

Offered by Councilors Liz Breadon, Gabriela Coletta, Ruthzee Louijeune, Arroyo, Bok, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Mejia, Murphy, Worrell and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 8, 2023 AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS*, Gender equality is a fundamental human right, and the full participation of women in every aspect of society is integral in solving the world's most threatening social, economic, and political problems; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement, and far too often their efforts and their stories have gone untold or underappreciated – especially those of Black and brown women, immigrant women, transgender women, and those who have strengthened our communities across every generation; *and*
- WHEREAS*, LGBTQIA+ women and gender minorities around the world face intersecting forms of discrimination, be they lesbian/gay, bisexual, transgender, genderqueer, or intersex, and LGBTQIA+ women and gender minorities still disproportionately face gender-based violence, legal discrimination, and social inequality; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Black and brown transgender women face a disproportionately higher risk of becoming targets of violence, and the first two months of 2023 have seen the deaths of at least five transgender and gender non-conforming people whose lives have been tragically and inhumanely taken through violent means; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the gender inequalities and health disparities women experience, for example, United States labor statistics reported in December 2020 show that women lost 156,000 jobs while men gained 16,000 jobs in the same period; *and*
- WHEREAS*, International Women's Day has roots in the labor movement and recognizes women workers organizing for better working conditions and fair treatment, and the empowerment of all working women in their homes, their workplaces, and in their communities is inextricably linked to generating equitable economic status, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is an independent state agency created in 1998 charged with reviewing the status of women in Massachusetts, offering recommendations regarding policy, and to provide a permanent, effective voice for women of the Commonwealth and to promote their rights, opportunities, and equality for all; *and*

WHEREAS, The theme for the United Nations observance of International Women’s Day 2023 is “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality,” aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”; *and*

WHEREAS, The United Nations Observance of IWD 2023 recognizes and celebrates the women and girls championing the advancement of transformative technology and digital education, exploring the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities, and spotlight the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online and information and communications technology-facilitated gender-based violence; *and*

WHEREAS, The month of March is recognized as National Women’s History Month by communities throughout the United States, and International Women’s Day is celebrated globally, in order to honor and celebrate the struggles and achievements of women; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council designates March 8, 2023 as International Women’s Day in the City of Boston to reflect on the progress made in, and to reaffirm the City’s commitment to, pursuing strategies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls, to promote the meaningful and significant participation of women in all aspects of society, to encourage equitable access to health care for all women and girls, and to support policy initiatives that seek to achieve gender equality and empower women.

Filed on: March 3, 2023