

# International Women's Day, 8 March, 2017

"Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030".

The rights and dignity of women are central to our concern. IBVM  
Constitutions Volume II, 1.14.



A number of key agreements guide governments and advocates in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women.

It defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end it.

Countries that have ratified or acceded to the Convention are legally bound to put its provisions into practice. They must submit national reports at least every four years on measures to comply with treaty obligations. –

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/major-resolutions#sthash.h6tnQBvc.dpuf>

## The issue

- She walks for hours to fetch water and toils in drought-prone fields to feed her family...
- She left her country with the promise of a good job only to find herself forced into sex work...
- She picks up the pieces after a cyclone destroys her makeshift home and small business...
- She is the provider, farmer, teacher, doctor, entrepreneur, minister, leader, mother — contributing every day to her household, society and the economy.



Women and girls make up more than half the world's population — and they are on the frontlines — often more deeply impacted than men and boys by poverty, climate change, food insecurity, lack of healthcare, and global economic crises. Their contributions and leadership are central to finding a solution.

With the new global 2030 roadmap and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) approved by UN Member States on 25 September 2015, we take a look at how women are affected by each of the 17 proposed SDGs, as well as how women and girls can — and will — be key to achieving each of these goals.

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs#sthash.CpRVofGm.dpuf>

# About the UN Step It Up 2017 theme

"Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" **asks governments to make national commitments to address the challenges that are holding women and girls back from reaching their full potential.**

**In 2016, headline reads, "Canada renews commitment to advancing gender equality globally at United Nations"**

**In 2017, Canada is *not* one of the 93 nations that has made a commitment to Step It Up**

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/step-it-up/commitments>

*Step It Up* comes at a critical moment in time. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive roadmap for the future of people and planet. Empowering women and girls is central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Passing new laws or strengthening existing ones is one way to Step It Up. Other actions might include creating programmes to eradicate violence against women and girls, encouraging women's participation in decision-making, investing in national action plans or policies for gender equality, creating public education campaigns to promote gender equality, and many more.

Everyone has a role to play to make gender equality a lived reality by 2030.

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/step-it-up/about#sthash.AFDjyJxv.dpuf>

## Why Goal 5 matters

The targets of proposed Goal 5, on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, are measurable and attainable. This comprehensive goal includes nine targets that largely reflect UN Women's proposals. Full implementation of this goal matters because it has the potential to transform unequal power relations between women and men and address structural barriers impeding progress.

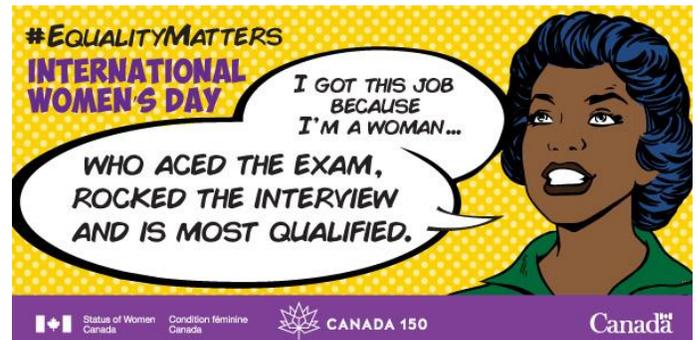
These targets seek to:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies.
- Ensure women's effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Women have the right to live free of discrimination and violence, and to control and decide freely on matters related to their health. For this, they need access to essential information, education and services.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, to ensure an adequate standard of living.
- Enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular information communication technologies (ICTs), to promote women's empowerment.



- Adopt and strengthen policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.
- All goals and targets outlined in the draft outcome document “Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” were formally adopted by world leaders at a United Nations Summit in New York September 2015.

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015/why-goal-5-matters#sthash.DIBpy4R4.dpuf>



## A Women’s Values Based on Vision of Public Life

Empowering to shape politics and policy for the shared well-being of all

- ***Community***, where people from all walks of life gather to define and pursue the common good
- ***Family***, our network of caring, life-giving relationships
- ***Equality***, which gives us all the opportunity to pursue our own chosen goals and paths
- ***Compassion***, a sensitivity to the emotions and experiences of others that requires us to eliminate injustice and respect the complexity of life choices
- ***Balance***, which allows us to negotiate the multifaceted nature of our lives without sacrificing our most cherished goals and ideals
- ***Practice***, where our actions bring our values to life.

Adapted from The Challenge to Act: How Women’s Values Reframe American Democracy Institute for Women’s Policy Research, April 2008

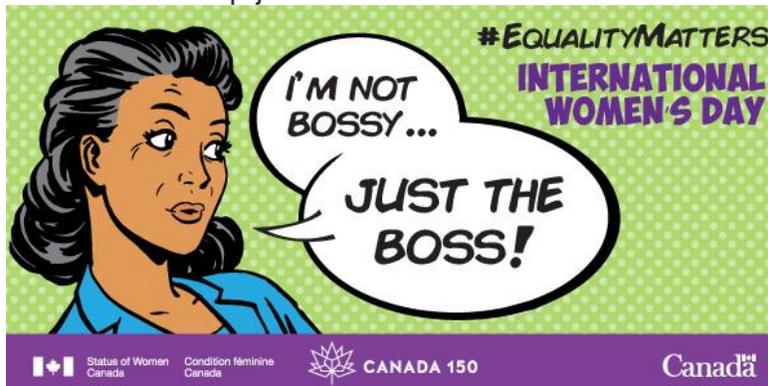
## But wait ... gender equality already exists, doesn't it?

