**BERMUDA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY MARCH 8, 2016**

**Local Women, Leaders Invite Public to Celebrate at City Hall for Lunchtime Event**

**HAMILTON, Bermuda, March 4, 2016** --  To commemorate International Women’s Day on Tuesday, March 8, women and girls representing Bermuda’s political, cultural, public service, business, education and social advocacy communities plus local residents will gather at City Hall. A lunchtime event will highlight the day's significance and bring attention to gender equality.  The public is invited to attend [Bermuda Women's Day](https://www.facebook.com/bermudawomensday/), which opens at 11:45 a.m with zumba followed by speakers and entertainment at noon.  Food and beverages from women-owned businesses will be available for sale.

The [United Nation’s 2016 theme](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day) for International Women’s Day is “Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality.” To help attendees "step it up" at Bermuda Women’s Day, there will be a free zumba class with a D.J. starting at 11:45am hosted by [Masterworks AOK](https://www.facebook.com/aokfitnessfundraising/), a fitness fundraising group.

The UN observance of International Women's Day on March 8 will focus on how to accelerate a worldwide a[genda](http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015) on women’s empowerment, which the Bermuda event will support with women and girls sharing their perspective on these themes and what kind of world they envision in 2030.

Participants scheduled to appear include:

* Carol-Ann Simmons, Executive Director, Women’s Resource Centre
* The Hon. Kim Wilson, JP, MP, Member of Parliament Constituency 34 Sandys South Central
* Mary Ellen Koenig, U.S. Consul General to Bermuda
* Joy Barnum, Bermudian singer
* Lori-Ann Stovell, Bermudian
* Kathleen Reardon, CEO, Hamilton Re
* Russann Francis, Sergeant, Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service
* Toni Daniels, Owner, Down to Earth
* Senator Lynne Woolridge, JP, Chair, OBA
* Alyssa Rose, Miss Bermuda
* Sandra Beach, Commandant, Bermuda Reserve Police
* Sophia Marshall, Head Girl, BHS
* Namrata Bisht, BHS student, Premier of Bermuda’s Youth Parliament
* Caroline Carrington, Chairperson, International Women's Club of Bermuda

The event will benefit [The Women’s Resource Centre](http://www.wrcbermuda.com/), the island's leading support resource for women and girls with education, counselling and advocacy programs dedicated to enhancing their lives.  Local students from BHS will collect charitable cash donations at the event, or contributions can be made can also be made through Premier Tickets at [https://www.premierticketsglobal.com](https://www.premierticketsglobal.com/).

“This day is not only about acknowledging achievements in gender equality.  It’s also about addressing the challenges that are holding women and girls back from reaching their full potential,” said Carol-Ann Simmons, Executive Director of the Women’s Resource Centre.  “Commemorating the day is our way of ‘stepping it up’ to make this happen.  We believe that by supporting women you’re fostering families and strengthening the whole community, so we’re enthusiastic about this event’s goal to reinforce our mission.”

“Women are well-represented in our government -- in fact we lead the way in this area -- and women are a driving force in our political parties.  But we always strive to make sure women have more and more of a voice in politics as we continue to build a Bermuda that’s better for everyone,” said Senator Jeffrey Baron, J.P.

“We’re excited about Women’s Day Bermuda as an event and what it means for our community,” said Katarina Hoskins, Austria's Honorary Consul to Bermuda and member of the Bermuda Women’s Day 2016 committee.  “This is a special occasion that brings together an amazing group of diverse women to share our strengths and unite in our pledge for parity.  We’re thrilled that we're even able to include the voices of young women that will shape this movement’s future.”

The [Bermuda Women’s Day page on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bermudawomensday/) features updates on participants, community partners and honoured guests.

[Wakefield Quin](http://www.wq.bm/about-us/), one of Bermuda’s leading law firms, is generously sponsoring this event.

**About WRC**

The Women’s Resource Centre (WRC)  is a registered charity with goals to support women facing life’s challenges, by providing information, appropriate referrals and confidential counseling.  It aims to help to instill in women the self-respect, self-determination and leadership qualities that will guide them  towards realizing their potential with education and training programs. It also aims to promote gender equality by advocating for social change that eradicates injustices, inequalities and sexism against women.  Throughout its 28 year history, the WRC has evolved greatly in its mandate and services to meet the increasing community need to assist the women of Bermuda, as well as provide support for all barriers that women may face.

**About IWD**

International Women's Day, celebrated around the world, is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas.  Increasingly, International Women’s Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.  The United Nations began celebrating International Women’s Day (IWD) on 8 March during International Women’s Year 1975. More at: <http://www>.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day

For more information about Bermuda Women's Day, email Bermuda Women's Day.