

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- Women's Day is celebrated every year on
- Do you know why Women's Day is celebrated?
- Do you think women have the same rights as men?
- Do you think women have the same possibilities as men?

The first international Women's Day was launched on 8th March 1911 in Copenhagen by the German campaigner Clara Zetkin. This followed many years of campaigning in Britain and America for women's rights. The 8th March was chosen in honour of the 15,000 women who, on the same day in 1908, marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

In Britain the Suffragettes campaigned for the right for women to vote. Their name comes from the word "suffrage" which means the right to vote. In 1914 World War One broke out and many women worked very hard on the land and in factories. Their contribution was of vital importance for Britain's war effort and in 1918 Parliament gave women over the age of 30 the right to vote. The United States followed and in 1919 American women obtained the right to vote in all states. However the first country to give women the right to vote was New Zealand which introduced universal suffrage in 1893.

Although much has been done since then, much still remains to be done. Every year more boys than girls go to school which means that two thirds of the world's 800 million adults who cannot read or write are women. Violence against women is still unfortunately common practice; it ranges from barbaric practices like genital mutilation in some African countries to domestic violence. It is an incredible fact that even among women in the developed world aged between 19 and 44 domestic violence – being physically abused by your partner or family – accounts for more deaths and ill-health than war, traffic accidents or cancer. Even in an advanced society like the UK two women die each week as a direct result of domestic violence. International campaigners are also active in stopping forced marriages. Many girls in the developing world do not have the right to choose when and whom to marry.

Globally women have fewer material possessions, they eat less, work longer hours and almost always earn lower wages than men. The aim of international organisations is to ensure that women's rights are recognised and protected and that they are treated equally. When this happens it has positive effect on a country's communities, political system and economic growth.

READ THE PASSAGE AND THEN MATCH EACH PHRASE WITH A SPECIFIC PARAGRAPH

Suffrage extended to women
Serious problems that still have to be resolved
The Suffragette Movement
Inequality: a global problem. / The origin of Women's Day

READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS AND TICK THEM AS TRUE OR FALSE. CORRECT THE FALSE ONES

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|---|---|---|
| 1. Clara Zetkin organized the first celebration of Women’s Day in 1911 | T | F |
| 2. The Suffragette movement originated in the USA | T | F |
| 3. British women obtained the right to vote in 1918 | T | F |
| 4. New Zealand women were the first in the world to win the right to vote | T | F |
| 5. There are many more women in the world who can’t read or write than men | T | F |
| 6. Domestic violence causes more female mortalities than cancer | T | F |
| 7. In advanced societies like the UK there are approximately ten female victims of domestic violence a year | T | F |
| 8. Compared to men women throughout the world suffer much more discrimination | T | F |
| 9. International organisations work for the recognition and respect of women’s rights | T | F |
| 10. The wellbeing of women has positive effects on the whole community | T | F |

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES

- On March 8th 1908 15,000 women marched in New York to ask for
- The name “suffragette” comes from suffrage, which means
- In Britain women obtained the right to vote in 1918 and a year later American women
- Nowadays there is still for women’s emancipation
- is one of the primary causes of death among women
- International organisations operate for the of women’s rights throughout the world

ANSWER QUESTIONS

Who launched the first international Women’s Day?

Where was the first international Women’s Day launched?

Why was the 8th March chosen to celebrate women?

Who are the Suffragettes?

What’s the meaning of the word “suffrage”?

When were British women over 30 given the right to vote?



When did American women get the right to vote?

Which was the first country that introduced universal suffrage?

Is violence against women still a problem?

What is domestic violence?

Do women die more for domestic violence than for war or cancer?

What do you mean by "forced marriages"?

What's the aim of international organisations?
