

# IWD AT SCHOOL

## Fundraising Resources Kit

**#MarchForward**

For ALL Women and Girls



**UN**  
**WOMEN**   
AUSTRALIA

[www.unwomen.org.au](http://www.unwomen.org.au)



# WELCOME

## A MESSAGE FROM UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - SIMONE CLARKE

Welcome to the International Women's Day 2025 Schools Kit – a resource designed to inspire meaningful discussions and actions in your classroom.

This year's theme, **'March Forward: For ALL Women and Girls'**, encourages us to reflect on the progress made since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, while recognising the ongoing challenges that prevent millions of women and girls from achieving their full potential. The theme calls for urgent action to unlock equal rights, power, and opportunities for all, while creating a feminist future where no one is left behind.

At the heart of this vision is the empowerment of the next generation – youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls – who can become catalysts for lasting change. This kit includes resources that will help engage students in exploring these critical issues. From impactful statistics to stories and transformation and activities that inspire action, everything is designed to spark thoughtful discussions and encourage students to actively participate in the movement for gender equality.

As teachers and students, you play a crucial role in shaping the future. By using this kit, you are helping empower the next generation of change-makers, ensuring that the promises of equality, safety and opportunity are realised for ALL women and girls.

This International Women's Day let's join forces and **March Forward** together.

**Simone Clarke**  
CEO  
UN Women Australia

# ABOUT UN WOMEN

UN Women Australia exists to raise funds for and awareness of UN Women's work to end violence against women, promote economic empowerment, advance women in leadership, and ensure women's participation in peace processes to accelerate gender equality worldwide.

UN Women is the United Nations agency for women's empowerment and gender equality, delivering programs and transforming policy to enable a brighter future for women and girls in more than 100 countries worldwide. Created in 2010, UN Women brought together various UN agencies working on gender quality and the empowerment of women. These international agreements below guide the work of UN Women.

1979

## CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

CEDAW sets out the rights for women in civil, political, economic, social, and cultural fields across 16 articles and provides a definition of discrimination against women. The 'women's bill of rights' is a cornerstone of all UN Women programs. 189 countries have committed to take: *all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.*

1995

## BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (PFA)

Developed at the 4<sup>th</sup> world conference on women in Beijing, China, it sets out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in life across 12 critical areas of concern including poverty, health, armed conflict, power and decision-making, violence, and the girl child. Adopted by 189 governments, member states review and report on their progress every 5 years.

2000

## WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY (WPS)

The UN Security Council resolution 1325 recognised the need to implement different gender perspectives in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular increasing women's participation in peace negotiations and humanitarian planning. There have been seven subsequent resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and together, the 10 resolutions represent a critical framework for improving the situation of women in conflict-affected countries. Based on four pillars of prevention, participation, protection, and peacebuilding & recovery.

## ABOUT IWD

International Women's Day (IWD) occurs annually on March 8 to celebrate the wonderful achievements of women. 1911 marked the very first IWD as 30,000 women protested across Europe to fight for equal working rights. Australia's first IWD was held in 1928 and nowadays, it provides an opportunity to shine a light on the progress still to be made in achieving full gender equality.



2025 IWD THEME:

# MARCH FORWARD: FOR ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Thirty years ago, the world committed to a bold vision for gender equality through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, this landmark document outlined 12 critical areas where progress was urgently needed, from economic empowerment and leadership to media representation and climate justice.

Since 1995, we've seen women break barriers, reshape policies, and ignite movements worldwide.

Yet, despite significant progress, the promises of Beijing remain largely unfulfilled for millions of women. The world is experiencing new and overlapping crises and the erosion of rights. Last year alone, 612 million women and girls lived amidst the brutal realities of armed conflict, a disturbing 50 percent increase in just a decade. Systemic inequalities, entrenched socio-cultural norms, rising violence against women, and economic disparities not only obstruct our path forward, but threaten the hard-won gains we have achieved.

We are simply not where we should be. In every corner of the globe, women and girls are denied their fundamental rights and face barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

This year's theme, "March Forward: For ALL Women and Girls", calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation – youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls – as catalysts for lasting change.

Together, we can be the generation to close the gap to achieve gender equality.

IF WE ARE TO FULFILL THE PROMISES OF BEIJING, WE MUST TURN WORDS INTO ACTION.

