



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State recognizes milestones in our nation's history, and we honor those achieved through the efforts of courageous individuals who led the fight for equality for women and generations to follow; for women in America, the right to vote was one of the most passionate causes many dedicated their lives to, with the long awaited moment in history realized 104 years ago – on August 26, 1920 – when the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified, giving women a long overdue right to engage in an important part of our democracy; and

Whereas, here in New York, we are proud to join in celebrating this anniversary of Women's Equality Day, which has an even broader meaning today, as our state remains at the forefront of the ongoing fight for equal rights and for other issues that impact their lives and their right to exercise freedom of choice and self-determination in this modern age; and

Whereas, New York State continues to be a stronghold of women's rights and a leader in addressing issues that impact women socially, economically, and politically through laws and other measures to ensure pay equity, to end discrimination and harassment in the workplace, to address health disparities, and to increase protections and assistance for gender-based violence survivors; and

Whereas, we have more work to do in order to achieve true equality, especially as our nation continues to contend with the immense setback caused by the June 24, 2022 Supreme Court decision to end U.S. Constitutional protections for abortion rights; as long as I am Governor, New York State will protect women's rights, including the right to access reproductive healthcare – this includes enacting fair and just laws, instituting policies and programs that make New York a safe harbor for all seeking care, and challenging efforts to roll back other progressive measures, so that future generations of young women and girls will live in a world where their rights are protected; and

Whereas, today, women have increasingly visible roles in the halls of government, boardrooms, positions of influence, decision-making, and public policy; I am proud to be the first woman elected Governor of the State of New York and, as one of a record number of twelve women in the nation to serve as a governor, I am honored to be among the distinguished ranks of other women currently holding this title; and

Whereas, New York State is a cornerstone in the women's suffrage movement as the site of the first Women's Rights Convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, where 100 women and men signed the Declaration of Sentiments that outlined rights women should be given, including the right to vote; the women who lit a spark for change and other trailblazers in history continue to inspire today's women to break glass ceilings and reach new horizons, and New York's women will always fight for our sisters – especially those who are marginalized and underrepresented – and never stop working to build a better future for the next generation;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2024 as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth day of August in the year two thousand twenty-four.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh