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@Sam's: Democracy and Human Rights

March 19, 2014

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**Women's History Month
March 2014**



The roots of the National Women's History Month go back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions. International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 that Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

This year's theme, Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment, honors the extraordinary and often unrecognized determination and tenacity of women. Against social convention and often legal restraints, women have created a legacy that expands the frontiers of possibility for generations to come. They have demonstrated their character, courage and commitment as mothers, educators, institution builders, business, labor, political and community leaders, relief workers, women religious, and CEOs. Their lives and their work inspire girls and women to achieve their full potential and encourage boys and men to respect the diversity and depth of women's experience.

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[U.S. Embassy Bangkok and Women's History Month](#)

Ambassador Kristie Kenney hosted a reception on the night of March 4 in honor of International Women's Day.



On March 13th, Chargé d'Affaires W. Patrick Murphy hosted a lunch at his residence to celebrate Women's History Month. The lunch focused on honoring women leaders in Thailand who promote women's health, rights, education, and economic empowerment.



[Presidential Proclamation -- Women's History Month, 2014](#)

(March 1, 2014) - "Throughout our Nation's history, American women have led movements for social and economic justice, made groundbreaking scientific discoveries, enriched our culture with stunning works of art and literature, and charted bold directions in our foreign policy. They have served our country with valor, from the battlefields of the Revolutionary War to the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan. During Women's History Month, we recognize the victories, struggles, and stories of the women who have made our country what it is today."

[Remarks at the International Women of Courage Awards by Ambassador Catherine M. Russell](#)

(March 4, 2014) - "We're delighted to have you here today to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of International Women's Day, which we mark every year by recognizing women who have exemplified exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for human rights, women's equality, and social progress, often at great personal risk."

[2014 International Women of Courage Award winners](#)

Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom and First Lady Michelle Obama recognized extraordinary women from around the globe with the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award at a ceremony that took place on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 11:30 a.m. at the U.S. Department of State.

[Facts for Features: Women's History Month 2014](#)

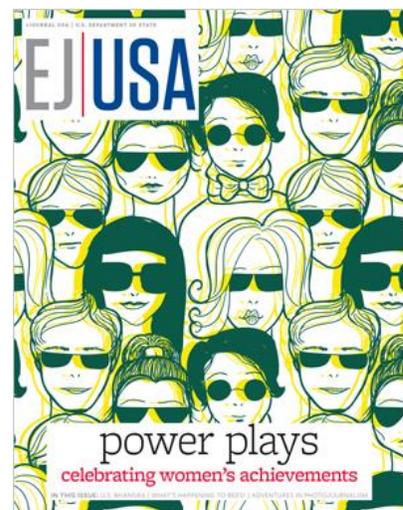
Collections of statistics from the Census Bureau's demographic and economic subject areas intended to commemorate Women's History Month.

Women's History Month In Briefs Series

- [Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues](#)
- [U.S. Teenagers Volunteer in Their Communities](#)
- [Exchange Students Volunteer in U.S.](#)
- [Mayor Kim McMillan of Tennessee](#)
- [Toni and Diezel Braxton, Autism Advocates](#)
- [League of Women Voters](#)
- [Black Women Inventors: Contributing to U.S. Culture of Innovation](#)

[EJ|USA - Power Plays: Celebrating Women's Achievements](#)

U.S. Department of State. EJ|USA | Vol. 18 | No. 9 | March 2014
An award-winning photojournalist, athletes working for women's health and political up-and-comers show just how much women can achieve in fields from which they were once excluded. Whether it's defying stereotypes or surviving a grave illness, women all over the world have surpassed expectations and shown great courage in the face of challenges. Read this month's issue for stories of brave, intelligent women who have changed the world.



[Women's Stories Video](#)

Watch the largest collection of women's stories. Short videos offering stories and advice by successful American women.

[Women of Our Time \(Smithsonian\)](#)

The National Portrait Gallery has an online exhibition that highlights photographs and biographies of famous and influential American women.



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