JOIN US TO #MARCHFORWARD FOR GENDER EQUALITY.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**1 in 8**

1 in every 8 women and girls globally aged 15-49 was **subjected to sexual and/or physical violence** by an intimate partner in the past year.<sup>1</sup>

**1 in 3**

1 in 3 Australian women experience **physical violence**, and 1 in 5 experience sexual violence in their lifetime.<sup>2</sup>

### DOMESTIC LABOUR AND UNPAID CARE

**2.5 times**

Globally, **women spend 2.5 times as many hours a day on unpaid care** and domestic work as men.<sup>3</sup>

**16 hours**

On the national level **Australian women spend 16 hours on unpaid care work** on average compared to 12 hours for men.<sup>4</sup>

### WOMEN AND POVERTY

**137 years**

At current rates, it will take an **additional 137 years to end extreme poverty** among women.<sup>5</sup>

**\$26,393**

In Australia, the **gender pay gap costs women \$26,393** per year on average.<sup>6</sup>

### WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

**26.9% of seats**

Globally, **women held 26.9% of seats in parliaments, 35.5% of seats in local governments and 27.5% of managerial positions.**<sup>7</sup>

**22% of CEOs**

In Australia, women represent only **22% of CEOs and 37% of key management roles.**<sup>8</sup>

## WOMEN AND CLIMATE

# 158 million

Climate change could push 158 million more women into **extreme poverty** by 2050.<sup>9</sup>

# 78%

78% of Australian women are concerned about **climate change**.<sup>10</sup>

## WOMEN AND THE MEDIA

# 48%

48% of women in media in Australia report **workplace harassment or abuse**.<sup>11</sup>

# 10%

**Coverage of women's sports** rarely exceeds 10% of all sports media coverage.<sup>12</sup>

## WOMEN AND HEALTH

# 1 in 10

At least 1 in 10 women and girls in rural areas across 12 countries **lack private facilities for managing their periods**.<sup>13</sup>

# 2 out of 3

2 out of 3 women experience **gender bias and discrimination** in the Australian health system.<sup>14</sup>

## WOMEN AND EDUCATION

# 119.3 million

Today, 119.3 million **girls remain out of school**, down by 5.4 million since 2015. (UN Women, 2024)<sup>1</sup>

# 37%

37% of women **hold jobs that could be replaced by AI**, compared to 1.4% of men. (UN Women, 2024)

## THE GOOD NEWS

Together, we can turn promises into progress. By engaging with women and girls, amplifying their voices, and championing their leadership, we can break down barriers, advance equality, and create lasting change.

<sup>1</sup> UN Women. (2024). *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot> <sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021-22). *Personal Safety, Australia*. ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/personal-safety-australia/latest-release> <sup>3</sup> UN Women. (2024). *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot> <sup>4</sup> Finder. (2024). *Equal Pay Day Report*. <https://www.finder.com.au/news/equal-pay-day-statistics> <sup>5</sup> UN Women. (2024). *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot> <sup>6</sup> Workplace Gender Equality Agency. (2023). <https://www.wgea.gov.au/pay-and-gender/gender-pay-gap-data> <sup>7</sup> UN Women. (2024). *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot> <sup>8</sup> Workplace Gender Equality Agency. (2023). <https://www.wgea.gov.au/data-statistics/data-explorer> <sup>9</sup> UN Women. (2024). *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2024*. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/resources/gender-snapshot> <sup>10</sup> The Australian Government. (2024) *National Report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* <sup>11</sup> The Australian Government. (2024) *National Report on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* <sup>12</sup> Deakin University, 'Sports journalism: one simple way to increase coverage of women's sport | this.', Deakin University this. Website, n.d. <sup>13</sup> UNICEF (2022) <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/fact-sheet-menstrual-health-and-hygiene-management-still-out-reach-many> <sup>14</sup> National Women's Health Advisory Council (2024). [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/endgenderbias-survey-results-summary-report\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/endgenderbias-survey-results-summary-report_0.pdf)

# TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

*Sophie Rolyn is a team leader at the Neo Provincial Committee of the Family Support Centre (FSC). Photo: UN Women/Shazia Usman*



In the remote Solomon Islands, many women face the harsh reality of gender-based violence with little access to support. On Neo Island, where there are no police stations or hospitals, women turn to people like Sophie Rolyn. As a team leader at the Family Support Centre, Sophie is a lifeline for survivors.

'Women run to us crying, saying [perpetrators] are coming to get them,' Sophie explains. To get them help, she often starts her day at dawn, guiding survivors on an hour-long boat ride to Santa Cruz Island, where they can access police, medical care, and counselling services.

For years, women in these isolated areas suffered in silence. But in 2019, UN Women, supported by the Australian Government through the Pacific Partnership to End Violence Against Women and Girls, expanded SAFENET – a network of coordinated services for survivors of violence – to reach the remote provinces of the Solomon Islands. This partnership has provided vital resources, including training healthcare providers to respond with compassion and professionalism.

'When more trained providers are available, women feel safer seeking help,' says Nashly Votozo, a gender-based violence officer who trains nurses across the country. These efforts

have tripled the number of cases reported to SAFENET's health providers.

Mary (a pseudonym) is one woman whose life was transformed by SAFENET. After enduring years of abuse that ultimately led to the loss of her unborn baby, Mary sought help. SAFENET's team secured her medical care, legal assistance, and a protection order. 'Their support gave me the courage to speak up. I feel safe now,' she shares.

SAFENET also focuses on prevention, reaching communities through schools, churches, and local leaders. Sophie proudly notes that women on Neo Island are stepping into leadership roles. 'We now have three women chiefs,' she says. 'Women and girls are speaking up and being heard.'

By working together, individuals and communities – supported by UN Women and the Australian Government – are creating safer, stronger, and more supportive environments where women and girls can thrive.

*Nashly Votozo, a trained nurse and gender-based violence program officer with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Photo: UN Women/Shazia Usman*



*A group of 30 women in Malawi has harnessed the power of innovation to transform their lives and protect their surroundings. Photo: UN Women/Faith Mvula*



## FROM WASTE TO WEALTH: HOW WOMEN IN MALAWI ARE IGNITING CHANGE WITH BIOMASS BRIQUETTES

In the village of Nawata, nestled in the highlands of Malawi, a group of 30 women are transforming their lives and their environment. With support from the Women's Resilience to Disasters Program, implemented by UN Women and funded by the Australian Government, these women have found an innovative way to turn waste into wealth.

For years, women like Regina Jalasi depended on firewood for cooking, often venturing into forests with axes or using household items like their children's schoolbooks as kindling. The practice was unsustainable, depleting natural resources and putting families' health and education at risk. In May 2024, everything changed. The women came together to learn how to produce briquettes from agricultural and household waste.

The briquettes are made from household waste such as maize by-products, rice husks, and other natural materials. Photo: UN Women/Faith Mvula



Regina reflects on the transformation. 'We used to chop down trees for firewood,' she says. 'But now, we've discovered how to create clean, efficient fuel alternatives.' Briquettes made from maize husks, rice byproducts, and other natural materials burn longer, produce less smoke, and reduce the need for deforestation.

Starting with small-scale production, the group began selling briquettes to nearby villages. Their success inspired them to expand, and now they dream of acquiring a briquette-making machine to produce more and reach larger markets. 'With the machine, we could sell faster and further,' Regina shares.

The initiative has not only united the women of Nawata but has also drawn support from men in the community, who recognise the importance of preserving the environment and improving local livelihoods. Every week, the group gathers to refine their skills and envision a future where briquettes are used in every household.

 *'This project is about more than us,'* says group member Jessie Nkunda. *'It's about preserving our trees, improving our health, and creating opportunities for a better life.'*

# EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN VIETNAM: A TALE OF INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Thi Vui (in red) and her daughter at their melaleuca essential oil production house. Photo: UN Women/Thao Hoang



In two vibrant cities of Vietnam, two women are leading the charge in transforming traditional industries into thriving modern businesses.

At 54, Thi Vui is the second generation in her family to produce essential oil in Hue, historically exclusive to the royal family and used by women post-childbirth for its antiseptic properties.

"Transforming a small business into a million-dollar enterprise is challenging but achievable with determination," says Thi Vui. She explains her journey:

 "I noticed the growing demand and decided to expand the family business. Women, older people, children, and anyone can use the oil whenever needed. So, I transformed my household business in 2014."

Today, her company employs 60 people, 80% of whom are women. During the harvesting season, it provides income opportunities for around 200 women and local farmers, who can earn up to 7 million VND (250 USD) per month by selling melaleuca leaves and medicinal plants.

Meanwhile, in Ho Chi Minh City, Ton Nu Xuan Quyen has taken her family's seashell button-making business to new heights. Starting in 2018, she now runs a company producing handcrafted pearl pens, jewellery, and accessories made from seashells by local women.

Their products, particularly the pearl pens, are a testament to meticulous craftsmanship. Each pen is handcrafted, taking between 24 to 72 hours to complete!

*A female worker at Blu Saigon sorting pearl pieces by colour and brightness, a step towards crafting luxury pearl pens. Photo: UN Women/Thao Hoang*



These success stories are part of a larger trend in Vietnam, where women entrepreneurs are making significant strides. However, challenges persist, including limited access to markets and resources.

To address these issues, UN Women and the Australian Government, through the Mekong-Australia Partnership, have implemented the 'We Rise Together' program. This initiative aims to create equal market opportunities for women and has provided support to 467 women-owned businesses and 440 buyers in Vietnam since 2023.

*Xuan Quyen (wearing blue) and her family at Blu Saigon in June 2024. Photo: UN Women/Thao Hoang*



## DISCUSS WITH FRIENDS:

- ❓ How do the experiences of women in the Solomon Islands and Malawi differ from those in Australia in terms of access to support services and economic opportunities? Consider factors such as infrastructure and cultural norms.
- ❓ Compare the approaches to tackling gender-based violence in the Solomon Islands with current strategies in Australia. What can Australia learn from these initiatives?
- ❓ How can governments support similar grassroots innovations (like the Malawi case study) to promote both gender equality and environmental sustainability in Australia and globally?
- ❓ The Vietnam case study highlights women transforming traditional industries. How can our government foster similar entrepreneurship among women, particularly in industries where they are underrepresented?

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



## MARY ROBINSON

*First woman President of Ireland (1990-97) and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Mary Robinson served as Ireland's first female president from 1990 to 1997, marking a transformative period in Irish politics. After her tenure as president, Robinson became the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002, where she focused on integrating human rights into all UN activities. Throughout her career, Robinson has been a tireless advocate for human rights, including LGBTQ rights -

playing a crucial role in the decriminalization of homosexuality in Ireland. In recognition of her work, President Barack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009, the highest civilian honor in the United States. Robinson's commitment to global justice extended to her work with Nelson Mandela, including delivering the Tenth Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in 2012. Her ongoing efforts in human rights advocacy, climate justice, and international diplomacy have solidified her status as a prominent figure in the fight for equality and justice worldwide.

## HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE MS SAM MOSTYN AC

*Governor-General of Australia*

Ms Sam Mostyn AC was sworn in as Australia's 28th Governor-General on 1 July 2024, becoming the second female in Australian history to hold this position. A distinguished businesswoman and community leader, she has an extensive background in executive and governance roles across diverse sectors including business, sport, climate change, arts, policy, and not-for-profit organizations. Throughout her career, Ms Mostyn has been recognised for her exceptional contributions, receiving a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2024 for her eminent service in social justice, gender equity, and environmental sustainability. She has chaired numerous influential boards, including Aware Super, Beyond Blue, and the Women's Economic Equality Taskforce, and has been a strong advocate for women's inclusion in sports and leadership.





## CELESTE BARBER

*Actor, Comedian and Author*

Taking centre stage in Sydney and streaming to audiences across Australia and online, Celeste Barber will bring her signature wit and social commentary to celebrate International Women's Month and mark Beijing+30.

Renowned for her viral #CelesteChallengeAccepted campaign, Celeste says, "History shows change only comes when you kick up a stink. I'm pumped to join UN Women Australia for this crucial conversation, as I'm well-versed in ruffling feathers and striving for equality and change."

## MADISON DE ROZARIO OAM

*Paralympic Gold Medallist*

A Paralympic gold medallist, fierce advocate, and all-around inspiration, Madison de Rozario is set to bring her passion and unstoppable energy to this special event.

