

## International Women's Day 2013

The **International Women's Day**, celebrated on **March 8**, has become a time of reflection on progress, a call for change, and a celebration of the acts of courage and determination taken by women who have had an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The theme of 2013 is: **"A promise is a promise: time to take action to end violence against women"**.

### Did you know?

- During the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), held on March 4, 2013 at the headquarters of the United Nations, the Executive Director of UN-Women, Michelle Bachelet congratulated Mexico for the progress on equality and asked our country to participate in international cooperation, mainly with Latin America, offering statistics and gender-sensitive budget.
- The President of the National Women's Institute, Lorena Sanchez Cruz expressed the will of the President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto and his government to collaborate with UN-Women in this area and reiterated the country's commitment to advancing respect of women and girls human rights.

### What is the origin of International Women's Day?

In 1910, the **International Socialist Organization**, meeting in **Copenhagen**, proclaimed International Women's Day with an international character, to honor the movement for women's rights. No date for the celebration at this time. In 1913, the **last Sunday of February**, **Russian women observed their first International Women's Day**, set in the peace movement that emerged on the eve of the First World War. **In the rest of Europe, they proclaimed March 8 of 1914** to protest the war or to express solidarity with other women.

For its part, in 1975 the **United Nations began celebrating March 8, to commemorate the International year of Women**. Two years later, in December of 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, member states can celebrate any day of the year following its historical and national tradition.

### Women's Rights in Mexico:

**On October 17, 1953 was published in the Official Journal of the Federation the announcement of the female right to vote in Mexico**. On July 6, 1958 women of all social classes came out to cast their vote a presidential election.

**On January 1st of 1975, the new Article 4th of the Constitution of the United Mexican States came into force highlighting: Men and women are equal before the law**. With this reform, the Mexican Constitution became the first in the world to recognize the equality of women and the social relevance of the family, the fundamental right of individuals to freedom and responsible reproduction, according to the Declaration of the United Nations issued in Tehran in 1968.

### One Woman:

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 United Nations Organization launches the song **"One Woman"** a **musical celebration of women around the world that features the voices of more than 20 artists**. You can see behind the scenes videos chronicling the song, whose production took, about a year: <http://song.unwomen.org>

### Highlights

In Mexico, the celebration of March 8 was honored for the first time in 1935 by the women's National Revolutionary Party (PNR current PRI). 78 years later, countless efforts have been done for women to achieve equality, justice, peace and coexistence and respect for their human rights.

### For more information...

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

