



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Today, March 8, marks International Women's Day.

We celebrate the power, bravery, and accomplishments of women around the globe in every field and discipline. Politics, medicine, sports, arts and culture, business, academia, science – women have made immense contributions to the storehouse of human knowledge.

We also note that those achievements have frequently been overlooked and ignored; and so we redouble our efforts to honestly credit groundbreaking women of the past as we celebrate the women of the present day and those who will shape our tomorrows.

In 1979 the great African American poet and activist Audre Lourde pointed out the need for a world “free from the diseases of racism, of sexism, of classism, and of homophobia. For those oppressions are inseparable.” International Women's Day affords us the opportunity to play a part in creating that world. There is much to do...but it can be done. I firmly believe we are the ones who can do it.

In closing, I'd like to share the work of another poet: that of Gabriela Mistral, a Chilean writer and scholar and the first Latin American author to receive the Noble Prize for Literature.

Dame la mano

*Dame la mano
Dame la mano y danzaremos;
dame la mano y me amarás.
Como una sola flor seremos,
como una flor, y nada más...*

*El mismo verso cantaremos,
al mismo paso bailarás.
Como una espiga ondularemos,
como una espiga, y nada más.*

*Te llamas Rosa y yo Esperanza;
pero tu nombre olvidarás,
porque seremos una danza
en la colina y nada más...*

Give me Your Hand

*Give me your hand and give me your love,
give me your hand and dance with me.
A single flower, and nothing more,
a single flower is all we'll be.*

*Keeping time in the dance together,
you'll be singing the song with me.
Grass in the wind, and nothing more,
grass in the wind is all we'll be.*

*I'm called Hope and you're called Rose:
but losing our names we'll both go free,
a dance on the hills, and nothing more,
a dance on the hills is all we'll be.*

(translated by Ursula K. Le Guin)

Hostos raises its voice with Mistral's to sing the praises of women everywhere.

Sincerely,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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