

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

Reps. Lasinski, Pagan, Ellison, Warren, Sowerby, Hertel, Cambensy, Hood, Pohutsky, Stone, Tyrone Carter, Shannon, Garza, Brenda Carter, Kennedy, Manoogian, Cynthia Johnson, Witwer, Garrett, Byrd, Berman, Anthony, Coleman, Kuppa, Hope, Elder, Yancey, Haadsma, Bolden, Brixie, Rabhi, Hammoud, Robinson, Love, Afendoulis, Brann, Cherry, Frederick, Inman, Jones, Koleszar, Neeley, O'Malley, Sabo, Sneller, Tate, Wendzel, Wentworth, Wittenberg and Wozniak offered the following resolution:

- 1 A resolution to declare March 8, 2019, as International
- 2 Women's Day in the state of Michigan.
- 3 Whereas, March 8, 2019, marks the 108th anniversary of the
- 4 celebration of International Women's Day. Originally called
- 5 International Working Women's Day, it is celebrated on March 8 of



1 every year; and

2       Whereas, International Women's Day is a global day celebrating  
3 the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the  
4 past, present, and future. It is a day when women are recognized  
5 for their achievements, regardless of divisions, whether national,  
6 ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political. It is an  
7 occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments  
8 and, more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential  
9 and opportunities that await future generations of women; and

10       Whereas, In different regions the focus of the celebrations  
11 ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love  
12 towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political, and  
13 social achievements; and

14       Whereas, The earliest Women's Day observance was held in 1909  
15 in New York and was organized in remembrance of the strike of the  
16 International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. At the second  
17 International Women's Conference in 1910, the first International  
18 Women's Day was officially established to promote equal rights,  
19 including suffrage, for women. The following year, International  
20 Women's Day was marked by over a million people in Austria,  
21 Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland. The efforts of early European  
22 pioneers led to women gaining the right to vote and to hold public  
23 office and the establishment of many early prohibitions against  
24 employment sex discrimination; and

25       Whereas, In 1975, during the United Nations (UN) International  
26 Year for Women, the UN held its first official celebration of  
27 International Women's Day. Two years later, in December 1977, the  
28 General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations  
29 Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed by

1 member states. In adopting this resolution, the General Assembly  
2 recognized the role of women in peace efforts and development and  
3 urged an end to discrimination and an increase of support for  
4 women's full and equal participation; and

5       Whereas, Beginning in 1996, International Women's Day  
6 organizers began adopting a theme to each year's celebrations that  
7 reinforces its commitment to women's rights and world peace.  
8 Successful campaigns centered on such themes as "Celebrating the  
9 Past, Planning for the Future" (1996) and "Women in Decision-  
10 Making" (2006); and

11       Whereas, Presidents of the United States have consecutively  
12 declared March to be Women's History Month since 1988 after the  
13 National Women's History Project petitioned the United States  
14 Congress in 1987 for recognition of Women's History Month, and have  
15 since announced the 2019 theme of "Visionary Women: Champions of  
16 Peace & Nonviolence"; and

17       Whereas, On the occasion of 2010 International Women's Day,  
18 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) drew attention  
19 to the hardships displaced women endure by spreading awareness of  
20 the displacement of populations as one of the gravest consequences  
21 of today's armed conflicts; and

22       Whereas, There are more than 3.7 billion women in the world  
23 today. Women around the world participate in the political, social,  
24 and economic life of their communities, play a critical role in  
25 providing and caring for their families, contribute substantially  
26 to the growth of economies, and, as both farmers and caregivers,  
27 play an important role in advancing food security for their  
28 communities; and

29       Whereas, The advancement of women is a public policy priority

1 for our country and the state of Michigan and the ability of women  
2 to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a  
3 country and state to achieve strong and lasting economic growth and  
4 social stability; and

5       Whereas, According to the International Monetary Fund,  
6 “focusing on the needs and empowerment of women is one of the keys  
7 to human development” and according to the 2012 World Economic  
8 Forum Global Gender Gap Report, “reducing gender inequality  
9 enhances productivity and economic growth”; and

10       Whereas, According to the World Bank 2012 World Development  
11 Report: Gender Equality and Development, “greater gender equality  
12 is also smart economics, enhancing productivity and improving other  
13 development outcomes, including prospects for the next generation  
14 and for the quality of societal policies and institutions”; and

15       Whereas, Although strides have been made in recent decades,  
16 women around the world continue to face significant obstacles in  
17 all aspects of their lives, including underrepresentation in all  
18 aspects of public life, denial of basic human rights, and  
19 discrimination; and

20       Whereas, Despite some achievements by individual women  
21 leaders, women around the world are still vastly underrepresented  
22 in high level positions and in national and local legislatures and  
23 governments and, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women  
24 account for only 24 percent of national parliamentarians; and

25       Whereas, Women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention  
26 and conflict resolution efforts, despite proven successes by women  
27 in conflict-affected regions in moderating violent extremism,  
28 resolving disputes through non-violent mediation and negotiation,  
29 and stabilizing their societies by improving access to peace and

1 security services, institutions, and decision making venues; and

2       Whereas, According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of  
3 the United Nations, the majority of women living in rural areas of  
4 the developing world are heavily engaged in agricultural labor, yet  
5 they receive less credit, land, agricultural inputs, and training  
6 than their male counterparts; and

7       Whereas, It is imperative to alleviate violence and  
8 discrimination against women and afford them every opportunity to  
9 be full and productive members of their communities; and

10       Whereas, March 8 is recognized each year as International  
11 Women's Day, a global day to celebrate the economic, political, and  
12 social achievements of women past, present, and future, and a day  
13 to recognize the obstacles that women still face in the struggle  
14 for equal rights and opportunities; now, therefore, be it

15       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
16 this legislative body declare March 8, 2019, as International  
17 Women's Day in the state of Michigan. We support the goals of  
18 International Women's Day, recognize that the empowerment of women  
19 is inextricably linked to the potential of countries to generate  
20 economic growth, sustainable democracy, and inclusive security,  
21 honor the women in the United States and around the world who have  
22 worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed  
23 equality and basic human rights, reaffirm the movement's commitment  
24 to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to  
25 ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing  
26 policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls  
27 worldwide, and encourage the people of Michigan to observe  
28 International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.