

EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Monthly Newsletter by Saint Helena Equality and Human Rights Commission



FEBRUARY 2021

This month's in Saint Helena history for Human Rights:
8th February 1677: Edmond Halley visits, sets up an observatory and observes the positions of 341 stars in the Southern hemisphere, publishing his results in *Catalogus Stellarum Australium*. His observation site is near St. Matthew's Church in the Longwood district.

12th February 1681: Mr Greentree and Mr Colson are suspended from Council after being observed most active at an unlicensed open air protest meeting.

17th February 1853: The Herald Newspaper reports the trial and impending execution of Lowry, a negro servant, for killing Elizabeth Ann Brooms (on what today would be considered merely circumstantial evidence). This is the basis of the 'Lowry's Cell' ghost story.

25th February 1890: Prince Dinuzulu and his family arrive on the island and are accommodated at Francis Plain House.

2nd February 1905: Richard & Lewis Crowie are executed for the November 1904 murder of Robert Gunnel at Prosperous Bay Signal Station, the last execution to take place on St Helena (and more than 50 years since the preceding one).

15th February 1940: A new Constitution, providing for an Advisory Council, is introduced (this later became Legislative Council) but no democracy.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE



The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is the 11th day of February, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 22 December 2015. The day recognizes the critical role women and girls play in science and technology.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is implemented by UNESCO and UN Women, in collaboration with intergovernmental agencies and institutions, as well as civil society partners, that aim to promote women and girls in science. The day's purpose is to promote full and equal access to participation in science for women and girls.

2021 Theme: Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE CONT.

On 11 February 2021, the 6th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly will be held at the United Nations Headquarters virtually. With great momentum and interest to accelerate progress in achieving the 2030 Development Agenda and its 17 Global Goals, the 6th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly theme will be Beyond the Borders: Equality in Science for Society, with a special focus on the value of the social aspects and cultural dimensions in Science, Technology and Innovation to enhance sustainable development programmes.



Science and gender equality are both vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over the past 15 years, the global community has made a lot of effort in inspiring and engaging women and girls in science. Yet women and girls continue to be excluded from participating fully in science.

At present, less than 30 per cent of researchers worldwide are women. According to UNESCO data (2014 - 2016), only around 30 per cent of all female students select STEM-related fields in higher education. Globally, female students' enrolment is particularly low in ICT (3 per cent), natural science, mathematics and statistics (5 per cent) and in engineering, manufacturing and construction (8 per cent).

Long-standing biases and gender stereotypes are steering girls and women away from science related fields. As in the real world, the world on screen reflects similar biases—the 2015 Gender Bias Without Borders study by the Geena Davis Institute showed that of the onscreen characters with an identifiable STEM job, only 12 per cent were women.

In order to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls, and further achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/70/212 declaring 11 February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.



WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

World Day of Social Justice (Social Justice Equality Day) is an international day recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections. Many organizations, including the UN, American Library Association (ALA), and the International Labour Organization, make statements on the importance of social justice for people. Many organizations also present plans for greater social justice by tackling poverty, social and economic exclusion and unemployment.

WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY CONT.



The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on 10 June 2008. This is the third major statement of principles and policies adopted by the International Labour Conference since the ILO's Constitution of 1919. It builds on the Philadelphia Declaration of 1944 and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998. The 2008 Declaration expresses the contemporary vision of the ILO's mandate in the era of globalization. This landmark Declaration is a powerful reaffirmation of ILO values. It is the outcome of tripartite consultations that started in the wake of the Report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization. By adopting this text, the representatives of governments, employers' and workers' organizations from 182 member States emphasize the key role of our tripartite Organization in helping to achieve progress and social justice in the context of globalization. Together, they commit to enhance the ILO's capacity to advance these goals, through the Decent Work Agenda. The Declaration institutionalizes the Decent Work concept developed by the ILO since 1999, placing it at the core of the Organization's policies to reach its constitutional objectives. The Declaration comes at a crucial political moment, reflecting the wide consensus on the need for a strong social dimension to globalization in achieving improved and fair outcomes for all. It constitutes a compass for the promotion of a fair globalization based on decent work, as well as a practical tool to accelerate progress in the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda at the country level. It also reflects a productive outlook by highlighting the importance of sustainable enterprises in creating greater employment and income opportunities for all.

The United Nations Organization website states the theme of World Day of Social Justice 2021 as,

“A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy”

Covid 19 Pandemic has created the environments of remote working by digital platforms. These factors influenced the labour opportunities and produced the digital divide. The theme of the current year 2021 will address these features

I stand for simple justice, equal opportunity and human rights. The indispensable elements in a democratic society- and well worth fighting for.

- Helen Suzman