

International Women's Day

March 8th

**Solidarity Greetings from the Unite
National Women's Committee**

**"The story of women's struggle
for equality belongs to no
single feminist nor to any
one organization but to the
collective efforts of all who
care about human rights"**

Gloria Steinem



On March 8th 1908, women in New York held a mass meeting to demand the vote and an 8-hour working day.

Their recognition – that economic rights and political rights are inextricably linked – continues to be reflected in the struggles waged by trade unionists and feminists.

March 8th was declared International Women's Day by the United Nations in 1975, but the idea of an international day of women's solidarity goes back to 1910, when women from fourteen countries meeting in Copenhagen heard a proposal from German socialist and



Clara Zetkin in the 1920s

feminist Clara Zetkin that an annual International Women's Day be held in each country, allowing women to voice local as well as general demands.

By the 1980s, March 8th – International Women's Day – had become a fixture in the Irish trade union calendar and has been used to highlight issues of particular concern to women. These range from the gender pay gap to the lack of accessible and affordable childcare, as well as many other issues affecting women in the 21st century.

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International Women's Day allows us to celebrate our achievements, highlight our struggles and voice our demands – remembering that, as women and trade unionists, we achieve, struggle and make demands throughout the year.



Women in Unite are a collective, we have a democratically elected structure of women trade union members who set the agenda for women's equality at work and the many issues we as working women still face.



Women in Unite have regional women's conferences, regional women's committees and a national women's committee of thirty powerful and politically active women to lead our women's structure.



UNITEing on International Women's Day

Women in Unite are organising events across the UK and Ireland to celebrate International Women's Day. Members also get involved in events organised by other civil society groups in their local areas.



Women in Unite are supporting the campaign to re-introduce the overseas domestic worker visa to end the situation of migrant domestic workers being completely tied to their employers when they are working in private homes and diplomatic residences. This leads to modern day slavery for migrant domestic workers. Find out more about the campaign www.j4dw.org

Unite's Charter for Women was adopted in 2012 and points out that

“ the price of progress is eternal vigilance – we must ensure that women's demands are heard and acted upon. ”

