



Declaration

Whereas, March 8th is celebrated as International Women's Day throughout the world, and the month of March is recognized as Women's History Month;

Whereas, the history of women in Utah is marked with accomplishments and events significant to both the history of Utah and the United States;

Whereas, the Utah Territorial Legislature gave women the right to vote in 1870, and Seraph Young in Salt Lake City was the first woman in the history of the United States to cast a vote, under an equal suffrage law;

Whereas, the legacy of leadership of Utah women continues today, including and importantly, Utah's Lieutenant Governor, The Honorable Deidre M. Henderson;

Whereas, women are leading contributors to Utah's prominence on the economic world stage;

Whereas, Utah women own over 89,000 businesses - they are innovators, and employ people in every industry sector across the state;

Whereas, Utah women comprise nearly 45% of the state's workforce, control a majority of the consumer purchasing power in the state, control more than one third of small business purchasing decisions, employ nearly 80,000 Utahns, contribute over \$15 billion to the economy annually, and make invaluable impacts toward the creation and flourishing of strong families and communities through unpaid labor including childcare, eldercare, housework, and countless other forms of work;

Whereas, the state of Utah acknowledges the ongoing work to equip women with enhanced access to opportunities for economic and other advancements, including: improved access to affordable and flexible childcare resources; wages and income in better alignment with their contributions as participants and leaders in Utah's workforce; and a concerted response to

the COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact upon the economic opportunities and workforce participation of women;

Whereas, the 2021 theme for International Women's Day is "Choose to Challenge"- expressing a choice to accept challenges and call out inequity;

Whereas, the people of Utah choose to renew the commitment to work collaboratively to remove barriers in our economic and political systems, and to work to eliminate pay disparities between men and women;

Whereas, the people of Utah choose to take on the challenging and vital work of creating a state that further empowers women to build upon the tradition of involvement and contribution; and,

Whereas, this recognition of the contributions of women and the ongoing work to eliminate barriers to opportunity transcends partisan, ideological, or geographical boundaries and joins the voices throughout the nation and world as part of International Women's Day that celebrate the "social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women;"

Now, Therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, Governor of the great state of Utah, and, I, Deidre M. Henderson, Lieutenant Governor of the great state of Utah, do hereby declare March 8, 2021, as

Women's Day in Utah



Spencer J. Cox
Governor



Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor