

# MARCH FORWARD

## For ALL Women and Girls

Thirty years ago, the world committed to a bold vision for gender equality through the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). Adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, this landmark document outlined 12 critical areas where progress was urgently needed, from economic empowerment and leadership to media representation and climate justice. It remains the most progressive and widely endorsed blueprint for women's and girls' rights worldwide.

**Since 1995, we've seen women break barriers, reshape policies, and ignite movements worldwide.**

Yet, despite significant progress, the promises of Beijing remain largely unfulfilled for millions of women. The world is experiencing new and overlapping crises and the erosion of rights. Last year alone, 612 million women and girls lived amidst the brutal realities of armed conflict, a disturbing 50% increase in just a decade.

Systemic inequalities, entrenched socio-cultural norms, rising violence against women, and economic disparities not only obstruct our path forward, but threaten the hard-won gains we have achieved.

**We are simply not where we should be.**

Countless women and girls are denied their fundamental rights, opportunities, and safety. In every corner of the globe, women and girls face barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential.

This year's theme, **“March Forward: For ALL Women and Girls”**, calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind. Central to this vision is empowering the next generation – youth, particularly young women and adolescent girls – as catalysts for lasting change.

**Together, we can be the generation to close the gap to achieve gender equality.**

This International Women's Day, as we mark Beijing+30, join us as we #MarchForward for women's rights. The world cannot afford a step back.



## Why Beijing+30 Matters for ALL Australians

[Beijing+30](#) marks a pivotal moment to review Australia's progress on gender equality over the past 30 years. Despite progress made, current statistics show persistent challenges in Australia across the 12 areas of concern outlined in the UN Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These include:



**2 out of 3** women experience gender bias and discrimination in the Australian health system.



In Australian media, women account for **less than half** (43%) of bylines written, with men featured disproportionately as 70% of quoted sources and 66% of experts.



Australian women spend **16 hours** on unpaid care work on average compared to 12 hours for men.



**1 in 3** Australian women experience physical violence, and **1 in 5** experience sexual violence in their lifetime.



Nationally, women make up just **22%** of CEOs, **37%** of key management personnel and **42%** of managers.



Evidence shows that in Australia, violence against women increases after disasters (e.g. bushfires or floods).

**Sources:** National Women's Health Advisory Council (2024), Women in Media (2023), Finder (2024), ABS (2021-22), WGEA (2023), The Australian Government (2024).

## Join us this International Women's Day

Whether you're attending one of our live **fundraising events** across Australia on **Friday, 7 March**, a business celebrating with our **IWD@Work package**, or hosting your own fundraiser in your **school** or **community**, there are many ways you can support the world's women and girls this International Women's Day. Visit [iwd.net.au](http://iwd.net.au) to find out more and join us in making a meaningful impact!

## Donate Now

By donating this International Women's Month, you will be joining us on our mission to empower women and girls everywhere and ensure the next generation inherits a future where gender equality is not just a vision, but a reality. Together, we can honour the past, shape the future, and create a world where women and girls everywhere can thrive.

[Give A Gift](#)

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