organizer of March for Our Lives.
- Greta Thunberg: Swedish high-school student who started school strikes for climate (now a global movement), addressed the U.N. and spoke at Davos in which she demanded world leaders and corporation executives act to reduce climate change now.
- Maame Obeng: Born and raised in Ghana, Maame is an activist and recording artist. She has worked at the Global Fund for Women, and is co-chair of the Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee for the African Women's Development Fund in the U.S.A. (AWDF-USA). Maame is also a board member and Program Director for Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa and also board member of We Care Solar, an award winning organization using organization using solar technology to facilitate timely and appropriate emergency care for maternal and infant health.

IV. Explaining the Problem

- a. Workplace discrimination
- b. Cultural discrimination
- c. Gender-based and sexual violence
- d. What we mean when we say “rape culture”

V. Connections to the ERA

- a. Brief overview of Equal Rights Amendment
- b. Connections to Democrats Abroad

VI. Watch the ERA Documentary

- 30 minutes long
- DA members have access to free use of the link (contact GWC for access)

OR

VI. Watch a different video

Recommendations:

- Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw - “The Urgency of Intersectionality” https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality
- Dr. Michael Kimmel - “Why Gender Equality is Good for Everyone - Men Included” - https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_kimmel_why_gender_equality_is_good_for_everyone_men_included

OR

VI. Discuss a reading

Recommendations:

- *Angry White Men* by Michael Kimmel
- *Men Explain Things to Me* by Rebecca Solnit
- *Good and Mad* by Rebecca Traister
- *Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay
- *Feminism is for Everybody* by bell hooks
- *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

VII. Women’s History Month Trivia

- 3 rounds

VIII. Make #balanceforbetter posters and/or selfie cards

- Link to downloadable posters: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Posters>
- Link to downloadable selfie cards: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/BalanceforBetter-SelfieCards>
- Submit your photos to the GWC!

IX. End

Notes:

Encourage participants to wear white (an ode to women's suffrage) and/or purple (IWD color and a color long associated with women's empowerment movements).

The accompanying PDF provides slides for items II. - V and VII.

Link to trivia answers: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nnufk1zd11kVjDIb9xZZFS-x6vMcppAkrDVm0IV6Te4/edit?usp=sharing>