

International Women's Day March 8th "Choose to Challenge"

IWD 2021 campaign theme: #ChooseToChallenge

A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day.

We can all choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can all choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.

From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.

So, hand up high to show you're in





Hand up high to show you're in"



Olivia & Elin Mendola, Sweden



Clarafosca, Spain



lessica Yakwo, Nigeria



Archana Jain, India











Hand up high to show you're in"













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'Women who lead, read'

Laura Bates, Everyday Sexism

Below are three books I wholeheartedly recommend (I was involved in the publication of one of them - can you guess which?) - Mr Flynn



Women in STEM

- •There have been many well-known male scientists in history but not many female scientists are talked about.
- •However, there were many women who made scientific discoveries historically and there are many who are doing so right now!
- •Many people have stereotypical ideas about 'science', however, it covers a vast array of areas.

Let's find out about some important women in STEM

Margaret Hamilton

Born: 1936 (USA) STEM field: Computer Software

Margaret started two technology businesses and won many awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

designed software for Apollo 11 (the spacecraft used in the 1969 Moon landing). During the mission, Hamilton's software helped to prevent the Moon landing from being cancelled.



Did You Know? Margaret Hamilton coined the widely-used term 'software engineering'.

Fei-Fei Li

Born: 1976 (China) STEM field: Artificial Intelligence

Fei-Fei worked for Google Cloud and is a professor at Stanford University – one of the top universities in the USA.

Fei-Fei directed the creation of a database which taught computer systems to 'see'. This is used in machines such as self-driving cars.



Did You Know? At 16, Fei-Fei moved to the USA. She started off by cleaning houses to support her family.

Jewel Burks Solomon

Lived: 1990 (USA) STEM field: Computer Vision Technology

Jewel was working for a company that provided replacement parts for machines. She noticed that some customers didn't know the names of the parts they needed so Jewel started her own company, PartPic, to help them with this. With Jewel's technology, customers could use an app on their phones to scan, recognise and order a part that needed replacing.



Did You Know? In 2016, Jewel sold her company to Amazon, who now use it as part of their apps.

Marie Curie

Lived: 1867 (Poland) – 1934 (France) **STEM field:** Chemistry and Physics

They also had the idea of injecting a small amount of a radioactive substance into a tumour to shrink it. This discovery is the basis of how many cancers are treated and has saved many lives.

Did You Know? Marie was the first woman, and second person, to win two Nobel Prizes. Her daughter Irene also won a Nobel Prize.

Rosalind Franklin

Lived: 1920 (UK) – 1958 (UK) STEM field: Chemistry

Rosalind is best known for her x-ray photographs of DNA. The most famous image, known as Photo 51, led to the discovery of the DNA double helix which has helped scientists understand more about living things. Medical conditions can be treated more efficiently because of this. Rosalind also studied different viruses and worked with researchers from around the world.



Did You Know?

After Rosalind's death, three men won the Nobel Prize for their discovery of the double helix. Many people say Rosalind should be awarded a Nobel Prize posthumously (which means something given after a person's death).

Modern day scientists

Women are a big force behind vaccines for COVID-19.

Here are some of the remarkable women who productively contributed to the development of vaccine.

Dr Kizzmekia Corbett

Dr Kizzmekia Corbett is an African-American viral immunologist at the Vaccine Research Center at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Maryland.

She is currently the leading scientist of the VRC's Coronavirus Team, set up for research and development of vaccines for a myriad of novel coronavirus vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccine. She is the part of a team that worked with the biotechnology company Moderna for two COVID-19 vaccines.



Sarah Gilbert

Sarah Gilbert is a British vaccinologist and the co-founder of Vaccitech. She is also a Professor of Vaccinology at the University of Oxford. The 58-year old biologist-vaccinologist is one of the most prominent figures who **developed Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.** The **vaccine was up to 90 percent effective in the late-stage clinical trials**.



Katalin Karikó

She is the senior Vice President of BioNTech RNA Pharmaceuticals. A researcher and vaccine developer, the 66-year old Hungarian woman played an extremely important role **in developing Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine with her expertise in RNA.** The **vaccine showed 95 percent effectiveness in the clinical trials back in November 2020**. She has been lauded for her valuable contribution to bring out a COVID-19 vaccine at the earliest.



Dr K Sumathy

Dr. K Sumathy is an Indian scientist who leads the research and development wing of Bharat Biotech. The Indian biotech company headquartered at Hyderabad developed **India's first indigenous vaccine Covaxin**. A member of the core team of scientists responsible for COVID vaccine development, she was also instrumental in developing successful vaccines against diseases like Zika and Chikungunya too.



A challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change. So let's all choose to challenge.

How will you help forge a gender equal world?

Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness against bias. Take action for equality.



For more information go to: www.internationalwomensday.com/