

International Women's Day



Roughly half of all people on earth are women, but through much of history, and in many places on earth, women have not been treated equally to men. Women did not have the same job opportunities as men, would get paid less when they did do the same job, and had restricted rights for voting, holding government jobs, and owning property.

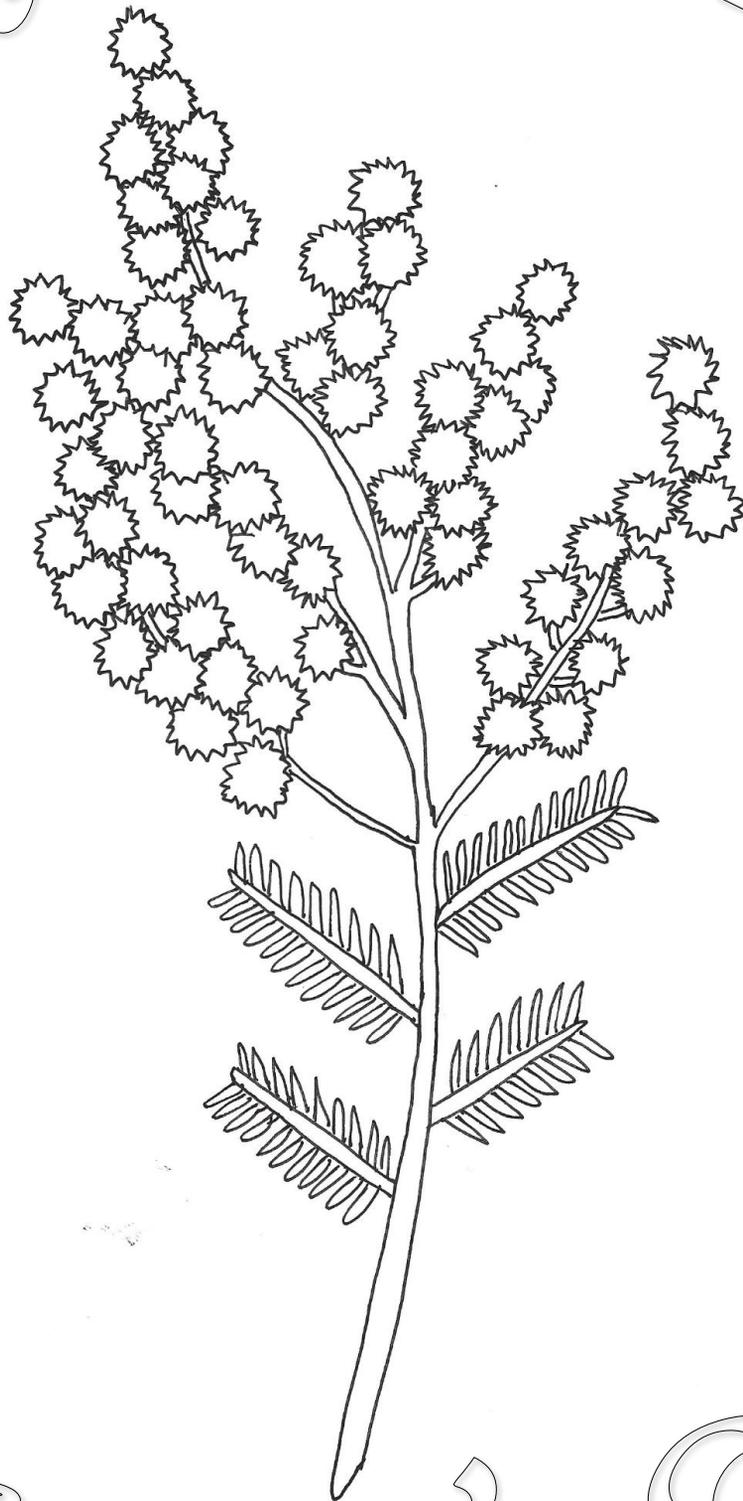
The end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century saw many women organizing together to demand better rights. A group in New York City created the first National Women's Day in February, 1909. In 1911, March 19th was celebrated as an International Women's Day in several European countries. In 1917, a group of Russian women protested on March 8, demanding bread and peace.

It was not until 1975, though, that International Women's Day was officially recognized by the United Nations. Since then, it has been celebrated around the world each year on March 8th. Here are some of the more famous women that can be remembered on this day:

- ❖ Susan B. Anthony: gave speeches about women's rights
- ❖ Sojourner Truth: famous for her "Ain't I a Woman" speech
- ❖ Elizabeth Cady Stanton: organized an early women's rights convention and wrote a declaration for it
- ❖ Ida B. Wells: journalist who wrote about equality for women and African-Americans

The yellow mimosa flower has become a symbol for International Women's Day because it blooms in early March and looks delicate, but is actually very strong. On the back, color in the mimosa flower yellow.

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