

THE FEDERATION OF BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS

(REGD.No.7364)

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Dear Comrades,

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY --CELEBRATING WOMANHOOD **" DON'T LET OTHERS DEFINE YOU. YOU DEFINE YOURSELF !"**

Throughout history, women have made extraordinary contributions to their societies. Some are well known, while some less so, but all have been trail blazers. International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe. Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas. The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March during International Women's Year 1975. Two years later, in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

The 2016 theme for International Women's Day is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality". The theme envisages a world where all women and girls have equal opportunities and rights by 2030. 'Step It Up' asks governments to make national commitments that will close the gender equality gap – from laws and policies to national action plans and adequate investment. NOW is the time to Step It Up! The United Nations observance on 8 March will reflect on how to accelerate the 2030 Agenda, building momentum for the effective implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals. It will equally focus on new commitments under UN Women's Step It Up initiative, and other existing commitments on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights. Around the world, UN Women is organizing International Women's Day events in more than 40 countries, including: a friendly hockey match between a men's and women's team in Tanzania on 5th March; a march and cycling rally in New Delhi, India on 6th March; a festival with live musical and dance performances in Palestine on 8th March; marches, a football match and painting expositions across Albania from 5-8th March; and a women's "run to Step It Up" in São Paulo, Brazil on 20th March—to name just a few.

Now that Women wing of our Federation has been reactivated, which held its annual conference successfully on 27th February, 2016, we are sure that women wing of each of the seventeen Units must have chalked out ways to commemorate this day. On behalf of our Federation, we once again take pledge that we will continue to fight for equal rights to women to ensure due share to them in Organisation / Institution / Society. At the same time, we expect that each of our lady comrades would be pro-active in changing the mind set of people around to achieve equality in true sense. We also hope that they themselves would be instrumental in bringing desirable change in the society, beginning from its smallest unit i.e. family.

We convey our heartiest greetings to each of the women counterpart of our Bank as well as to those in the families of our members on the International women's Day !

With warm greetings,

Yours comradely,

(HARVINDER SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY