



Facilitator's Guide

Introduction

You are going to lead an observance of International Women's Day (IWD), how wonderful. It is so easy to get caught up in details one forgets to begin and end all preparation with prayer! As you plan, begin with the end in mind. Thinking of the people you anticipate attending your observance, how would you complete this statement? "As a result of taking part in our International Women's Day celebration, participants will" Do you want them to be more aware of the global issues affecting women? Feel a connection with a certain country or issue? Share a significant prayer experience? Better understand what they can do to connect and empower women to transform their worlds? Be drawn to Global Women?

When and where will your observance take place? How will you let people know about your event? Is it on your church and community calendar? Who do you need to help you (musicians, readers, audio visual operators, ushers, etc.)?

The more thorough you plan the more your observance will be the event that meets your expectations.

Setting

Your IWD observance can take place anytime and anywhere! You have the freedom to create an event that will draw women (and men) together for a potentially life-changing experience.

Elements of the Observance

Global Women hopes that prayer will be a dominant component of your observance of IWD. Consider varying how you pray – in pairs or triads, in small groups, corporately or silently, speaking written or "free" prayers. Individuals may pray or guide others through a time of directed prayer.

Scripture reading can help bring focus to your observance. If you use multiple scriptures consider varying how they are presented, i.e. written into a responsive reading, read in different languages, etc. You may select passages or verses you feel are appropriate or choose from these (all verses are from the NIV unless otherwise noted):

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 33:3 *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'*

Lamentations 3:49-51 *My eyes will flow unceasingly, without relief, until the LORD looks down from heaven and sees. What I see brings grief to my soul because of all the women of my city.*

Isaiah 61:1-3c *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.*

Micah 6:8 *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?(NRSV)*

John 8:36 *So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.*

John 10:10b *I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. (The Message)*

Music can be an integral part of your celebration. If possible include musicians from a variety of language/culture groups. Be sure their church members, family and friends are invited to your observance too.

Suggested songs include: *I Saw What I Saw* and *Love is Still a Worthy Cause* recorded by Sara Groves, *Hosanna* by Brooke Fraser, *You Have Shown Us* by Andy Park, Graham Kendrick, *Servant Song* by Richard Gillard, *Let Your Heart Be Broken*, by Bryan Jeffery Leech, *Share His Love* by Willima J. Reynolds, *Reach Out and Touch* by Charles F. Brown, *Alabaster Box* by CeCe Winans, *Find a Way* by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith, *Daughter of Grace* by Twila Paris, *Here Am I* by Bart Millard and Peter Kipley, *A World of Difference* by Babbie Mason and Cheryl Rogers, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* by Charles Wesley or *Carry the Light* by Twila Paris.

Consider ways to incorporate drama, sacred dance, art or other forms of creative expression in your program.

Human interest stories often have more appeal than statistics or facts. Are there women from different parts of the world who could speak at your IWD event? If not, One Woman's Story is actually the stories of several women associated with GW projects and they are available on the Global Women Web site at www.globalwomengo.org or on a free IWD Resource CD. If you have women who would enjoy telling the story of another woman, preferably while in appropriate dress for her native culture, it could enhance your experience.

Visuals help tell the story of the global needs of women. You may request a copy of *The Call* a PowerPoint about Global Women. The first half would be a good resource for your IWD observance. Facts and statistics will appeal to some people in your audience. Consider using information from other GW resources or your own investigation for a Power Point presentation. Or you may want to create a True-False quiz from this information and have at each person's place as they enter your event.

Global Women envisions a world where every woman is empowered by the love of God, valued by her community, and equipped to fulfill her unique purpose. This missions movement is dependent on the donations of like-minded believers. To help support Global Women and our projects, we ask that you include and offering as part of your IWD observance. Global Women pledges to be good stewards of all financial gifts. Mail the Global Women offering to Global Women, P. O. Box 1535, Pelham, AL 35124.



International Women's Day

Global Women affirms the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Individuals, organizations, and nations are acting together to meet the needs of the world's poorest persons, who are disproportionately women, by 2015. This Prayer Guide is a tool for intercessory prayer on behalf of these women. But, be warned! As you pray God may call you to put feet to your prayers! When God calls, we can help you investigate where your time, talents, and treasure can help make a difference in a woman's life.

After the event

Get together with those who helped in your planning process and evaluate your event. What was most meaningful? What did people respond to? Were those in attendance motivated to pray for the needs of women even after March 8? What do you want to repeat next year? What do you wish you had included but didn't? Is there a desire to continue to investigate the global needs of women?

Tell Global Women about your observance! Share digital photos and/or copies of your program. Global Women wants to help tell your story! Let us know what God leads your groups to be involved with as a result of your International Women's Day emphasis.

If you do not have a Global Women Group in your church or community and would like to begin one, contact the Global Women office and ask for a Group Starter Kit.

Continue to be involved with Global Women and to pray for the global needs of women.