

## **Ideas for International Women's Day - Thursday, March 8, 2018**

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Theme>

The 2018 IWD theme is "Press for Progress"

- Chapters can request event packages from IWD and they ship worldwide (cost is 199 USD)

The packages are neat, but I'm not sure they're worth the money.

- Free printable selfie cards to take photos and share with IWD

Suggested DA Women's Caucus IWD Meeting Theme: Feminist Literature

### **Suggested Agenda**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8. (Chapters could also host their IWD events on the weekend and at various time depending on member availability.)

6:35 - 7:15

Discuss the 3-5 poems. Two selections listed at end of doc

- An optional list of discussion questions can be provided in case meeting leaders need a little help getting the conversation started.

7:15 - 8:00

Watch and discuss a video or two from the choices listed in "Resources."

- Dr. Crenshaw's talk on intersectionality and the short "Tea Consent" video would be my two choices for viewing during the meetings, but I think giving the meeting leaders many choices to pick from is a nice way of catering each meeting to member preferences and interests.

8:00 - 8:25

Discussion on how we can "press for progress" as Americans abroad, make our own selfie cards and take photos for IWD

- Prompts can be provided to help folks think about what they'd like to write on their selfie cards

8:30

Group photo for IWD and GWC

### **Resources**

Additional recommended readings:

Nonfiction

Bad Feminist by Roxane Gay

Men Explain Things to Me by Rebecca Solnit

Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics by bell hooks

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Fiction

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson (also a YA book)

#### Young Adult and Middle-Grade

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Harriet the Spy by Louise Fitzhugh

The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Allen Bradley

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren

Rosie Revere, Engineer and Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty

The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch

Matilda by Roald Dahl

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume

Bink and Gollie (series) by Kate DiCamillo

10,000 Dresses by Marcus Ewert

#### Articles

Jamila Brown "Beyond Resistance"

<https://www.bitchmedia.org/article/beyond-resistance/our-new-global-feminism-fellow-considerers-whats-next>

Reni Eddo-Lodge "Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race"

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/30/why-im-no-longer-talking-to-white-people-about-race>

Anna North "The Aziz Ansari Story is Ordinary. That's Why We Have to Talk About It"

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/1/16/16894722/aziz-ansari-grace-babe-me-too>

#### Videos

##### Intersectionality:

Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw "The Urgency of Intersectionality"

<https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberl>

##### Masculinity:

Dr. Jackson Katz "Violence Against Women – It's a Men's Issue"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTvSfeCRxe8&feature=youtu.be>

Joe Ehrmann "Be A Man"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVI1Xutc\\_Ws](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVI1Xutc_Ws)

Tony Porter "A Call to Men"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=td1PbsV6B80>

Colin Stokes "How Movies Teach Manhood"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueOqYebVhtc>

##### Consent:

Blue Seat Studios "Tea Consent"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGoWLWS4-kU>

Campus Clarity “2 Minutes Will Change the Way You Think About Consent”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laMtr-rUEmY>

Vlog Brothers “Consent, Culture, and Abuse”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO-sqloi\\_IQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO-sqloi_IQ)

Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance “Ask. Listen. Respect: A Video about Consent”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6X5I7xoxEY>

Rape Culture:

Kat Blaque “What is: Rape Culture”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SupUmg566js>

Podcasts

Code Switch from NPR

Call Your Girlfriend hosted by Ann Friedman and Aminatou Sow

2 Dope Queens hosted by Phoebe Robinson and Jessica Williams

Popaganda and Back Talk from Bitch Media

The History Chicks from Panoply

### **Poem Ideas with Talking Points**

“Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou

Video of Angelou reading her poem - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeFfhH83\\_RE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeFfhH83_RE)

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.  
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size  
But when I start to tell them,  
They think I'm telling lies.  
I say,  
It's in the reach of my arms,  
The span of my hips,  
The stride of my step,  
The curl of my lips.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

I walk into a room  
Just as cool as you please,  
And to a man,  
The fellows stand or  
Fall down on their knees.  
Then they swarm around me,  
A hive of honey bees.

I say,  
It's the fire in my eyes,  
And the flash of my teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me.  
They try so much  
But they can't touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them,  
They say they still can't see.

I say,  
It's in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,  
The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.  
I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing,  
It ought to make you proud.

I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need for my care.  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That's me.

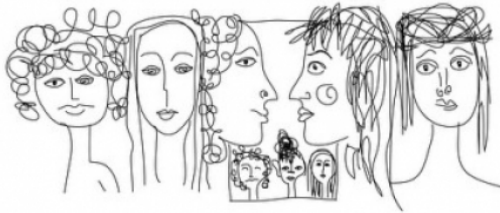
“Phenomenal Woman” Talking Points:

- Patriarchal societies such as ours create and reinforce ideologies that promote conceptions of femininity as synonymous with weak, lesser than, inferior, submissive. How does Dr. Angelou’s poem contradict that understanding of femininity?
  - Notes: The *OED* offers a couple of definitions for “phenomenal” including:
    - “Very notable or remarkable; prodigious, exceptional; that exceeds all expectations; marvellous, extraordinary, fantastic.”
    - “Of the nature of a phenomenon...capable of being known empirically, especially through the senses or through immediate experience, perceptible...”
  - Angelou’s poem plays with both of those definitions; she is woman and her grace, power, charisma are inherently tied to her femininity, and she, as a female individual, is exceptional and marvellous
- Dr. Angelou’s poem exudes self-love and appreciation. Take a moment to think about the ways in which you practice self-love and appreciation. Do you need more of it? What small things could you incorporate into your routine to remember to appreciate yourself? What’s phenomenal about you? (Participants could just think about these things and keep them to themselves, or a couple of volunteers could share depending on the intimacy and comfortability of the group.)

The following poem from Rupi Kaur’s *Milk and Honey* collection of poetry:

we all move forward when  
we recognize how resilient  
and striking the women  
around us are

- rupi kaur



The Maenads by Ursula K Le Guin

Somewhere I read  
that when they finally staggered off the mountain  
into some strange town, past drunk,  
hoarse, half naked, blear-eyed,  
blood dried under broken nails  
and across young thighs,  
but still jeering and joking, still trying  
to dance, lurching and yelling, but falling  
dead asleep by the market stalls,  
sprawled helpless, flat out, then  
middle-aged women,  
respectable housewives,  
would come and stand nightlong in the agora  
silent  
together  
as ewes and cows in the night fields,  
guarding, watching them  
as their mothers  
watched over them.  
And no man  
dared  
that fierce decorum.

“The Maenads” talking points

- The older generation creating a judgement-free safe space, exerting their power for the younger women who are experimenting with their power.
- How do the present generations of women ‘stand on the shoulders of giants’ today? Take back the night, birth control, etc.
- If you like this poem read suggest [Lavinia](#) by Le Guin

What We Know Now..... by Cleo Wade

What we know  
Now  
More than  
Ever  
Is that  
We  
Don't have to  
Wait  
A moment  
Longer  
The cracks  
In the  
Ceiling  
Have been made  
Our light  
Is coming through  
Today  
We shine  
Tomorrow  
We shine  
The next day  
We shine some more  
The future  
Is brighter  
Because

We  
Illuminate it

**Hashtags:**

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#internationalwomensday2018

#pressforprogress

#womenswrites

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