Equality between women and men is enshrined in the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and the Government of Canada is committed to upholding gender equality in all sectors of Canadian society. We have made great strides in many areas, such as education and workforce participation.

Nevertheless, challenges remain:

### Too few women are advancing into leadership roles.

- Women make up just 21.6% of Financial Post 500\* board members. [Footnotei](#)



\*The Financial Post's ranking of Canada's largest companies by revenue.

### Women are under-represented in politics.

- 26% of those elected to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Parliament are women. On an encouraging note, Prime Minister Trudeau did appoint women in 50% of his Cabinet posts. [Footnoteii](#)
- In 2015, women made up 28% of municipal councillors and only 18% of mayors. [Footnoteiii](#)

### Women continue to be responsible for the majority of caregiving.

- Women spend more time than men caring for their children. In 2010, women spent an average of 50.1 hours per week on unpaid child care, more than double that spent by men (24.4 hours). [Footnoteiv](#)
- In 2010, women were almost twice as likely as men (49% compared to 25%) to spend more than 10 hours per week caring for a senior. [Footnotev](#)
- Women spend more time than men on domestic work. In 2010, while women spent 13.8 hours per week doing housework, men spent 8.3 hours. [Footnotevi](#)

### Women in the workforce tend to earn less than men.

- Average earnings for women in all job tenures (as percentage of men's earnings) were 68.4% in 2014, suggesting a gap of over 30%. [Footnotevii](#)
- When measuring full-time job tenure only, women earn 73.3% of men working full-time in Canada, or roughly 27% less. [Footnoteviii](#)
- Women represent about two-thirds of part-time workers. [Footnoteix](#)

## Women continue to experience high rates of gender-based violence.

- Women are at a 20% higher risk of violent victimization than men when all other risk factors are taken into account. [Footnotex](#)
- Women account for 87% of victims of sexual offences and 76% of victims of criminal harassment. [Footnotexi](#)

## Some groups are at particular risk for gender-based violence.

- Aboriginal women (10%) were about three times as likely to report being a victim of spousal violence as non-Aboriginal women (3%). [Footnotexii](#)

## How do we change this?

- It starts with changing attitudes and behaviours.
- It starts by recognizing that the gender stereotypes and subtle sexism we encounter every day are part of the problem.
- It starts by challenging the sexism and discrimination that allow gender inequality to exist.



## Quick Facts

The Government of Canada is embracing its international roles and responsibilities with a renewed sense of purpose. This includes ensuring Canada remains a world leader in the promotion and advancement of gender equality, and the full realization of the human rights of women and girls.

## Quotes

“This year’s Commission on the Status of Women gives Canada the chance to renew its commitment to advancing gender equality, and protecting women’s rights around the world. Canada will be a leader on priority issues for women and girls such as reducing and preventing gender-based violence, promoting their sexual and reproductive health and rights, ensuring access to justice, and proudly empowering young women. Canada will stand up for women’s rights at home and abroad and today, we reclaim our place at the UN as a key advocate on the global stage.

*The Honourable Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Status of Women*

*This month our international IBVM focus  
is on a project with women in Kenya*

***Loreto Neema Project***

Loreto Neema project is an outreach of Loreto sisters in Kenya (Eastern Africa province) started in 2006 and situated in Eastland. The project covers clients from Mathare and *Mukuru slums on the outskirts of Nairobi city, the capital of Kenya.*

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

**Mathare:** The Mathare slum covers about 460 hectares, giving the fact that 460 persons occupy a hectare. It is estimated that half a million people live in Mathare of which about 70% are women, the youth and the children. Most women are single parents with many young girls who are already mothers at an earlier age. Men are fewer compared to women and mostly not wanting to commit themselves or settle down with one wife. The standard of living is poor: poor sanitation, poor housing and yet the tenants pay a lot of rent and water is a big problem.

**Mukuru:** Mukuru slum on the other hand covers the population of 36,232 at an area of approximately 230 hectares. It is estimated that about 158 persons occupy a hectare. Like Mathare slums the social infrastructure like schools, medical facilities, housing are equally poor. Water also remains a major problem in Mukuru slum. The standard of living is poor.

**Clientele:**

Loreto Neema focus on the people living with HIV and other vulnerable people living in the slums especially Mathare slum. **Its main target group is women**, but also serves some men and youth.

**MAIN OBJECTIVE**

Loreto Neema focuses on the economic empowerment of the vulnerable people (men, women, and youth) especially those PLWH, done through the support for small scale businesses system. This is aimed at helping the clients improve their small scale businesses in order to have better life.

**LORETO NEEMA MAIN ACTIVITIES**

- **Individual/group counseling**
- **Supporting the small scale businesses:**

Total number of clients who have been assisted since 2008 comes to 404.

**Future Hopes:**

Loreto Neema project is growing in terms of the demand for its products. We hope to make Loreto Neema a factory for various products in order to generate income to support more clients in the support for small scale businesses (help them live a better life) and also cater for the financial needs for the project activities.



Prepared by Sr. Clemenciah N. Paul

Finally, here are a few videos you might enjoy. We invite you to share the names of the women who inspire you today. – prayer, dinner conversation, a letter to the person, etc

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb6D1Vv1bk> Who Inspires you?

<http://torontolife.com/city/life/forced-marriage-samra-zafar/>

