



International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

The day marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. It has been celebrated for well over a century, with the first gathering in 1911 supported by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. Now, on March 8, 2019, join the women of the world and celebrate a future in which innovation and technology creates unprecedented opportunities for women and girls to play an active role in building more inclusive systems, efficient services and sustainable infrastructure to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality.

This year's theme - **Think equal, build smart, innovate for change** - focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.

Innovation and technology provide unprecedented opportunities, yet trends indicate a growing gender digital divide and women are under-represented in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and design. It prevents them from developing and influencing gender-responsive innovations to achieve transformative gains for society. It is vital that women's ideas and experiences equally influence the design and implementation of the innovations that shape our future societies.

In 2019 we look to industry leaders, game-changing start-ups, social entrepreneurs, gender equality activists, and women innovators to examine the ways in which innovation can remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality, encourage investment in gender-responsive social systems, and build services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls.

**Let us build a gender-balanced world
where everyone has a part to play all the time – everywhere.**

[Resources for education and action](#)

- Assembled by Ethel Howley, SSND