

INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN'S DAY



History

International Women's Day has been happening for well over a century and the first ever was held on **March 11th 1911**, encouraged by German activist Clara Zetkin, and inspired by the USA's National Women's Day , which began in 1909.

It is celebrated every **8th March** around the world and is even a national holiday in some countries.

It is not just a day for encouraging action for gender equality, but also to **celebrate all the achievements of women past and present**, and the progress made since the event began 113 years ago. We remember the bravery and sacrifice of the **Suffragettes** in the 19th century and continue to work towards equality.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

#ACCELERATE ACTION

This Year's Theme is...



Accelerate Action

What does that mean?

Focusing on the need to Accelerate Action emphasizes the importance of taking **swift and decisive steps** to achieve gender equality.

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, **roughly five generations from now**, to reach full gender parity (Data from the World Economic Forum).

It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systematic barriers and biases that women face, **both in personal and professional spheres.**

Strike the #AccelerateAction pose for gender equality!





International Women's Day

How can you get involved?

#AccelerateAction may include:

- Providing women and girls with access to quality education and training
- Elevating women and girl's participation and achievement in sport
- Promoting creative and artistic talent of women and girls
- Addressing further areas supporting the advancement of women and girls
- Recruiting, retaining and developing diverse talent

Women- focused fundraising

- International Women's Day giving, let's make March 08 one of the biggest GIVING DAYS of the year. There are thousands of grassroots charities working tenaciously for women's advancement where funds can be directed as well.

EmpowHER

- Women's empowerment society within school
- Get your voice heard in a judgement free space. Have debates on issues relating to women's rights and other prominent topics
- Will be open to years 9-11 as of 20th of March



Some Influential Women

Beyonce

- One of the most famous singers of all time.
- She has been a trailblazer in the music industry since 1997
- Her net worth is 750 million dollars
- She historically won Album of the Year at the Grammys in 2025 for her country album 'Cowboy Carter', which explored how Black people, especially women, have been excluded from this genre.
- She has used her music to uplift women of all backgrounds and has inspired them to stand up against adversity and embrace their power
- Beyonce has been nominated for 99 Grammys and has had 9 Number 1 hits!



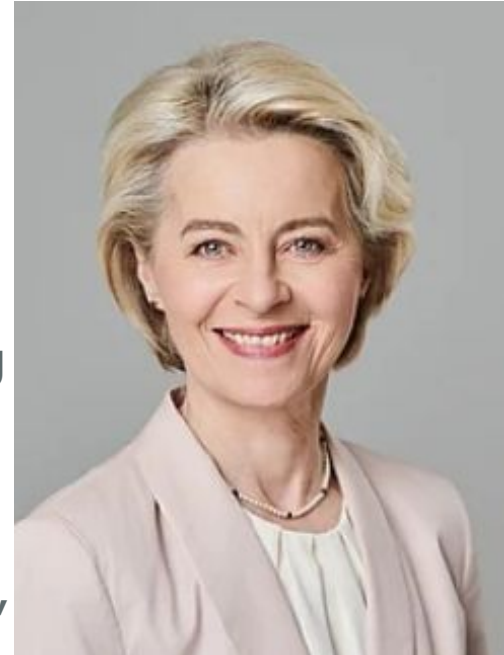
Kamala Harris

- She led a successful campaign in the 2024 Presidential election
- She was ranked 3rd on the Forbes Most Powerful Women List 2023.
- She was the first woman, the first Black person, and the first South-Asian American person to become Vice President of the US.
- She was born in California to immigrant parents (her mother was from India and her father from Jamaica).
- She has led the fight for:
 - Women to make decisions about their own body
 - Stopping gun violence
 - The freedom to vote
- Despite her loss in the elections, she is a great role model to prove that you shouldn't have to compromise your principles to be successful



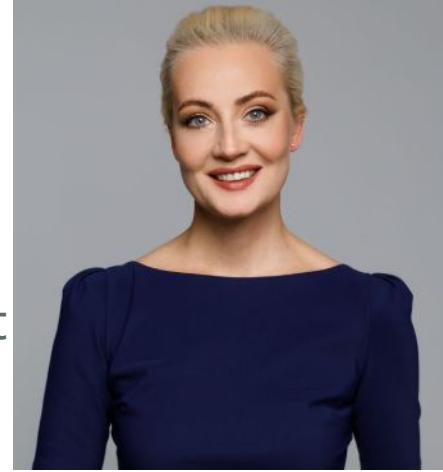
Ursula von der Leyen *-‘We represent half the population. We want our fair share.’*

- President of the European Commission since 2019 and is the first woman to hold this position
- Named the Forbes number 1 Most Powerful Woman in 2024
- She began studying economics in 1977 in Germany, but after a kidnapping threat, she had to move to London.
- In 1980, she switched her degree and studied medicine, moving on to specialising in women's health after getting her medical license.
- Outwardly committed to gender equality and fighting against gender based violence
- She has also made efforts to empower women in politics, and is focused on men and women being paid equally



Yulia Navalnaya

- Russian political leader, described as the 'First Lady of the Russian opposition'
- Named '2020 Hero of the Year' by fighting for unbiased healthcare for her husband.
- Wife of Alexei Navalny, an anti-corruption activist who was sent to prison for his outspoken critical views about President Putin, and mysteriously passed away in 2024
- Yulia Navalnaya took over his work and asked the Russian people to rally around her, giving many powerful political speeches to the EU about how to stop the war in Ukraine
- She has said that she wants to run for Russian president after Putin, standing up for her country and against a very powerful figure
- Received the Women of the Year Woman of Courage Award in 2024



Emmeline Pankhurst

- An English political activist born in Manchester in the 19th century to politically active parents
- She was introduced to the women's suffrage movement at a very young age
- She is often seen as the leader of the Suffragettes as she organised the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) an all women organisation that worked tirelessly for women's rights with 'deeds not words'.
- The group was known for social disturbances such as smashing windows and assaulting police officers.
- Some members including Emmeline sent to prison for their passionate protests for women's rights.
- During WW2 their work was halted to help the war effort.
- After the war, women over 30 were given the right to vote.
- Emmeline died before the vote was extended to women over 21.
- She remains a pivotal figure in the fight for women's rights



Greta Thunberg

- An important environmental activist, who decided to take action on the climate crisis in August 2018
- Her 'SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE' strike got widespread media coverage
- Soon enough, tens of thousands of students from around the world joined her #FridaysforFuture strikes- skipping school on Fridays to protest against climate change
- She has given rousing speeches to politicians, to the EU & UK parliament, to protesters and more.
- Recently, she was arrested during a climate protest in front of the Dutch parliament, and has also been taking part in pro-Palestinian demonstrations
- She is an inspiration to the younger generation of women to get involved and make a change, with her even being nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.



Questions to Discuss

- Do you think there is still a need for International Women's Day?
- Did you know that November 19th is International Men's Day? Do you think this is necessary? Why do you think it gets less attention?
- What stereotypes are women subject to?
- What can we do to overcome these stereotypes?
- Think of a woman that you see as strong (someone you know or a celebrity). What makes her strong?
- How do you think women's rights will change in the next 10/50/100 years?

Happy International Women's Day

From the Senior Prefect Team

