



International Women's Day

The History of International Women's Day:

Started with textile factory workers in Massachusetts. The factory conditions were exploitative, the workers were low-paid, and managers often lengthened the working day or demanded higher productivity with no change in pay. A large proportion of the factory workers were women, they organized and unionized. In 1907, 15,000 female textile workers marched through New York demanding better working conditions and voting rights. The Socialist Party of America declared a National's Women's Day in 1909 that was celebrated on the last Sunday of February until 1913. At the Second International Conference of Women held in 1910 in Copenhagen, Denmark, Clara Zetkin proposed the establishment of International Women's Day as a tool to highlight women's issues. The following year, more than 1 million women and men attended International Women's Day rallies worldwide. In Russia in 1917 the women marked International Women's Day with a four-day strike for "peace and bread", a key event leading up to the Russian Revolution. **March 8th** was adopted as International Women's Day by the United Nations in 1975 and is a national holiday in some countries.

Issues Highlighted at the 2023 International Women's Day Event, Edmonton

Undocumented migrant workers: Majority of temporary foreign workers are women, working in the care providing or service industry. [Migrante Alberta](#) is a non-profit advocacy and self-help organization. Migrante aids by advocating and campaigning on migrants' issues.

The pay gap: Alberta's pay gap is the highest in Canada. Alberta men made nearly \$6 more an hour than women in November 2021, [Alberta Worker](#).

The crisis in Ukraine and Peru:

- The war in Ukraine is having a disproportionate impact on women and minorities, who are facing hardship when it comes to health, safety, and access to food. [Katanya Timinsky](#) spoke on her experience in Ukraine working with a group called [Mama Moya](#).
- Luz Jones shared that Peru is now mobilized in a national general strike, with demonstrators demanding the return of the president they elected, Pedro Castillo, imprisoned without trial since the coup. Military troops have been firing live ammunition at demonstrators, brutally beating unarmed protesters, and using helicopters to control crowds.

Missing, Murdered and Exploited Indigenous People: Colonial genocide against Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit peoples, who continue to die and disappear at horrifying rates. Advocate [Stephanie Harpe](#).