



# Women's March

The Women's March is a worldwide movement that advocates Women's Rights are Human Rights. The D.C. Women's March on January 21st, 2017 happened the day after Donald Trump's inauguration in relation to his patriarchal positioning. Many women used the D.C. Women's March to send a bold message to the new administration that Women's Rights are Human Rights (Tatum, 2017). According to the Women's March official Facebook page the, "march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society" (Women's March, 2017). The Women's March, "harness[es] the political power of diverse women and their communities to create transformative social change" (Our Mission, 2017). The female led movement uses an intersectional approach to educate society on the wide range of oppressions women face. The Women's March creates entry points for organizers to engage with their communities through trainings, programming and events (Our Mission, 2017).

The Women's March believe that, "Women's Rights are Human Rights and Human Rights are Women's Rights" (Our Mission, 2017). It is imperative for the world to create societies in which all women are free and able to live in a safe and healthy environment, free from structural oppression (Our Mission, 2017). The Women's March aims to dismantle systems of oppression through nonviolent resistance and to build community guided by self-determinism and respect. The core principals of the Women's March include: ending violence, reproductive rights, LGBTQ rights, worker's rights, civil rights, disability rights, immigrant rights and environmental justice (Our Mission, 2017).

Organizers of the D.C. Women's March planned to, "greet Trump's presidency by making a statement" (Tatum, 2017). The organizers used the power of social media to connect and mobilize over 500,000 people to March for Women's Rights in Washington, D.C. on the first day of Trump's Presidency.

The organizers use of various social media platforms turned the Women's March into a global movement. Facebook mobilized hundreds of thousands of people to stand in solidarity for Women's Rights. The use of Facebook was vital to the success of the D.C. Women's March because organizers had instantaneous communication with participants.

The Women's March harnessed the political power of diverse women and their communities by congregating in solidarity (Halstead, 2017). The March brought together a wide range of people that use intersectional language to dismantle systems of oppression. The D.C Women's March proved that standing together sends a clear message that Women's Rights are Human Rights. It is important for women to stand in solidarity for their rights because current social structures are positioned in patriarchy.

The Women's March movement continues to expand beyond the United States. Over 600 'Sister Marches' have been organized around the world in cities such as: Sydney, Vancouver, London and Berlin (Smith-Spark, 2017).

The aim of the D.C Women's March was to send a bold message to the Trump administration that Women's Rights are Human Rights. This goal was achieved by the fact that more people participated in the D.C. Women's March than on Trump's inauguration day.

Moving forward, the challenge facing organizers is how to channel the energy cultivated at the Women's March into action that produces political change (Martin, 2017). Within days of the D.C. Women's March, organizers facilitated sessions called, "Where Do We Go from Here" (Martin, 2017). Organizers identify that women's health care is the main focus of future efforts.

## Additional information:

<https://www.womensmarch.com>

<http://www.womensmarchcanada.com>

written by Eloise Comuzzi