Dear SVRI List Members,

The SVRI team wishes you a happy International Women’s Day, 08 March 2016! Join celebrations and activism around the world with this year’s theme: #Pledgeforparity. The theme highlights social, economic and political achievements of women – and emphasises the need to accelerate gender parity. Take the gender parity pledge here today.

Today, women and men from across the globe make their voices heard for women’s rights. The SVRI is delighted to bring notable news and events dedicated to International Women’s Day. View the SVRI’s contribution to equality, health and safety of women and girls’ by visiting our Publications, Capacity building, Grants and SVRI Forums pages. Follow the hashtag #IWD2016 on Twitter for more news and events as they happen.

Campaigns and events

United Nations: Planet 50-50 by 2030 - Step It Up for Gender Equality: This year the UN theme for International Women’s Day seeks ways in which the 2030 Agenda can be fast-tracked. The key targets for this agenda includes the elimination of violence against women and girls as well as the elimination of harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Building momentum for the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is the central idea of this theme.

International Rescue Committee: Wake up - This is her day. Every day, millions of women and girls confront threats to their safety, their health, their livelihoods and their dignity. The IRC addresses such threats in more than 40 countries and in 22 U.S. cities through providing lifesaving critical care to women and girls during humanitarian emergencies. And in the aftermath, offer empowerment programs to help women and girls rebuild their lives, families and communities—and thrive over the long term. Get involved. Take the Wake Up pledge today.

#IWD2016: A collection of UN Women’s International Women’s Day events and activities worldwide. On 8 March, log into Snapchat to see the Live Story celebrating remarkable women. Follow UN Women accounts for live coverage from the different events and share content from our social media package, which is available with images, videos and sample promotional messages in English, Spanish and French here.

International Women’s Day 2016: Google Doodle celebrates ‘women of the future’ with #OneDayIWill campaign. Google’s #OneDayIWill campaign encourages women and girls to share their aspirations with the world on International Women’s Day. International Women’s Day is a
global event aimed at inspiring women and celebrating their achievements. Its roots are in movements campaigning for better pay and voting rights.

Publications and news articles

**Getting to equal: How digital can help close the gender gap at work. Accenture, 2016:** This research report combines survey and published data to create the Accenture Digital Fluency Model, a tool that enables researchers to analyse the effect of digital fluency on gender equality throughout the career lifecycle.

**When is International Women's Day 2016? Find out when global celebration takes place, Mirror, 07 March 2016:** the International Women’s Day is a global celebration which aims to inspire women across the world. This year International Women's Day will take place on Tuesday, March 8. This news bulletin highlights how this remarkable day was conceptualised.

**8 charts that show why life is still harder and more dangerous for women, Independent, 5 March 2016:** Women still earn less than men across all sectors and occupations, hold just a fifth of global parliamentary seats and face an estimated 118-year wait for the gender pay gap to finally close. Those are some of the startling statistics showing how desperately initiatives to improve education, health and quality of life ahead of International Women’s Day.

**16 Courageous women standing up to violence, Yes Magazine, 2 March 2016:** The Institute for Inclusive Security, an NGO that supports women’s contributions to peacebuilding, brought these 16 women together for its 2016 annual colloquium to talk about how they stand up to violence in all its myriad forms.

**Press release: Presidential Proclamation -- Women's History Month, 2016. By the President of the United States of America, 29 February 2016:** Throughout history, women have driven humanity forward on the path to a more equal and just society, contributing in innumerable ways to our character and progress as a people. In the face of discrimination and undue hardship, they have never given up on the promise of America: that with hard work and determination, nothing is out of reach. During Women's History Month, we remember the trailblazers of the past, including the women who are not recorded in our history books, and we honor their legacies by carrying forward the valuable lessons learned from the powerful examples they set.

Visit [http://www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com) for #IWD2016 news and information
Sexual violence is a global issue that requires coordinated evidence-based responses.

The Sexual Violence Research Initiative is hosted by the Medical Research Council, South Africa. The SVRI aims to promote research on sexual violence and generate empirical data to ensure sexual violence is recognized as a priority public health problem. To learn more about the SVRI visit our website www.svri.org or contact us at svri@mrc.ac.za

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