

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, International Women's Day is an occasion to honor how far we have come in the struggle for gender equality, to recommit our efforts to that goal; the theme for 2016 is pledging to achieve global gender parity; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has been a leader in the long march toward national suffrage; as one of the first states to grant women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Women's Equality Day, we celebrate the progress that has been made toward securing women's full participation in our democracy, and renew our commitment to securing equal rights, freedoms, and opportunities for women; and

WHEREAS, despite many advances, there remain areas of persistent gender inequality, and women, especially minority women, continue to suffer the consequences of unequal pay; and

WHEREAS, fair pay helps strengthen economic security for women and for families, and when Washington's families prosper, Washington State prospers; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Washington women working full time were paid just 77.1 percent of Washington men's earnings, a gap of 22.9 percent, and women of color made even less, with Latinas earning the least at only 46.5 cents per every dollar a white man makes; and

WHEREAS, the gender pay gap begins when women enter the workforce and has lasting effects that impact the economic security over a woman's lifetime through her retirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim March 8, 2016 as

International Women's Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance and take a pledge to be a leader in the fight for gender parity.



Signed this 8th day of March, 2016

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee