



THE BRIEN CENTER

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Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. The actual celebration of Women's History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women's contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, CA, in 1978. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

The National Women's History Alliance designates a yearly theme for Women's History Month. The 2023 theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." This theme recognizes "women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, news, and social media."



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

We should avoid terms that lump all people under masculine language or within the gender binary (man or woman), which does not include everyone. Also avoid gendered nouns when describing people who may be of any gender, as in the following examples: you guys, ladies and gentlemen, policeman, chairman, congressman, and freshman. Instead, use gender-inclusive nouns to describe people who may be of any gender, as in the following examples: everyone, folks, friends, distinguished guests, police officer, chairperson, congressperson, and first-year student.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

March 31 is the International Transgender Day of Visibility. Trans Day of Visibility is an annual awareness day celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice. The day was founded by transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBTQ+ recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which mourned the murders of transgender people, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community. The first International Transgender Day of Visibility was held on March 31, 2009. It has since been spearheaded by the U.S.-based youth advocacy organization Trans Student Educational Resources.

President Biden officially proclaimed March 31, 2021, as a Transgender Day of Visibility. Biden was the first American president to issue a formal presidential proclamation recognizing the event.



POSITIONALITY

Positionality is the social and political context that creates your identity in terms of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability status. Positionality also describes how your identity influences, and potentially biases, your understanding of and outlook on the world.

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?

Contact Us: DEI@briencenter.org