

## **Celebrating International Women's Day 8 March 2021**

To the UTM Community:

Today marks International Women's Day. Officially recognized by the United Nations since 1977, International Women's Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the tremendous achievements of women and girls; to champion advancements in gender parity; and to amplify a global call to action. In the face of ongoing gender inequality, in Canada and around the world, the Day also aims to catalyze the changes necessary for a better, more just future.

For 2021, the United Nations has organized activity around a timely theme: [Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World](#). The theme acknowledges a double truth. Women have played an extraordinary role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic: as healthcare workers, teachers, scientists, caregivers, innovators, community organizers, social and political leaders. But women have also shouldered a disproportionate degree of the pandemic's burdens, with the pandemic exacerbating existing inequalities, especially for Black, Indigenous, racialized and trans women.

To confront that truth, on 8 and 9 March, the Canadian federal government has organized a [Feminist Response and Recovery Summit](#), with panel presentations from diverse experts, including Prof. Sarah Kaplan from the University of Toronto's Institute for Gender + the Economy. Women, as the Summit recognizes, continue to lead on the front-lines of pandemic response; women deserve a central role in the benefits of post-pandemic recovery, too.

At U of T, likewise, we remain committed to eliminating barriers for women; to centering gender equity in policy and practice; and to understanding the nuances of women's different experiences. We can help end systemic gender inequality by providing a comprehensive education that properly celebrates women's contributions; by amplifying women's diverse voices in the classroom and workplace; and by leading initiatives against gender-based discrimination and violence. To learn about initiatives in progress, please visit the virtual offices listed below, all of which also offer services for support.

- [UTM Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office](#)
- [Sexual Violence & Prevention Support Centre](#)
- [Sexual and Gender Diversity Office](#)
- [Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office](#)
- [Office of Indigenous Initiatives](#)

Thank You,

Alexandra Gillespie  
Vice-President & Principal  
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