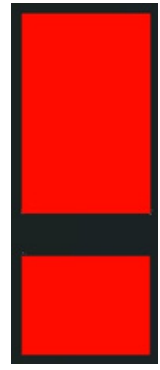


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025; ACCELERATED, SUSTAINED, AND INCLUSIVE CHANGE WITHIN



1. AMAYA LRP

On March 11th International Women's Day (IWD) was commemorated at Ameya LRP with a series of activities aimed at raising awareness on gender-based violence (GBV), advocating for women's rights, and strengthening collaboration among stakeholders. The event was organized in partnership with Women Watch Group (WWG), Gender Platforms (GP), justice institutions, and the Women and Children's Affairs Office.

Key Activities

5km Race and Movement in Gindo-Town

The celebration began with a 5km race, symbolizing the resilience and strength of women. Community members, local leaders, and women's rights advocates actively participated. Following the race, a public movement took place in Gindo Town, where participants held banners and chanted slogans calling for an end to GBV, with messages such as **"Stop Killing Women!!"** and **"Stop Rape by Armed Groups!!"**.



Advocacy Asks to Woreda Authorities

A delegation from WWG engaged with the Woreda administration, presenting key concerns related to GBV, particularly the alarming cases of violence against women, including those perpetrated by armed groups. The representative from WWG urged government authorities to take concrete actions to strengthen legal frameworks, improve protection mechanisms, and ensure justice for survivors.

Panel Discussion

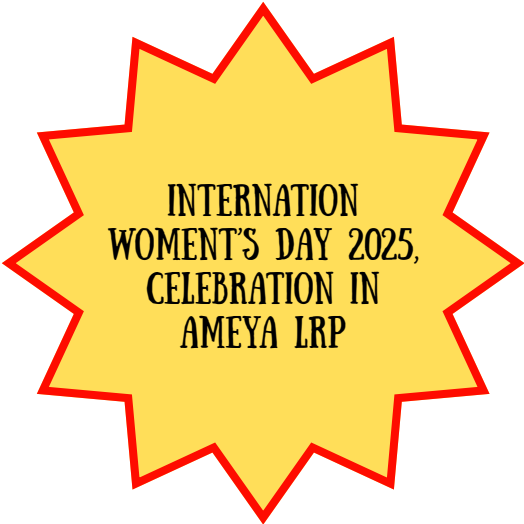
The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring representatives from justice institutions, gender advocates, and local government officials. Key topics included:

- The role of justice institutions in addressing GBV
- Strengthening legal protections for women and girls
- The responsibility of the government in preventing and responding to sexual violence
- Community-based approaches to ending violence against women

Participants actively engaged in the discussion, sharing experiences, challenges, and possible solutions to tackle GBV in the region.



Your Participants actively engaged in the discussion, sharing experiences, challenges, and possible solutions to tackle GBV in the region. The IWD celebration at Ameya LRP successfully brought together diverse stakeholders to amplify the voices of women and demand urgent action against GBV.



2. ILLFATA LRP

Ilfata Woreda, March 14, 2025 – The 114th International Women’s Day was commemorated in Ilfata Woreda, West Shoa Zone, in different campaign activity and panel discussion with a resounding call for gender equality, women’s rights, and freedom. The event, held under the theme "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality, and Freedom," brought together key stakeholders, government representatives, and community members to reaffirm their commitment to advancing gender justice. The celebration was attended by Mrs. Arare Mosisa, a member of the Federal House of Representatives and representative of Ilfata District, along with Mrs. Ebise Firdisa, a member of the Oromia Social Affairs Organization and Deputy Committee of Oromia Social Affairs. Also present was Mrs. Kibitu Dirba, Head of Women and Children’s Affairs for the West Shoa Zone.



Addressing Gender-Based Challenges

In her remarks, Mrs. Arare Mosisa acknowledged the persistent challenges faced by women, including social pressures and inequalities. She emphasized the importance of building strong women's organizations, raising awareness, and fostering community engagement to address these barriers. She further noted that gender-based issues are intricately linked to national development and called for collective action to ensure meaningful progress. Similarly, Mrs. Ebise Firdisa highlighted the significance of continuing efforts toward gender equality, stating that eliminating harmful social norms and discriminatory practices is crucial. She emphasized that women are the pillars of the nation and urged for increased empowerment and encouragement to help them realize their full potential.



Commitment to Action

Speaking on behalf of the West Shoa Zone Women and Children's Affairs Office, Mrs. Kibitu Dirba underlined the importance of moving beyond rhetoric and taking concrete steps to reduce violence and harassment against women. She stressed that International Women's Day should not only be a symbolic celebration but a moment to evaluate progress and reinforce actions that create safer and more inclusive communities for women and girls.

The event concluded with a strong call for sustained efforts to advance gender justice, empower women economically and socially, and strengthen institutional mechanisms that support women's rights. The participants expressed their commitment to continuing advocacy and implementing policies that drive meaningful change.



INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 2025,
CELEBRATION IN
ILFETA LRP



3. Guna LRP

On tribute of International Women’s Day (IWD), the South Gondar Zone Women, Children, and Social Affairs Office, in collaboration with Action Aid Ethiopia, organized a dynamic event to advocate for gender equality and combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the area. The celebration brought together community members, local leaders, and youth to amplify voices against GBV and promote women’s empowerment.

The event was marked by a series of impactful activities designed to raise awareness and inspire collective action. ActionAid Ethiopia spearheaded the preparation and distribution of advocacy materials, including 60 postcards and 50 brochures highlighting messages to end GBV. Additionally, creatively designed campaign photo frames were used to engage participants and reinforce the event’s theme.



