

# International Women's Day

## 8 March 2018 Americas



**More than one billion women around the world lack legal protection against sexual violence in the home.** Wage inequality due to gender is 23% across the globe and reaches 40% in rural areas, and the unpaid work done by many women goes unnoticed. The average representation of women in national parliaments is still less than 25% and on the boards of directors it is even lower. The representation of women on refugee communities is a similar situation. Without concerted action, millions of girls will be genitally mutilated in the next decade.

**In a crisis, women are often the first to react.** Whether in transit, in their country of origin or destination, they play a fundamental role in the care, support and reconstruction of their communities. However, the needs, priorities and voices of refugee women are not always represented in the policies designed to protect and assist them.

On 8 March 2018, the **world commemorates International Women's Day**. The idea of a day commemorating the struggle for gender equality is part of a tradition of at least ninety years of struggle in which women from all continents, and different ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political backgrounds, fight for human rights to be respected under equal conditions.

The Charter of **the United Nations, signed in 1945**, was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men. **In 1975 the General Assembly of the United Nations celebrated for the first time the International Women's Day.**

Over the years, UNHCR has promoted the participation of women on equal terms with men in full respect for human rights. For example, **UNHCR's 5 Commitments to Refugee Women** developed in 2001 continue to be relevant to the ongoing work within operations in the region to achieve gender equality. The 5 commitments are:

1. Meaningful participation in decision-making processes and leadership structures;
2. Individual registration and documentation;
3. Food and non-food items management and distribution;
4. Economic empowerment; and access to education and health.
5. Prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence.

## International Women's Day 2018 Americas Activities

This year's theme, the "Time is Now: Rural and Urban activists transforming women's lives," seeks to **empower women in all settings and celebrate the activists who claim women's rights**

The **Regional Legal Unit (RLU)** developed an **awareness raising video** highlighting the importance of empowering refugee women and girls from diverse backgrounds (<https://youtu.be/JLTLpDJ6y00>)

The RLU launched a **Recommendation Note on the use of Gender Inclusive Language** "*Recomendaciones para el uso de un lenguaje inclusivo de Género*" targeting UNHCR departments, translation services and partners who draft articles and other documents in Spanish.

(<http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/scripts/doc.php?file=fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2018/11627>)

The RLU developed a **Gender Equality Action Plan** including:

1. Designation of a Gender Focal Point in addition to the Snr. Reg. Prot. Officer
2. Use of gender inclusive language
3. Implementation of IASC Age and Gender Marker
4. Incorporate Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) considerations in the evaluation of the Brazil Plan of Action.
5. Conduct regular discussions on AGD issues within the office
6. Develop additional learning modules on Child Protection, Sexual and Gender-based violence and Diversity related matters.

In **Chile**, a **photo gallery** about refugee women and girls was published. **Statistics on asylum and gender persecution** were also developed and disseminated in inter-agency meetings and using twitter.



Twitter Graphic-IWD Chile 2018

In **México**, UNHCR and JRS organized an awareness raising campaign "*re-conociéndonos*" on gender equality within the refugee community.

A Cine Forum on refugee and migrants women was held in Mexico City. The following films were shown: "Persepolis", "Malala" y "Whale Rider".

En el marco del Día Internacional de la Mujer, les invitamos a la serie de cine debates con la comunidad migrante y refugiada en la CDMX

**Persepolis**  
Dirección: Comité de Solidaridad y Defensoría de Derechos Humanos, Monsenor Romero, Casa Tochimilco, Patricia Saenz 449, Del Valle, Benito Juárez, CP 21900  
Estación de Metro cercana: Politécnico

**7** **Miércoles**  
**MARZO**  
18:00 hrs

**El me llamó Malala**  
Dirección: Casa de los Amigos, Ignacio Mariscal 132, Tabacalera, 06630 Ciudad de México, CDMX  
Estaciones de Metro y Metrobús cercanas: Revolución

**8** **Jueves**  
**MARZO**  
18:00 hrs

**La Leyenda de las Ballenas**  
Dirección: Auditorio "Amuro Diaz Betancourt" de la Clínica Especializada Condessa, Crdl Benavente 818 24, Hídrolomas Condessa, 06170 Ciudad de México.  
Estaciones de Metro y Metrobús cercanas: Juanacatlán y De La Salle

**9** **Viernes**  
**MARZO**  
16:30 hrs

Together with the Municipality, the UNHCR office in **Tapachula** organized a debate with as well a photo exposition "**Refugee women**"

**March 2018. SGBV/CP - RLU Americas**