INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2026 *"GIVE TO GAIN"*

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This day is celebrated worldwide and has a lot of significance, in elaborately amplifying the strides and the required actions in advancing the global agenda for women empowerment.

This year's theme: ***"Give to Gain"*** is a timely call to action as is a paradigm shift in its focus and encourages a mind-set of generosity and collaboration, forging gender equality through abundant giving. Globally progress has been made in ensuring commitments in the advancement of gender parity through observing the set norms in the international arena. Individually, we are responsible for our own thoughts and actions all day, every day. We can actively choose to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions, improve situations and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, each one of us can help create a gender equal world.

As a student of National Security, I'm cognizant of the unrepresentativeness and bias of roles and the socially constructed myths leading to structural inequalities that isolate the participation of women. Contrary to this, empirical evidence shows women have inspired global change in institutions where they have taken influential roles in leadership, providing societal change, driving peace building efforts, demonstrating high integrity and shaping / Implementing solid policies amongst others. Our support is crucial to advance a just, secure and healthy society.

The theme gives as an excellent opportunity for us to join in solidarity and advance collective responsibility in rewriting narratives that have previously shaped unequalrights and opportunities for women by breaking the chains and building bridges for for gender parity. We celebrate you, a healthy society loves women.

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