Key Activities Conducted

- **Advocacy Campaign:**

Slogans such as “Punching women is not right!!” “Insulting women is not right!”, and “Belittling women is not right!!” were prominently displayed and chanted by participants. These messages were carefully selected to challenge harmful norms and encourage respectful treatment of women.

- **Speeches and Presentations:**

Invited zonal guests delivered keynote addresses aligned with the IWD theme, emphasizing the importance of women’s rights and the need to address GBV.

- **Discussion:**

A thought-provoking panel discussion fostered dialogue on sustainable solutions to GBV, with contributions from local leaders, activists, and representatives of the Women, Children, and Social Affairs Office.

Attendees: Over 600 participants attended the event, including 572 women and 48 men. Attendees actively resonated with slogans and engaged in discussions, reflecting a shared commitment to ending GBV. Among the participants were 10 youths from Guna, affiliated with the SPA II program, whose presence underscored the importance of intergenerational collaboration in advancing gender equality.

Impact

This celebration not only honored women's resilience but also strengthened community solidarity against GBV. The South Gondar Zone Women, Children, and Social Affairs Office, alongside Action Aid Ethiopia, reaffirmed their dedication to sustaining advocacy efforts through education, policy engagement, and grassroots mobilization.



4. Raya LRP

The International Women's Day (IWD) celebration took place on March 16, 2025, at Raya Chercher Woreda Administration Meeting Hall. The event, organized by ActionAid Ethiopia, involved 100 participants, including WCSAO representatives, GBV service providers, women protection groups, community volunteers, case managers, religious leaders, and community gatekeepers. The event was organized by ActionAid Ethiopia, Raya Chercher and Azebo Woreda Social Affairs office, and Imagine One Day. The event aimed to celebrate **"For All Women and Girls: Right, Equity, Empowerment"**. A poem was also presented by a Raya Azebo Women Protection group, emphasizing the complexity of women and girls' problems at household, community, and societal levels. The event also featured a panel discussion led by Raya Azebo and Chercher Woreda women representatives, focusing on the challenges faced by women and girls in their respective intervention woredas. The International Women Day celebration in Ethiopia highlighted the positive contributions of women's involvement in political, social, cultural, and peace-building efforts. Participants discussed the challenges faced by women and girls in utilizing human, social, and capital assets, mobilizing local resources, and engaging them in decision-making and resource management.



The WCSAO representative aimed to identify the roles and responsibilities of each actor in ensuring the rights and entitlements of beneficiaries, particularly women and girls, in all engagement areas provided by governmental or non-governmental organizations. The event also provided an opportunity for Action Aid to introduce its achievements and efforts to bring gender justice through local right programs. The event also provided information on available services, referral pathways, and support for survivors. Information, education, and information (IEC) materials were distributed to the local community, focusing on women's rights and empowerment. The event concluded with woreda level social affairs offices recognizing governmental and non-governmental organizations like Action Aid Ethiopia for their valuable contributions in combating women's rights, preventing, mitigating, and responding to gender-based violence, and helping survivors receive psychosocial support, legal, and medical aid.

Raya Azebo, Mekoni - "March-8 for peace and unity of Tigray"

March 8 was celebrated in Raya Azebo, Ethiopia, with the theme "For ALL Women and Girls: Rights. Equality. Empowerment." The event was organized by ActionAid Ethiopia Raya Azebo LRP, Imagine One Day, women association, and women affairs offices. The event involved activities such as an opening speech by the women affairs office head, a bread-breaking ceremony, and presentations on the rights of women and girls.

Underage marriage and rape cases was a major issue, with 28 girls saved from UAM by women watch groups, but the number of children married was suppressed. The main cause of this crime was post-war trauma and failure of law enforcement bodies to take remedial actions. The solution was to create strong law enforcement bodies and women watch groups to advocate for their rights. The final agenda was the participation of women and girls in education, with 48% in 1st-4th grades, 45% in 5th-8th grades, and 31% in 9th-12th grades. The participation of women in kebele council, kebele executive, land administration, and social court was 35%.



The Story of Brhan

Brhan Abrha, a grade 12 student from Mehoni town, was awarded an award for her outstanding performance. Brhan attended an event to learn about March 8 and its significance. She realized the lack of awareness and awareness about gender-based violence in her community, particularly among women and girls. Participants highlighted gaps in legal aid, victim support, and the dignity of women as needy. She also noted the increasing number of children migrating to foreign countries due to poor legal services and insecurity. Brhan received an award at the event, which strengthened her. She believes that addressing general protection issues is crucial and will share her experiences with friends and classmates. If the community stands together to protect gender-based violence, nothing will be beyond their capacity.



5. Head Office

The office compound hosted a gathering to mark the 2025th International Women's Day, as evidenced by the attached photos. The event was a relatively informal and staff-focused setting, with AAE family seated outdoors in front of a specially prepared traditional coffee by our male colleagues, suggesting a casual and relaxing atmosphere. There were topics prepared for discussion by AAE's Women Right's Manager- Selamawit Adnew and Women Right's Officer-Meseret Amsalu and the 2025th Women Forum President-Edlawit Habtamu on Women empowerment and the challenges associated. Different groups were formed and had a reflection session on the topics and the overall atmosphere was relaxed and participatory. Staff were highly engaged in the discussion which fostered dialogue and reflection session on Women Empowerment and challenges.



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