

RESOLUTION NO. 16 - 2021

RECOGNIZING March 8, 2021 as International Women's Day in the City of Cincinnati and the entirety of the month of March 2021 as Women's History Month.

WHEREAS, March 8 is recognized as International Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the past, present, and future and to recognize the obstacles that women face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, as of March 2019, there are approximately 3,700,000,000 women in the world; and

WHEREAS, women and girls play a critical role in providing and caring for their families, and contribute substantially to food security, economic growth, and the prevention and resolution of conflict; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of millions of women and girls around the world continue to be denied their fundamental human rights, including the right to participate freely in civic and economic life, fundamental legal protections, and protection from exploitation and abuse; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati recognizes that women must be empowered to more fully participate in the political, social, and economic lives of their communities in order to accelerate the growth of a healthier, more prosperous city; and

WHEREAS, the National Security Strategy of the United States declares that "societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life are more prosperous and peaceful," supports "efforts to advance women's equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs," and recognizes that "governments that fail to treat women equally do not allow their societies to reach their potential"; and

WHEREAS, this Strategy also underscores that "preventing and responding to gender-based violence is a cornerstone of the U.S. Government's commitment to advancing human rights and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls"; and

WHEREAS, every year, approximately 12,000,000 girls are married before they reach the age of 18, which means that nearly 33,000 under-age girls are married every day; and

WHEREAS, according to the International Labour Organization, 71 percent of the estimated 40,300,000 victims of modern slavery in 2016 were women or girls, with girls representing three out of every four child trafficking victims; and

WHEREAS, according to UNICEF, an estimated one in three women around the world has experienced some form of physical or sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2018 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Global Report on Trafficking in Persons," 72 percent of all detected trafficking victims are women or girls; and

WHEREAS, despite the achievements of individual female leaders, women around the world remain vastly underrepresented in national and local legislatures and governments; and

WHEREAS, the ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve strong and lasting economic growth, self-reliance, and political and social stability; and

WHEREAS, women around the world face a variety of constraints that severely limit their economic participation and productivity and remain underrepresented in the labor force, while being disproportionately overrepresented in unpaid domestic and care work; and

WHEREAS, women's economic empowerment is tied to a myriad of other human rights, including freedom from violence and exploitation; health and well-being; full legal and human rights; education; land and property rights; labor rights; the implementation of policies to address disproportionate care burdens; and equal access to business and management skills and leadership opportunities; and

WHEREAS, closing the global gender gap in labor markets could increase worldwide GDP by as much as \$28,000,000,000,000 by 2025 and would cut the global poverty rate in half for women worldwide, and it is imperative to alleviate violence and discrimination against women and girls and to afford women every opportunity to be full, productive members of their communities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize March 8, 2021 as International Women's Day in the City of Cincinnati and the entirety of the month of March 2021 as Women's History Month.

Section 2. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed March 3, 2021

Attest: 
Clerk


John Cranley, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmembers Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, Betsy Sunderman and Liz Keating