

8th March 2024

Press Release: International Women's Day 2024



A Call for Investment & Recognition of Illiterate Women

¹Since 28th February 1909, when the then-active Socialist Party of America celebrated the first National Woman's Day in commemoration of the 15,000 women who protested in New York against harsh working conditions and lesser wages. In 1910, Clara Zetkin, a women's rights advocate and the leader of Germany's Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party, proposed the idea of a global International Women's Day. On 19 March 1911, the first International Women's Day was held, with more than 1 million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland taking part. It took until 1975 for the United Nations to recognize and begin celebrating International Women's Day (IWD). Since then, the UN has served as the major sponsor of the yearly event, encouraging more countries to recognize "acts of courage and resolve by ordinary women who have played an outstanding role in the history of their countries and communities."

[The UN Charter](#); [The CEDEW 1979 entry into force 1981](#); [Protocol to the Africa Charter/The Maputo Protocol](#); [SADC Declaration of Gender and Development](#); [ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Gender Equality](#); [MENA: Women In Public Life](#) are critical international and regional documents that sanctify the welfare and wellbeing of women. As we do the needful today- 8th March on the theme: "**Investing in Women: Accelerate Progress**" to reflect on the gains and challenges, observe the status and plight of and celebrate women, institutions, people that contribute in protecting and promoting women issues across the world – from the Illiterate, differently able, indigenous, elite women etc. [Network AID](#) strongly draw the attention of all the hidden development contribution of the illiterate women:-

1. Eager for the children to learn – pay their fees
2. Support their family growth
3. Participate fully in governance (elections) even though not recognize
4. Embarked on dangerous market journey through road and sea
5. Mobilize and participate in community development labour intensive work
6. Pay taxes and dues
7. Do the low earning job that spin the economy
8. Serve as guardian and nanny (domestic helpers).

We challenge the international, regional and subregional communities inclusive of national government (development partners (bilateral and multilateral organisations) to invest on illiterate women and to recognize their contributions by given them awards and accolade like [Jiang Shumei](#) to accelerate progress not only elite women.

Network AID is committed in seeking the welfare and wellbeing of illiterate women, persons with disability, youth and deprived children to be recognize and identity protected.

¹[euronews.culture](#)

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