



International Women's Day Committee Meeting  
February 22, 2022 by Zoom  
Planning for the March 8<sup>th</sup> Virtual Event

I. Program Agenda

A. Welcome by Mehreen

1. Optional: WHRC "Land Acknowledgement" if approved by Massachusetts people
2. Background on IWD and this year's theme – Sherri to provide – see page 2
3. Audience Interaction: Ask audience to write their questions for the panelists and their responses to the following question in the chat. We can create a slide for this.  
*What can Americans do to help break the biases against women whose family's immigrated to the US?*

(Eileen will monitor chat. This question also be asked in event promotions. We'll ask if it can be included in the registration confirmation with the link. Responses will be used in post press, on Facebook and the WHRC web page as a word cloud.)

B. Self Introductions

1. Mehreen to introduce herself and then ask each panelist in sequence to introduce themselves
2. Name, family's country of origin, under what circumstances did you come to the US ie why did you immigrate (Panelists will be advised in advance to share as much as they are comfortable sharing)

C. Panelist Interview questions

1. What were your or your family's expectations on coming to the US? How were these expectations met or fall short?
2. What did your family leave behind or have to give up by immigrating? (*ie what did you get in return for that sacrifice?*)
3. Describe your family structure and how it was affected by coming to the US? (ie matriarchal vs patriarchal, shift in who is viewed as head of household)?
4. What were some challenges faced once in the US? (*ie diet, language, social interaction*)
5. (*Before asking question, moderator may want to insert info about the #breakthebias theme – see details on page 2*) Have you or other women in your family experienced bias directed at your appearance or background or cultural practice? How did you break those biases?
6. How do you maintain a connection to your family's heritage and pass on an appreciation to the next generation of women?

D. Audience interaction - Finding Solutions

1. Remind the audience to write their questions for the panelists and their responses to the following question in the chat: *What can Americans do to help break the biases against women who immigrate to the US?*
2. Q & A from Chat – panelists to respond
3. Eileen can read off audience responses to "finding solutions" chat.

II. Logistics

- Library is handling registration and sending out the attendee Zoom link
- We will have a dry run with the full panel 1 hour before start time.

III. Action Items

- Eileen to send email addresses to Amy Couture at WCAT and also discuss how to handle the chat (we'd like to save the chat responses to "What can Americans do to help break the biases against women who immigrate to the US?")
  - ✓ Eileen has email for Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez (Chile) and Mehreen Butt (Pakistan)
  - ✓ Sherri to provide Stephanie South's (Germany) email
  - ✓ Maria will send Eileen the email for Saratin Rizzuto (Dominican Republic), Summer Al-Attal (Jordan), and Cindy Chou Rodrigue (China)
- Maria will schedule our next meeting with Sherri Dalton for 3/1/22
- Sherri will contact Mehreen about questions and format. Sherri will contact Jackie Powers at Library about including "Finding Solutions" question with registration link email.

### Suggested Introduction – Part IA

We welcome you to the Wakefield Human Rights Commission's annual commemoration of **International Women's Day (IWD)**. In keeping with the 2022 theme of "Break the Bias" which asks you to imagine a gender equal world, we are featuring a panel of local women whose families immigrated to the U.S. from around the world. They will share their experiences, challenges and achievements. We encourage you to share your suggestions on how to break the biases against women who immigrate to the US using the chat. Also, ask questions for the panelists in the chat.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating and raising awareness of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity through lobbying and through fund raising for women-focused charities.

*You may wonder why International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8<sup>th</sup>.* The first National Woman's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on February 28, 1909. In 1917, March 8 was chosen for the celebration as it marks the day when women in Soviet Russia started protests for the right to vote which was granted that year. For a full history of the observance, visit the International Women's Day website

One more thing before we begin. The WHRC would like to thank WCAT and Beebe Library for their assistance in making this program possible.

### Extra language from the IWD official web site

The 2022 IWD theme is "Break the Bias" which asks you to imagine a gender equal world:

- A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination.
- A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive.
- A world where difference is valued and celebrated.
- Together we can forge women's equality.
- Collectively we can all [#BreakTheBias](#).