

March Diversity Tip Sheet: Why Celebrate Women's History Month

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www.alanet.org/about/diversity

March is an important and activity-filled month. It is when most of the United States begins Daylight Savings Time and also when we welcome spring. March is a month of celebrations and excitement, varying from the festivities of St. Patrick's Day to the well-known culmination of the collegiate basketball season better known as March Madness. When I think of the month of March, I think of the celebration of women. March is also Women's History Month!

Many have asked why is it important to have a month devoted to women. Women should actually be celebrated all months, but the month of recognition is well deserved. The history of women should not be forgotten. When it comes to history, the story of women is largely one of exclusion, silence, absence and bias. Women are such a large part of history, but sometimes the history books do not accurately reflect women in history. Women's History Month is about acknowledging that no country in the world has achieved gender equality. Everyday, we witness violations of women's rights, discrimination based on gender, and a lack of women's representation in positions of power.

To learn more about celebrations for women—and to get others excited about Women's History Month—I encourage you to follow these organizations on Twitter: The National Women's History Museum (@womenshistory, <https://twitter.com/womenshistory>), The National Women's History Project (@officialNWHP, <https://twitter.com/officialNWHP>) and International Women's Day (@womensday, <https://twitter.com/womensday>).

With the right preparation, maybe this will be the year we won't have to explain why there is a Women's History Month.

Explore Additional Resources:

The Library of Congress: <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society.

The National Women's History Project: <http://nwhp.org/whm/>

Hosts a great deal of information, including a section on celebrating women in the workplace.

The National Women's History Museum:

<http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/history/resources-and-links>

Includes quotes, resources and links and more.