

# The Peace Post



Dear Friends,

As many of you know, March is Women's History Month—a time to celebrate the remarkable contributions of women throughout history and acknowledge the ongoing struggle for gender equality. At the Peace Innovation Initiative, we recognize the critical importance of Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, particularly in the context of the pressing issues facing women worldwide.

Gender inequality permeates various aspects of our society, from the workplace to conflict zones, and even within the realm of sports. The persistent gender pay gap serves as a stark everyday reminder of the disparities that continue to exist in our workplaces, depriving women of fair compensation and economic autonomy. Addressing this gap is not only a matter of justice but also a crucial step towards building a more collaborative, innovative and equitable society.

Likewise, the impact of conflict on gender inequalities cannot be overstated. Women and girls often bear the brunt of conflict, facing heightened risks of gender-based violence, displacement, and limited access to essential services. As architects of peace, we believe centering and empowering women in roles of leadership is critical for addressing the root causes of these disparities. We strive for gender-sensitive approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding through the partnerships we build and the networks we harness for good.

At the heart of our efforts lies a commitment to promoting a culture of equality and inclusivity in all aspects of life. By amplifying the voices of women, advocating for policy changes, and championing gender-sensitive initiatives, we contribute to a world where every individual has the opportunity to reach their full potential, free from discrimination and prejudice.

I invite you to join us in our efforts to advance SDG 5 and the rest of the 17 SDGs. Together, we can build a future where peace is not just an idealistic goal but a lived reality for all. Are you bold enough to practice peace? Join us in this **movement** for positive disruption.

In the spirit of peace and unity,

Barbara Winston  
President and Founder

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## Towards Victory for Gender Equality

UNESCO's "Towards Victory for Gender Equality" campaign brings attention to how soccer can promote gender equality, even despite the unequal representation of genders in leadership roles within the sport. The initiative aims to tackle these inequalities by encouraging media coverage, sponsorship, and investments in women's football while advocating for a gender-inclusive environment in sports. In their work to promote a culture of equality and inclusivity, these efforts align with PII's broader mission of creating sustainable peace and innovation through collaborative and impactful engagements. We celebrate UNESCO's commitment to leading this important work!

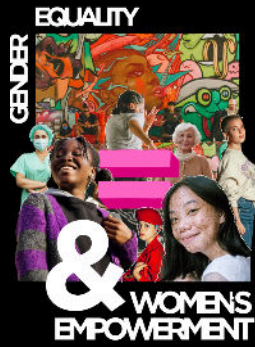
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## Equal education, unequal pay: Why is there still a gender pay gap in 2024?

A recent U.S. Census Bureau report revealed a disappointing, but perhaps expected finding: women earn about 71 cents to a dollar compared to men, regardless of educational attainment. This persistent gender pay gap, present even among highly educated individuals, hints at systemic issues beyond mere occupational choices or working hours, including ingrained gender stereotypes and discrimination. The statistics demonstrate that the disparity is particularly pronounced for Black and Hispanic women and intensifies during prime child-bearing years. As we reflect on these findings, we are struck by the critical nature of PII's commitment to gender equality and economic empowerment as foundational pillars for sustainable peace and innovation. Peace cannot be built except with all human beings of all genders on board, paving the way towards a better future through our combined brilliance.

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## How women's rights fared in the past year

On International Women's Day, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the global backlash against women's rights, urging accelerated action toward gender equality. Meanwhile, devastating conflicts, notably the Israel-Gaza war, have disproportionately affected women, with reports of significant casualties, displacements, and sexual violence. In the U.S., the polarized debate on abortion rights continues, reflecting wider global tensions around women's reproductive freedoms. Efforts in France and Mexico to protect abortion access provide a contrast to restrictive measures elsewhere. As we continue to work together towards gender equality, this article is a reminder that achieving sustainable peace and innovation worldwide cannot happen without bold efforts to empower all women with the networks and resources to lead transformative change.

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## International Women's Day 2024 Around the World - in Pictures

A roundup of rallies to celebrate women's social, cultural and political achievements and protests against gender-based violence and inequality.

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# Event Recap

## Women Economic Forum New York March 8th, 2024



The Women Economic Forum (WEF) launched its New York State chapter on March 8, 2024, at the Harvard Club in Manhattan. The occasion was marked by honoring women who have made significant contributions to gender equity. The event was attended by 200 guests from over 50 countries, preceding the 68th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Barbara Winston, the President and Founder of PII, was nominated by Gina Otto, the G100 Global Chair for Environment & Climate Action, for the first WEF Women of the Decade award. The nomination was made in recognition of Barbara's role in breaking gender barriers and advancing women's issues. Dr. Maria Fernanda Reyes, President of WEF New York, emphasized the forum's commitment to fostering a global community that champions women's equality and supports the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Harbeen Arora Rai, the founder of WEF, highlighted the organization's efforts to create an inclusive ecosystem addressing the multifaceted challenges women face globally, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals to combat gender-based inequalities.

Your support and engagement drive us to continue our mission of fostering innovation for a more harmonious world. Whether you're reading, sharing, or contributing, you're playing a vital role in this journey toward global peace. If you have stories, insights, or feedback, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we're making a difference.

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