

# International Women's Day

In the early twentieth century, women were becoming increasingly vocal in protest of oppression and inequality. In 1908, 15,000 women gathered to march through the city of New York to demand shorter working hours, higher pay, and the right to vote. In 1909, the Socialist Party of America organized the first National Woman's Day (NWD). The day was observed in the United States on February 28. NWD was celebrated by women on the last Sunday of February until 1913.



An International Women's Day was proposed at the second International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen in 1910. The proposal was unanimously approved by women representing 17 countries. The first international Women's Day was observed on March 19<sup>th</sup> in 1911 by Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. On March 25<sup>th</sup> of that same year, over 140 women died in the "Triangle Fire" in New York City, drawing greater attention to the poor working conditions for women and much needed labor legislation.

In 1913, March 8<sup>th</sup> was officially designated to be the date for International Women's Day, which has been observed on that date since 1914.

1. What was the first Women's Day called?
2. Who organized it?
3. In what year was the first Women's Day celebrated in the U.S.?
4. In what year was the first International Women's Day celebrated?
5. In what year was March 8<sup>th</sup> officially designated as International Women's Day?