

International Women's Day Ezine, March 2026

'When we give, we gain'

To mark International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March 2026, YouthImPact have refreshed this ezine to spotlight some of the work taking place across Ireland & Northern Ireland, to prevent harm, strengthen support, and drive meaningful change for women and girls. This edition highlights some of what's happening across the island, shares inspiring practice, and points you to useful resources for IWD.

This year, IWD 2026 features **two complementary global themes**, each reflecting a different but equally vital dimension of progress—**systemic legal justice** and **community-driven empowerment** for women and girls worldwide.

The United Nations' Official Theme: 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls
[International Women's Day 2026: Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls. | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

AND

The Global Campaign Theme is #GIVETOGAIN [International Women's Day 2026](#)

International Women's Day – Origins: What is it and why is it important

Dating back to a protest for women's voting rights in New York in 1908, International Women's Day (IWD) is now a Global Day of Celebration of women's social, cultural, economic and political achievements; and a platform to continue advocating for equality for women across the world.

In Ireland and Northern Ireland, International Women's Day continues to hold real significance, as many women and girls still face barriers to achieving full equality. Persistent issues—such as the gender pay gap, too few women in leadership and decision-making spaces, and the ongoing reality of violence against women and girls—highlight the need for continued action. Youth and community organisations across the island play a vital role in responding to these challenges. They raise awareness of both long-standing and emerging issues, advocate for positive change, and champion the contributions and leadership of women and girls in all areas of life. To learn more about the history please follow this

link: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Activity/15586/The-history-of-IWD>

Reflection & Discussion – sample starter questions

International Women's Day offers an important opportunity to celebrate the progress made toward gender equality, recognise the significant contributions women make within our communities, and reflect on the work that still lies ahead. It also encourages us to pause and consider how gender shapes experiences within our own practice,

workplaces, and engagement with young people. To support these conversations, YouthImPact has compiled a set of sample starter questions for individual reflection or discussion with colleagues.

To access these questions, please [click here](#)

Pillars for Peacebuilding: A Digital Toolkit for Women's Activism in Northern Ireland

This online platform provides historical context on the often-overlooked role of women during the conflict and in peace efforts, alongside practical tools for gender-sensitive advocacy, storytelling, and community action. It features stories and insights from women who have shaped—and continue to shape—peace on the ground.

[Toolkit | Pillars for Peace-Building](#)

Women's Spaces

The project builds women's skills and shares the tools needed to engage effectively in peacebuilding, community development and public life, and aims to create new opportunities for women of all backgrounds to share their stories to shape future work and a future Northern Ireland

[Homepage - Women's Spaces](#) [Contact - Women's Spaces](#)

WITH NOT FOR: The voices of survivors in national strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls *(Northern Ireland; Scotland; England; Wales; and Ireland)*

A blog from the Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service.

['With, not for': The voices of survivors in national strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls - Research Matters](#)

Gender Matters Toolkit

Gender Matters is a toolkit produced by The Council of Europe on gender-based violence affecting young people. The manual provides a useful introduction to gender and gender-based violence for people who work with young people, as well as activity ideas to facilitate discussions.

<https://rm.coe.int/gender-matters-a-manual-on-addressing-gender-based-violence-affecting-/16809e1c34>

Social Action Youth (SAY)

This is a youth-led project, by young people who are experts through lived experience, and is coordinated by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland. It aims to drive forward change for and with young people affected by domestic abuse, and to raise awareness of healthy/unhealthy relationships.

[Social Action Youth \(SAY\) Project Northern Ireland](#)

'IT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENS'

– girls and young women's views and experiences of violence in Northern Ireland

This research was commissioned by the Ending Violence Against Women and Girl's Directorate of The Northern Ireland Executive Office to inform the development of the Strategy to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.

[It's Just What Happens – research report.pdf](#)

Evolving Manhood

- attitudes, influence and well-being among Irish men

Attitudes, Influence, and Well-being Among Irish Men Exploring men's perceptions of manhood in Ireland in 2024 and how these views influence attitudes towards relationships, gender equality, allyship, and potential anti-women sentiments.

Research commissioned by CORE and Women's Aid Ireland

<https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2024/11/Evolving-Manhood-Core-Research-and-Womens-Aid.pdf>

International Women's Day Events

There are many events taking place across Northern Ireland and Ireland to mark International Women's Day 2026. See a selection below:

Reclaim the Agenda

[International Women's Day 2026 Events – Reclaim the Agenda](#)

IWD Events, Ireland

[International Women's Day 2026 – How The Wheel Members are Celebrating | The Wheel](#)

YouthImPact does not necessarily endorse any of the materials or links within this ezine.

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na hÉireann**
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