



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, since 1987, the month of March has been designated nationally as Women's History Month, and New York State joins in celebrating this observance and recognizing extraordinary women of all backgrounds who have made historic contributions to our state and nation through their leadership and success in every area of endeavor; and

Whereas, New York has a strong history of women leaders, as illustrated by the number of suffragists who called New York home, the choice of Seneca Falls for the first Women's Rights Convention held 170 years ago in 1848, and where, sixty-nine years later – three years before the 19th Amendment was ratified – women in New York won that right on Election Day, November 6, 1917; and

Whereas, this year's National Women's History Month celebrates the theme, "*Nevertheless She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*," presenting the opportunity to honor women who have shaped the history of our state and nation – and its future – through their tireless commitment to ending discrimination against women and girls; and

Whereas, New Yorkers take pride in our history of advancing equal rights, we celebrate this centennial by reaffirming New York State's commitment to achieving full equality for women in every sphere: social, economic, and political; and

Whereas, however, there continue to be many intersecting forms of discrimination faced by American women, including discrimination based on race and ethnicity, class, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, and other categories; and

Whereas, women remain underrepresented in government, both at the state level where women constitute only 27 percent of the legislature, and at the national level, where women constitute only 19 percent of Congress; and

Whereas, nationwide, women earn 80 cents on the dollar in comparison to what men earn; in New York State, with the smallest wage gap in the country, women still earn only 89 cents on the dollar, while 77 percent of single parent families in the state are headed by women; furthermore, women of color often earn even less – in New York, Asian American women are paid 85 cents, African American women are paid 66 cents, Hispanic and Latina women are paid 55 cents and Native American women are paid just 50 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic males; and

Whereas, New York builds upon its role of leadership in advancing equal rights for women in this state through comprehensive laws that strengthen equal pay protections and help to ensure that women are given equal opportunity in the workforce, including the enactment of the "*Women's Equality Agenda*" in 2015 – eight laws that further strengthen New York State's equal pay, sex discrimination, harassment, and other measures to provide additional protections for women in the workplace; and

Whereas, women's suffrage was a milestone for New York State and a transformative moment in American democracy, yet ingrained in our society are structural, cultural, and legal forms of discrimination that continue to plague American women; today we celebrate the accomplishments of women and honor those with the courage, persistence, and resolve to fighting all forms of discrimination against women and bringing positive change to the lives of diverse American women;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as


WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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 on this twenty-sixth day of February in the year two thousand eighteen.


Governor


Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa