

Women in the 21st Century

International Women's Day 2009 a celebration of women's strength, courage & diversity

**In 1886,
Josephine Cochran
proclaimed in
disgust
"If nobody else is
going to invent a
dishwashing
machine, I'll do it
myself."**

And she did!

**(Josephine Cochran,
inventor of the dishwasher)**

Maybe we're getting somewhere?

Let's celebrate:

Governor-General of Australia – **a woman!**
(Quentin Bryce)

Acting Prime Minister – **a woman!** (Julia Gillard)

(Just retired) Chief commissioner of police, Victoria –

a woman! (Christine Nixon)

President of the ACTU – **a woman!** (Sharon Burrow)

Three out of seven High Court Judges – **women!**
(Virginia Bell, Susan Crennan, Susan Kiefel)

4,400 CFA fire fighters and 6,600 CFA volunteers are **women!**
(Media Release, Minister from Police and Emergency Services, 27.6.2008)

30% of the Legislative Council, 31% of the Legislative Assembly, and
35% of Cabinet Ministers in Victoria are **women!**

women have 40.5% representation on Victorian
Government Boards

In Victoria 25% of mayors and 30% of local government councillors
are **women!**

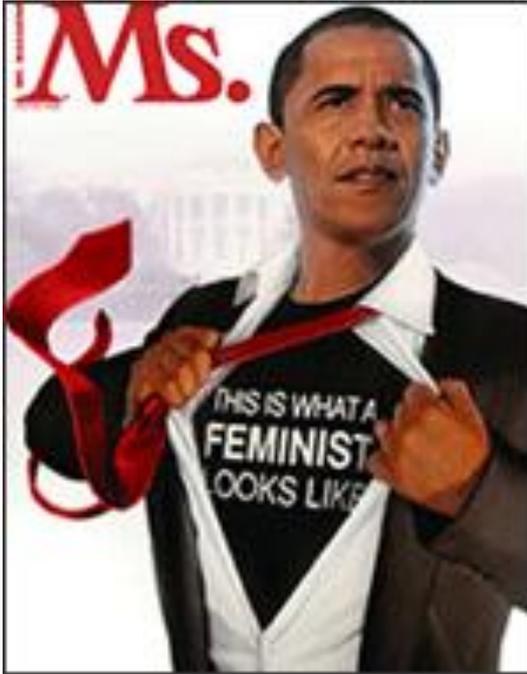
As of December 2005, 29% of the judiciary at all levels are
women!

41% of new police recruits and 19% of the total Victoria police force
in 2004-05 were **women!** The Victoria Police stated aim is
to increase the rate to 25%.

54.3% of Victorians with Bachelor degrees are **women!** as
are 38.5% of Victorians with postgraduate degrees

With thanks to the Office of Women's Policy website
www.owp.vic.gov.au and other sources.

Global leadership on women's issues



Barack Obama has stacked competent women around him at all levels of the administration, not just at the top level but also at the second and third layers.

Four of the 15 members in his Cabinet are women – almost 25%. Obama is used to having strong women around him. Most of these positions are in the national security and economic issues arenas, so they are key positions.

- Ø Hillary Rodham-Clinton, Secretary of State
- Ø Hilda Solis, Secretary-Designate, Dept of Labor
- Ø Janet Napolitani, Secretary, Dept of Homeland Security
- Ø Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health (just appointed)

And there are further powerful women in critical roles:

- Ø Christina Romer, Chair, Council of Economic Advisors
- Ø Susan Rice, US Ambassador to the United Nations
- Ø Lisa Jackson, Administrator of Environmental Protection

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/politics>

Obama's auspicious beginning

Ø On 22.1.2009, Obama stated:

"On the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade ... I remain committed to protecting a woman's right to choose. While this is a sensitive and often divisive issue, no matter what our views, we are united in our determination to prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the need for abortion, and support women and families in the choices they make ... On this anniversary, we must also recommit ourselves more broadly to ensuring that our daughters have the same rights and opportunities as our sons; the chance to attain a world-class education; to have fulfilling careers in any industry; to be treated fairly and paid equally for their work; and to have no limits on their dreams. That is what I want for women everywhere."

Ø On 23.1.2009:

Obama lifted restrictions on US government funding for groups that provide abortion services or counselling abroad. It is estimated that worldwide access to contraception and safe abortions reduce maternal deaths by up to 35% and child deaths by 20% (Australian Parliamentary Group on Population and Development). The previous ban, imposed by George W. Bush, meant many women were deprived of contraception and other health services in poor countries, leading to backyard abortions and deaths. Obama's actions in lifting the ban will clearly improve women's health, but the Rudd Government has so far refused to lift Australia's even more restrictive ban – put in place a decade ago as a trade for Senator Brian Harradine's vote to privatise Telstra.

Ø On 29.1.2009:

Obama signed his first bill into law, reversing a 2007 US Supreme Court decision that made it harder to sue for pay discrimination. With the woman for whom the law was named at his side, Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act at a White House ceremony. On average, US women are paid 23% less than men while minority women receive even less.

"Signing this bill today is to send a clear message: that making our economy work means making sure it works for everybody, that there are no second-class citizens in our workplaces."

Australian Government Leadership?

Still waiting for an update to the 1989 National Women's Health Policy – a pre-election promise.

Key women for women's issues in the Federal Parliament are: (www.gph.gov.au/house/members)

The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, (ALP) Minister for Housing; Minister for the Status of Women.

The Hon. Nicola Roxon (ALP) Minister for Health and Ageing.

The Hon. Jenny Macklin (ALP) Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs.

Victorian Government Leadership

Key women for women's issues in the Federal Parliament are: (www.parliament.vic.gov.au/mps.html)

Maxine Morand. (ALP) Minister for Women's Affairs; Children & Early Childhood Development.

Lisa Mary Neville (ALP) Minister for Mental Health; Community Services; Senior Victorians.

The Women's Policy Framework 2008-11 outlines the policy focus for Victorian women for the next three years. The framework is structured around the themes of the United Nations [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#). These are:

- Justice and safety
- Representation and equity
- Education, work and economic independence
- Health, wellbeing and community strengthening

<http://www.women.vic.gov.au/web12/owpMain.nsf>

New laws to protect victims of family violence have been introduced in Victoria, and launched with a \$1.5 million campaign to raise public awareness of them. The *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*, which came into force on 8 December, makes perpetrators more accountable for their actions and offers increased protection for women and children who are victims of family violence. The public awareness campaign, using the tagline **Family Violence. Victoria has had Enough**, promotes the new laws and raises public awareness of family violence. www.familyviolence.vic.gov.au

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NOW WITH A BETTER SYSTEM AND NEW FAMILY VIOLENCE LAWS IT'S EASIER TO SAY

ENOUGH

NEW LAWS
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
WHERE TO GO FOR HELP
HELPING SOMEONE
REAL STORIES
'ENOUGH' CAMPAIGN
NEWS
OTHER LANGUAGES

The Victorian Government launched the 'ENOUGH' campaign on 7 December 2008 to raise awareness of Victoria's new family violence laws and encourage those who are experiencing family violence to seek help.

Show your support through [Facebook](#) and [Bebo](#)

More information on family violence and what the Victorian Government is doing is also available on the [Department of Planning and Community Development website](#).

Kavisha Mazella – Love and justice

Kavisha was commissioned by the Victorian Women's Trust to write a Women's Anthem, "Love and Justice" to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage. More than 400 Victorian women, including women from Wangaratta and the north-east, sang the song, with Kavisha conducting at its launch on 29.11.2008. To watch it on YouTube, click the link on www.kavisha.com.au

And we'll sing it today on International Women's Day!



LOVE AND JUSTICE

The moon is hidden in the clouds
the fire light is dying
in the dark slum and street
men women children crying
no work today means no pay and no pay
means we're starving
mother I'm with child again
I feel like I am dying

A pen, a pen your weapon be
my fine courageous women !
let's sign our names a thousand times for
freedom that's hard winning
no more let fear and anger rule with heavy
hand of violence
the moon is shining in the sky as we break the
silence

**Love and Justice be my flag
I'll live my truth what e're will be
I swear that I cannot rest till there's equality
Love and justice be my flag
I 'll live my truth what ever comes
so many rivers to cross fill our journey's
done**

All who toil the weary earth
see beyond your measure!
women are real gold for all of us to treasure
for every heroine that's named there are a
thousand nameless
who live to make a better day with acts of love
and justice!

Daughter, sister, mother, wife
when you rise so shall others
happiness will fall upon son, father, husband,
brother
in home and in the market place
town and countryside
let our laughter spread its wealth, it's surely our
birthright!

Oh ! I had the strangest dream
it came one starry midnight
Men and women all joined hands in peace and
loving friendship all broken hearts were mended
all broken bodies healed
River, mountain, rocks rejoiced
the bells of freedom peeled!

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Do you want to make a real difference in someone's life?

Common Cents is an exciting program working with women to improve their confidence in understanding and managing money. It is a program where women assist other women to make progress on financial goals.

Sounds interesting? Read the enclosed flyer and contact us!

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WOMEN'S HEALTH
GOULBURN NORTH EAST

Challenging inequity, embracing diversity.

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