Madison contracted transverse myelitis at the age of four, which resulted in paralysis from the waist down. Despite this significant challenge, she began wheelchair racing at 12 and made her international debut by 15, becoming the youngest athlete on the Australian Paralympic Team at the Beijing Games in 2008.

From breaking records to championing inclusion, she's a true powerhouse, and we can't wait for you to hear from her.



## MARIA THATTIL

### *Advocate, Actor and Author*

Maria Thattil is an advocate, actor, author, and presenter with a passion for breaking barriers and inspiring change. Crowned Miss Universe Australia in 2020, she became only the third woman of colour to represent Australia globally, placing in the top 10 of the international competition.

In 2024, Maria joined the cast of *Neighbours* as the show's first queer South Asian female character, earning recognition from ELLE Magazine as one of Australia's rising stars. She has also published her book, *Unbounded*, delivered a TED Talk, and worked with global brands to champion inclusion and diversity.

With degrees in Psychology and Management, Maria began her career in corporate HR before pursuing her passion for advocacy and storytelling. She now focuses on her acting career while continuing to inspire young people to embrace diversity and challenge stereotypes.



## JUNE OSCAR

### *Chair of the Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute*

June Oscar AO is a distinguished Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia, who has dedicated her life to advocating for Indigenous Australian languages, social justice, and women's rights. Throughout her career, she has held numerous influential positions, including serving as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and has been instrumental in addressing critical issues like Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and intergenerational trauma. Her remarkable contributions have been recognized through multiple prestigious awards, including being named an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2013 and being named NAIDOC Person of the Year in 2018. In March 2024, she launched the groundbreaking Wiyi Yani U Thangani Institute for First Nations Gender Justice at the Australian National University, continuing her lifelong commitment to advancing the rights and aspirations of First Nations women and girls.



## SUZY URBANIAK OAM

*CoRE Lead - CoRE Learning Foundation, Educator and Geoscientist*

Suzy, a former geologist, transitioned to teaching with a vision to inspire students through real-world STEM experiences. She created the CoRE Learning Model, which launched in 2015 as a STEAM program and has grown to support 20 schools and 45 educators across Western Australia. Her initiatives, including over 180 field trips and Gamifying Earth Science, make STEM engaging and practical. Recognised for her contributions, Suzy has received the Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching and an Order of Australia Medal in 2024.

Suzy's passion lies in supporting today's youth for tomorrow's world, ensuring students experience diverse learning opportunities that allow their talents to shine and their successes to be celebrated.



## DR CARMEN LAWRENCE AO

*Former Premier of Western Australia*

Dr Lawrence trained as a research psychologist at the University of Western Australia before entering politics in 1986. She served as WA's Minister for Education and Aboriginal Affairs and became the first woman Premier and Treasurer of a State government. Transitioning to Federal politics in 1994, she held roles including Minister for Health, Human Services, and the Status of Women, as well as Opposition portfolios in Indigenous Affairs, Environment, and Industry. After retiring in 2007, she led UWA's Centre for the Study of Social Change and is now an Honorary Research Fellow and Professor Emerita.



## PROFESSOR LYN BEAZLEY AO

*Neuroscientist and Educator*

Lyn's career in brain research was followed by her appointment as Chief Scientist of Western Australia from 2006 to 2013 advising the WA Government on science, innovation and technology. Lyn continues to promote science along with gender equity to the WA community and beyond, with a special focus on young people, an aim boosted when Lyn was named the WA Australian of the Year 2015. Lyn was an inaugural inductee into the WA Women's Hall of Fame, is proud to be Patron of Women in Technology WA and recently has helped found YourToolkit.com to empower women, especially those at-risk of or already experiencing domestic and/or financial abuse.



# CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Pick one or more of these activities to do and get the discussion going around gender equality and **why women's economic empowerment is important to create a gender equal future.**

## FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Activities are designed for students from Grades 3 to 6



### STORYTIME AND DISCUSSION:

Read a children's book that highlights the achievements of women in various professions or showcases themes of empowerment and equality. Afterward, facilitate a class discussion about the story, encouraging students to share their thoughts on the importance of gender equality



### FRIENDSHIP BRACELET MAKING:

Supply beads, threads and charms and set aside one morning in class for students to create friendship bracelet designs featuring empowering words or phrases like "HOPE", "EQUALITY" or "MARCH FORWARD". Encourage students to trade them with friends at lunch to spread messages of empowerment and unity throughout the school. This activity is a simple way to foster connection and inspiration amongst young children.



### TIME CAPSULE: "MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE"

Students will write short notes or messages to women of the future, sharing their hopes, dreams, and aspirations for a better, more equal world. These 'messages in a bottle' can include where they imagine the world will be for women in 50 years, what changes they hope to see, and words of encouragement for future generations. The notes will be collected and placed in a decorated "bottle" (or box) to symbolize their hopes being sent forward in time.



UN Photo: Marco Dormino



## SHARE

**Snap pics of students doing one of these activities and share them with our UN Women team. Include quotes or testimonials on how the activities helped lift the veil on gender inequality for your students. We can't wait to hear from you, email [events@unwomen.org.au](mailto:events@unwomen.org.au)**



## FOR HIGH SCHOOLS



### TIMELINE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

Have students create a timeline illustrating the historical progression of women's economic empowerment. Include key milestones, legislation, and achievements, both globally and locally. Encourage students to present this visually for maximum impact.



### MEDIA ANALYSIS:

Analyse advertisements, news articles, or media campaigns related to women in the workforce. Discuss how these portrayals impact societal views on women's economic roles and empowerment.



### LIBRARY DISPLAY FOR IWD

Ask your school librarian to create a library display featuring books by women authors, with a focus on BIPOC voices, to celebrate their contributions to literature and amplify their stories. Include works such as *The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison, *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai, *The Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo, and *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Set aside time in lessons for "reading corners" or discussion sessions for students to share their thoughts and insights on these impactful works.



## ADVOCACY ROLEPLAY

Students participate in a simulation where they roleplay individuals from different backgrounds and scenarios, focusing on women's access to human rights such as education, healthcare, freedom of movement, and equal pay. The activity includes scenario briefs, guided discussion, and a reflection segment to encourage critical thinking about systemic barriers and solutions.

**1** Divide students into small groups (4–6 per group).

**2** Provide each group with a role brief that details a specific character's situation. For example:

- A teenage girl from a rural community without access to secondary education.
- A single mother in a low-income job fighting for equal pay.
- A young environmental activist running a grassroots organisation.
- A young woman advocating for reproductive healthcare in a region with limited access to services.

**3** Scenario Simulation:

Groups will act out their assigned roles in an advocacy decision-making process, where they advocate for their character's access to a specific human right.

Each group will receive “resource cards” representing obstacles and opportunities (e.g., “Denied Access to Education,” “Support from Local NGO,” “Government Restriction on Speech”).

Groups must navigate these resources to achieve their character's goal while engaging with other groups or a “governing body” (played by a facilitator or teacher).

Head to our website to download [resource cards](#) for this activity.





# HOW YOU CAN HELP

UN Women Australia is calling on students, teachers, and schools to **take action** and [Gather for Good](#) to raise funds this IWD. **Raising funds is a tangible way your school can support programs and policy that will set change in motion.**

You can Gather anytime in March to celebrate IWD and **no matter how big or small your event is, it's all about coming together, taking the chance to connect, raise awareness, and fundraise for a better, more equitable future.** You can register to Gather for Good [here](#) or scan the QR code.



## SOME GATHERING IDEAS:



1

### SCREEN A FILM

Organise a film screening in the school hall featuring movies with strong messaging on gender equality and women's empowerment. Choose films such as *Hidden Figures*, *Barbie*, *Legally Blonde*, and *He Named Me Malala*. Charge a \$5 entry fee (guests can make the donation on your online fundraising page) and hand out cups of popcorn to all the filmgoers.



2

### HOLD AN AFTERNOON TEA ON FRIDAY 7 MARCH AND STREAM UN WOMEN AUSTRALIA'S IWD LIVE EVENTS

Did you know every secondary school in Australia can livestream our UN Women IWD live events for free? Hold a school-wide afternoon tea, ask for volunteers to bake goodies to sell for fundraising and bring our IWD speakers into your school hall by streaming the event live on Friday 7 March. Please contact [tickets@unwomen.org.au](mailto:tickets@unwomen.org.au) for your free virtual access.



