



CITY OF BELLINGHAM  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
DAN PIKE

## MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, In 1911, International Women's Day was first honored in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland and is celebrated across the world as International Women's Day.

**WHEREAS**, in 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on member states to proclaim a day for women's rights and international peace and following the United Nation's lead, each year, the U.S. President issues a proclamation calling on all citizens to observe March as National Women's History Month, as well as a separate proclamation on International Women's Day, March 8.

**WHEREAS**, In 1979, the United Nations adopted the "Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women" (CEDAW) providing a mechanism for governments to make commitments ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life, as well as education, health and employment; and

**WHEREAS**, International Women's Day is observed around the world and provides an opportunity to recognize and reflect on the progress made to advance women's equality, to celebrate the gains made by women in our society and reflect on the challenges and barriers which women continue to face; and

**WHEREAS**, On this day, women can celebrate the progress that has been made but also contemplate those areas of women's lives where more can be done. Women's access to education, health care and paid labor has improved, and legislation that promises equal opportunities for women and respect for their human rights has been adopted in many countries.

**WHEREAS**, However, nowhere in the world can women claim to have all the same rights and opportunities as men, and until we all work together to secure the rights and full potential of women, lasting solutions to social, economic and political problems are unlikely to be found; and

**WHEREAS**, International Women's Day addresses the social, economic, and political barriers still facing women and girls while celebrating their achievements and the progress that have been made in support of women's equality.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dan Pike, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, do hereby proclaim the month of March as Women's History Month and March 8 as:

### "INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY"

In the City of Bellingham, Washington, and call upon the people of Bellingham to observe this day and consider these issues and celebrate girls and women.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February 2010



Dan Pike, Mayor  
City of Bellingham