



MEDIA ADVISORY

February 26, 2024

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Governor Jay Inslee Declares March Women MAKING History Month

OLYMPIA, WA - This month, Governor Jay Inslee signed a historic proclamation marking Washington's first ever Women MAKING History month. The Washington State Women's Commission (WSWC) is thrilled to celebrate a new form of Women's History Month, honoring the women who are currently shaping the present and future of Washington State. Throughout March, WSWC plans to highlight the importance of *ongoing* progress towards gender equity, with a focus on bridging the gender pay gap in Washington state and fully unlocking the economic empowerment of its 3.8 million women.

Women Making History Month Events *Please RSVP to Eliza.Craig@swsc.wa.gov if you plan to attend either or both events.

What: Panel Discussion: Co-creating the Future of Gender Pay Equity

Who: Mike Pellicciotti, Washington State Treasurer

April Sims, President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Ann Kucklick, Author/Manager, Self-Sufficiency Standard, UW Center for Women's Welfare

Kate Isler, CEO & Co-founder, The WMarketplace

Grace Yoo, Executive Director, Washington State Women's Commission

Where: The State Reception Room in the Capitol Building, Olympia

When: March 1, 2024, 4:00-5:15pm

The Washington State Women's Commission, Center for Women & Democracy, KD Hall Foundation, and Interagency Committee of State Employed Women join together once again to co-host Women at the Capitol.

The annual, half-day event includes a panel discussion featuring Washington State Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti and moderated by Women's Commission Director Grace Yoo. The panel conversation intentionally convenes leaders from government, labor, business, and academia to explore how these sectors can come together and co-create solutions that will unlock pay equity and economic empowerment for women in Washington—from tackling occupational segregation to improving wraparound services like childcare. Also joining the panel is April Sims, the first woman to be elected President of the Washington State Labor Council, as well as Ann Kucklick of the University of Washington's Center for Women's Welfare, and Kate Isler, CEO and Co-Founder of W Marketplace, an ecommerce marketplace and accelerator for women entrepreneurs.

What: Celebrating International Women's Day: Global Voices on Gender Equity

Who: Prakash Gupta, Consul General of India

Eunji Seo, Consul General of the Republic of Korea

Representative, Consulate General of Canada

Junichi Sumi, Deputy Consul General of Japan

Where: Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Columbia Center, Seattle

Washington State Women's Commission

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When: March 8, 2024, 1:00 – 2:00pm

To celebrate International Women's Day (March 8), the Washington State Women's Commission is hosting an interactive panel conversation with the three top diplomats in Seattle from India, Canada, and Korea. The three Consul Generals will interact with university students in the audience on topics such as: gender equity in their respective countries, innovative initiatives from their federal or local agencies that lead policies impacting women and girls, and observations about the current state of equity for women in Washington and the United States. The conversation will be moderated by Women's Commission Director Grace Yoo, who will highlight recent progress and future work to address the gender wage gap in Washington.

Who are we?

The Washington State Women's Commission (WSWC) is an executive branch cabinet agency in the Office of Governor Inslee serving as the primary voice in government for Washington women and girls. Signed into law in 2018, WSWC develops policies and initiatives to address critical issues that disproportionately affect women, including childcare access and affordability, domestic and gender-based violence, equal pay, health care access, and intersectional inequities. Through strategic listening and collaboration, we represent the 3.8 million women and girls across the state.

As you cover women's history this month, our [Executive Director Grace Yoo](#) is available to answer questions about WSWC's work, outcomes from the 2024 legislative session that impact women, and the issues we are prioritizing this year. For interviews and additional information please contact Eliza Craig, eliza.craig@swc.wa.gov.

Media Elements:

Below are photos for use in broil and print.

[Women at the Capitol 2023, Credit: WSWC, Center for Women & Democracy](#)