



Interfaith Insider

SAIT INTERFAITH CENTRE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

By Jinky Potencioso

Each year, International Women's Day is celebrated across the globe on March 8. In honor of this day, we celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of females and call on everyone to make a difference when it comes to women's rights and gender equality. Achieving gender equality means that people of all genders have equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities.

Today, gender equality is valued and recognized in most parts of the globe. It is a privilege to live in a time and place where there is an abundance of opportunities available for most people. Many can get an education, access health care, get a job, and freely speak their thoughts. In spite of this, we still have a long way to go before we are able to achieve equality for all. One considerable way of showcasing gender inequality in our daily lives is through stereotypes. Stereotype refers to the preconceived notions, characteristics, or beliefs that society instinctively assigns to certain groups of people in order to classify them based on their age, weight, occupation, skin color, gender, etc. There are still phrases like "You throw like a girl" or "Boys don't cry" that are still used regularly in conversations. People are way too unique and complex to fit into a box. Girls and boys can be athletic, fast, and strong and, of course, everyone can cry. It is normal to express feelings and to be vulnerable at times. The negative connotations of stereotypes can harm and prevent one from being oneself and reaching one's full potential.

So, this International Women's Day, think about what you could do to help in the fight for equality. Equality will develop positive values and morals in society and a just and fair environment. As we celebrate the successful women around us, let us also remember to encourage young girls and women who are still dreaming of becoming successful, that they can achieve their dreams by persisting every day and being brave.

📷
EVENTS
🕒
📍

👤 *Interfaith Interface* ...

A safe, inclusive and inspiring activity where students come together to engage in thought provoking dialogue.
Fridays 1:30pm in MB305:

March 3 - What is Holi?
March 10 - Women in Religion
March 17 - Luck of the Irish
March 24 - Zoroastrianism: the Ancient Religion

🏠
🔍
+
❤️
👤

📷
Ramadan Mubarak!
⋮

Come learn about Ramadan and help kick off the month of prayer on **March 22 @ 11am-1pm** at various atriums across campus.

Visit the booths to learn about Ramadan and enjoy delicious Maamoul Cakes!

❤️
💬
📍
🔖

104
Show all comments (17)

Women in Religious Leadership

By Rev. Margaret Propp



I never thought of myself as much of a pioneer. In my particular tradition of Christianity (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada ELCIC) women have been ordained- which means a particular kind of work in the church where we are educated, paid, overseen, and responsible for the administration of the sacraments in our churches for over 50 years. But in the large scheme of the history of the church, 50 years is a very short time, so why it surprises me that when I preach from the pulpit in a church in Calgary, and my presence is the first time a woman has seen someone of the same sex in the pulpit shouldn't be the case. This is what happened just over 5 years ago when a young woman asked to have coffee with me to talk about becoming a pastor herself because until I came to her church as a guest preacher, she never thought being a preacher herself was something she could do! This is also why in a higher education setting such as SAIT, I am still one of the few female chaplains who serves out of the Interfaith Centre. In the realm of World Religions, women leaders in places of worship is still unacceptable and often forbidden!

In some ways its surprising that women still do not have equality in the realm of religion when female doctors, lawyers, engineers and electricians are not only permitted but required to have equal opportunity. Throughout the world, the role women have in positions of power, authority, and pay are not on an equal basis. Holy Scriptures, traditions, and teachings are still used today to oppress, and subjugate women as inferior or created for only certain roles. Although many religions claim that the role for women are not seen as 'inferior' in their traditions, but rather restricted and relegated for women, these 'feminine' roles are often not ones that have any authority, or monetary value. In our world today, whether a person is 'paid' for their work is how we often value people, and repeatedly 'women's' work is not paid on the same scale of others. The use of religious texts has had an impact on the promotion of patriarchy, but it goes beyond patriarchy into the realm of homophobia, destruction of creation, and racism. Religion has certainly been on the forefront of oppressing others when power, money, and influence are at stake, and although I may not be a pioneer- I can certainly see myself in the line of many women who have gone before me to pave a path and hope to be a part of a wider path that allow those who have been rejected and deemed unsuitable due to gender, sexuality, race, accent, age, social or economic background, or whatever roadblocks those in power choose to hold up.



Ramadan is a holy month in the Islamic calendar where Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam, and during Ramadan, Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking, and other physical needs during the daylight hours. The fast is broken at sunset with a meal called Iftar.

Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection and increased devotion to God. Muslims are encouraged to read the Quran, attend mosque for special night prayers, give to charity, and perform acts of kindness and forgiveness. It is also a time for family and community gatherings.

The end of Ramadan is marked by the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, which includes special prayers, feasting, gift-giving, and other festivities. Ramadan is a time for Muslims to strengthen their faith, practice self-discipline, and reflect on the blessings of life.

To find out more about how to support students participating in Ramadan, visit sait.ca/interfaith