3

### BOARD GAMES WEEK

Ask students to bring board games in (1-2 grades each day of the week) and meet at the hall at lunch time to play. Ask each student that wants to participate and play to pay a small donation to the online fundraising page

4

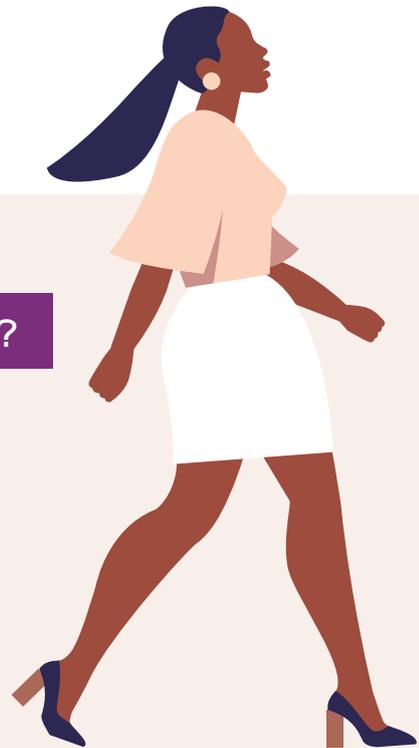


### GRAB A TOTE

You don't have to be an events whizz to support real change, be a local leader by wearing a [purple ribbon](#) or using themed merchandise such as UN Women's [EQUAL tote bags](#). A great way to demonstrate your support for gender equality and working towards a world that is safe and fair for everyone.

You can help spread the word by purchasing purple ribbons, tote bags, or other merchandise to sell or give away at your event, school, or in your community. Each item sold supports UN Women's work, ensuring that everybody everywhere is treated fairly, is safe, and has access to opportunities to lead and learn.

Head to [our website](#) to purchase your purple ribbons, tote bags, and other merchandise!



## HOW CAN DONATIONS HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS?

- ✓ Expand educational opportunities for girls in underserved regions.
- ✓ Support programs that protect women and girls from violence.
- ✓ Empower women to access leadership roles and financial independence.
- ✓ Provide resources for health, safety, and career development.

## TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**\$44**

could help provide a young migrant worker in Asia with financial literacy training so she can open her own bank account and save for her future.



**\$89**

could provide two Syrian Refugees with access to an education.



**\$179**

could provide a woman entrepreneur in Myanmar with training and coaching to grow her business.



**\$298**

could provide vocational training and business skills to 20 refugee and asylum-seeking women survivors of human trafficking in Serbia.

# ADVOCACY

## MARCH FORWARD: VOICES OF THE FUTURE

*We want your voice in our TikTok/Instagram campaign!*

## ADVOCACY IS AS VITAL AS FUNDRAISING IN THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY.

UN Women Australia's "March Forward: Voices of the Future" campaign empowers young Australians to share their perspectives on gender equality through creative 30 second videos. Here's a step-by-step guide for schools to participate:

- 1 Students create 30 second videos answering one of the following questions:**
  - Why is International Women's Day important to you?
  - What does gender equality mean to you?
  - Who is a woman (or women) you admire and why?
  - What does "March Forward" mean to you?
  - What changes do you want to see for a more equal future?
- 2 Be sure to use #MarchForward in your video**
- 3 Post your video to social media, tag @unwomenust (Instagram and/or TikTok) and also send your video to [communications@unwomen.org.au](mailto:communications@unwomen.org.au) together with your parental/guardian [consent form](#).**
- 4 Selected videos will be featured in a highlights reel at UN Women Australia's IWD live events in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney as well as the virtual stream.**

**We look forward to seeing students take part in this national dialogue on gender equality to inspire change!**



## TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Ensure videos are no longer than 30 secs
- Emphasize authenticity and creativity in student responses
- Speak clearly and confidently
- Encourage diverse perspectives and experiences.



# THANK YOU

At UN Women Australia, we know the promises made 30 years ago in the Beijing Declaration can only become a reality through collective action.

Your fundraising efforts are helping to turn these promises into progress, bringing women and girls closer to a future where they are safe, empowered, and able to reach their full potential. Together, we are challenging barriers, amplifying voices, and creating opportunities for women and girls to thrive as leaders and changemakers.

Thank you for being part of the movement to #MarchForward and for your commitment to creating a brighter, more equal future for everyone.



# STAY CONNECTED

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