



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York is a champion of equality and fairness on women's rights through its advancement of initiatives to break down barriers that perpetuate discrimination and inequality based on gender; we are proud to join in the national observance of Women's Equality Day commemorating the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, and which is forever symbolic of the first major achievement by women in their efforts toward full equality; and

Whereas, throughout America's history, New York State has been a leader in civil, human, and social rights; this is well illustrated by the number of suffragists who called New York home and the choice of Seneca Falls for the first Women's Rights Convention held in 1848; this momentous event outlined certain rights that women should be granted, including the right to vote, thereby sparking the nationwide crusade for women's suffrage; and

Whereas, sixty-nine years later and three years before the 19th Amendment was ratified, women in New York won that right on Election Day, November 6, 1917; to commemorate this important heritage, the New York State Women's Suffrage 100th Anniversary Commemoration Commission was established to increase education and awareness through a statewide discussion about the lasting legacy of women's suffrage and how it continues to shape American democracy today; and

Whereas, New York State is a leading voice for women's equality and has raised that voice in action through such significant achievements as passage of the historic "Women's Equality Agenda" in 2015 – eight laws that advance women's equality in New York State by helping to achieve pay equity, strengthen human trafficking laws and protections for domestic violence victims, and ending pregnancy discrimination in all workplaces; other measures further safeguard and promote women's interests and help improve their status in settings where they live and work; and

Whereas, we can take pride in the progress our state and nation have made in reinforcing women's rights over the decades and recognize that we have not yet crossed all thresholds to fulfilling our mission and quest for true equality; today we celebrate the economic, social, and political accomplishments of women, we honor the courageous women who have made extraordinary contributions to their countries and communities, and we pause to remember the struggles waged by generations of women who have led the fight for equality and justice; and

Whereas, New York State always has and will stand up to defend human rights, combat discrimination, and ensure equal treatment for all people through laws and policies which reflect our belief that every individual must be treated fairly and equally in all areas; as we work to further advance equality for women, we join in celebrating this day and reaffirming New York State's progressive values and leadership in achieving full equality for all women;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2017 as

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany on this twenty-third day of August in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa