

Introduction

International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

It is difficult to say exactly when IWD began. Its origin can be traced to 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding voting rights, bigger wages, and shorter working hours. A year later, the first National Woman's Day was observed in the USA on February 28, in accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America.

In 1910, a woman called Clara Zetkin – leader of the 'women's office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany – presented the idea of an International Women's Day. She suggested that every country should celebrate women on one day every year to push for their demands.

A conference of more than 100 women from 17 countries agreed to her suggestion and IWD was formed. In 1911, it was celebrated for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland on March 19.

In 1913, it was decided to transfer IWD to March 8, and it has been celebrated on that day ever since. The day was only recognised by the United Nations in 1975, but ever since it has created a theme each year for the celebration.

The original aim – to achieve full gender equality for women across the world – has still not been realised. A gender pay gap continues across the globe and there are still not enough women in business or politics. Figures regarding women's education, health, and the violence they suffer are still alarming.

According to the World Economic Forum, the gender gap will not close until 2186.

On IWD, women across the globe come together to force the world to recognise these inequalities – while also celebrating the achievements of women who have overcome these barriers.



Activity 1

Introduce IWD to your students and ask them some of the following questions in order to elicit some discussion on the topic:

- 1) What is International Women's Day and why is it celebrated?
- 2) Do you think men and women (should) have equal rights?
- 3) Women in some countries do not have basic human rights; can you name any of these countries?
- 4) What is the reason behind this discrimination / inequality?

Throughout history there have been a lot of brave women who have fought for their rights and to spread awareness of this issue across the world.

Play this short video featuring 12 brave women and their quotes on the theme (the video after the subtitle *What's this year's theme?*).

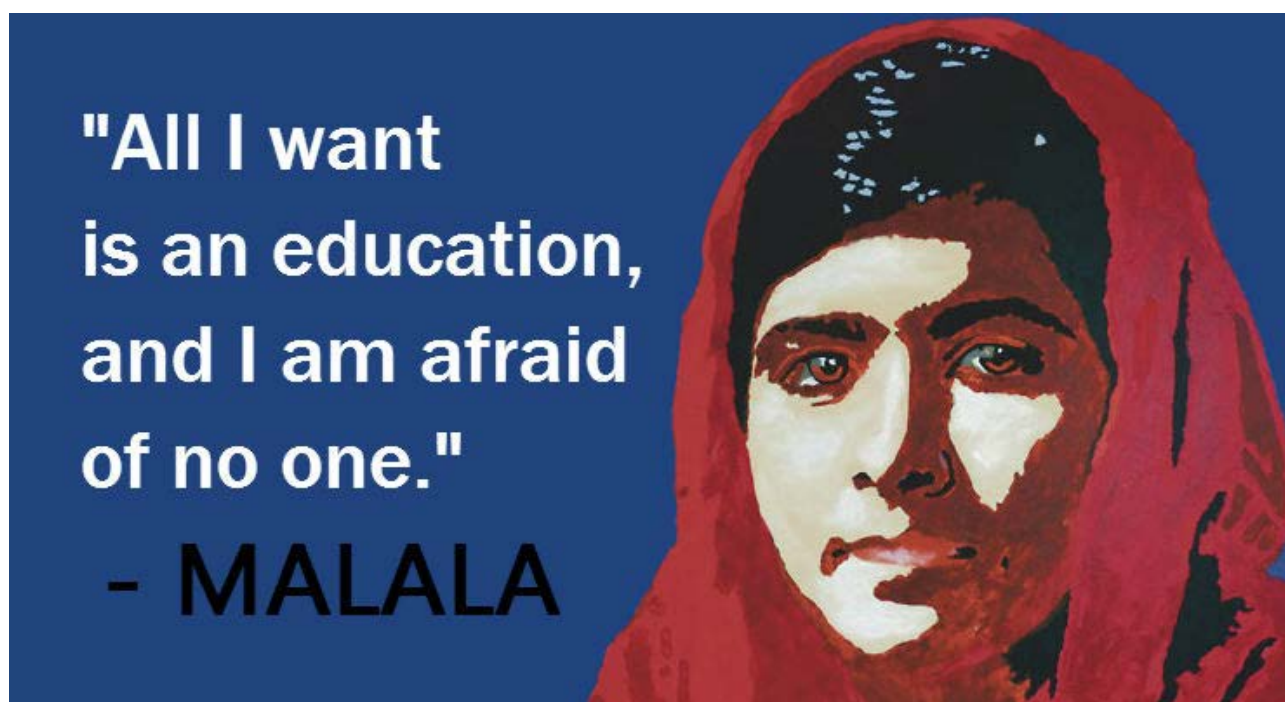


Ask your students to name some of the inspirational women from the short video. They might be able to recognise **Beyonce, Eleanor Roosevelt, Margaret Thatcher, Martina Navratilova, Hilary Clinton, and Malala Yousafzai**. Furthermore, they can talk about their professions, heroic deeds, or comment on quotes from the video.

Activity 2

Tell your students that today you will talk more about a teenage girl from Pakistan who is the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner and a well-known women's rights activist. Let them guess her name; if needed, show them her photo and ask if anyone knows more about her (country of origin, religion, age, etc.). Depending on your students' knowledge, say a few more words about this teen heroine.

If they are struggling, you can help them with a list of true or false sentences about Malala. While you are reading out the statements (you can read them twice if you think your students need it), your students can stay seated if they think the sentence is true or stand up if they think it is false.



- 1 Malala never went to school, she had to be home-schooled.
- 2 She was a very active, committed teenager, she used to write a blog about her life under Taliban rule in her country.
- 3 Malala is an only child.
- 4 She never received death threats from the Taliban.
- 5 She was shot in the head while playing in front of her house.
- 6 She was shot because, in her blog, she suggested that girls should go to school too.
- 7 Malala believes that men are more powerful than women and that women should get married young and stay at home.
- 8 After the shooting and hospital treatment, Malala stayed in Pakistan where she lives today.
- 9 Malala is the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, at the age of 17.
- 10 Ms. Yousafzai wanted to study at Oxford University but failed her A Level exams.

Activity 3

Tell your students that they are going to watch two short videos: a trailer of a documentary film about Malala called **'He named me Malala'** and a short video made after her acceptance into Oxford.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ghiYve6k68> (duration: 1:51)

<https://www.facebook.com/StylistMagazine/videos/10157129952974572/> (1:25)

Pre-teach the vocabulary if you think your students need it.

VOCABULARY ITEM	DEFINITION	CROATIAN WORD
A BULLET	A piece of metal that can kill you, it is shot from a gun	
DARE TO DO SOMETHING	Be brave enough to do something	
INTENSIVE CARE	A special part of a hospital for very sick or injured people	
COURAGE	Bravery, when you are not scared of dangerous things	
SPEAK OUT	Express your opinion openly and publicly in a way that takes courage	
UNIQUE	One of a kind, special, different from others	
SURVIVE	Stay alive, when you do not die	

After watching the videos you can go back to the T/F sentences (project them onto the wall) and correct the false ones, comment on them.

Activity 4

Tell your students to do some matching – they will get the different activities and roles Malala engages in. You can give them the following handout or you can use your own flashcards and do the task on the BB.

1) WOMEN'S RIGHTS	A) VICTIM
2) NOBEL PEACE PRIZE	B) CAMPAIGNER / ADVOCATE
3) ASSASSINATION	C) ACTIVIST
4) GENDER EQUALITY	D) BLOGGER
5) WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	E) PROMOTOR
6) BBC URDU	F) RECIPIENT

Key: 1b, 2f, 3a, 4c, 5e, 6d

Activity 5

Have students imagine it is the year 2014 and that they are a member of the Nobel Peace Prize committee, which will announce Malala as one of this year's recipients of the award. Explain that their task is to write a short speech describing why the committee is awarding Malala this great honour.

Your students can make use of some quotes by Malala:

- *One book, one pen, one child and one teacher can change the world.*
- *We must tell girls their voices are important.*
- *All I want is an education, and I am afraid of no one.*
- *When I was born, some of our relatives came to our house and told my mother, "Don't worry, next time you will have a son."*
- *We should all consider each other as human beings, and we should respect each other.*
- *I don't want to be remembered as the girl who was shot. I want to be remembered as the girl who stood up.*
- *My mother always told me: "Hide your face, people are looking at you." I would reply: "It does not matter: I am also looking at them."*
- *Our books and pens are the most powerful weapons.*
- *Without education I would have two or three children by now. I am fortunate that I'm 18 and still not married. When you don't get an education, your life is very much controlled by others. I would not prefer that life.*
- *If one man can destroy everything, why can't one girl change it?*
- *Our men think earning money and ordering around others is where power lies. They don't think power is in the hands of the woman who takes care of everyone all day long, and gives birth to their children.*
- and one by Bacha Khan (Pakistani independence activist): *If you want to know how civilised a culture is, look at how they treat its women.*

You can help them with the following questions:

- How has Ms. Yousafzai become a global spokesperson for girls' education?
- What qualities does she have that makes her such a good leader? (strong, brave, fearless, defiant, admirable, intelligent, committed, persistent, determined)
- Is she a typical teenager who made the best of a difficult situation, or does she have some special, uncommon characteristics that make her different from her peers?

Finally, have students present their speeches to the class or this can be assigned for homework and presented next time.