

Women's March makes waves worldwide

Peaceful protest throughout the world.

by Lily Peterson



It started as a small protest organized by a group of women on Facebook, born from the recent results of the 2016 election. Soon the idea of a women's protest snowballed through social media. Several hundreds of marches and protests have risen up amid fear of President Trump's administration and policies. The biggest and arguably the most impactful was The Women's March.

The Women's March took place the day after the inauguration on January 21, 2017. The march spanned across the entire world. According to March.org, 673 Women's Marches happened in 60 countries on all 7 continents. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 3 million marched and an estimated 4.8 million marched worldwide.

So for what reasons were 4.8 million people uniting? The protest organizers of the march released a platform of their principles. The platform demands for a widespread range of reforms. This includes not only gender inequity but also racial and economic inequality.

The progressive platform emphasized the inclusion of all marginalized groups. The causes consist of demolishing police brutality, racial profiling and targeting in communities of color, LGBTQ+, reproductive, civil, worker's, disability, immigrant, and refugee rights, equal pay, protection against sexual violence, and protection of the environment.

I attended the Chicago branch of the Women's March. The energy from the people and the speakers was simply incredible. Finally, all the anger, hurt, and disbelief was directed at something constructive that could lead to a real change.

I saw protesters of all ages marching on

January 21st. Seeing protesters not even old enough to vote was perhaps one of the most powerful events I have witnessed. It gave me hope that future generations will stand up and fight back when they believe something is wrong or unjust.

Protestors held signs that showed the cleverness and artistic ability of the protesters. They held signs that read things such as, "If you build a wall, my generation will knock it down!", "Watch out, my generation votes next.", and "They tried to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds."



Aerial shot of Women's March in Indianapolis. Photo provided by Keith Potts.

Gloria Steinem delivered an inspiring quote: "This is the upside of the downside. This is an outpouring of energy, and true democracy like I have never seen in my very long life. It is wide in age, it is deep in diversity, and remember, the Constitution does not begin with "I the president," it begins with "we the people."

If the goal of the March is to see real and lasting change and not just a one time event, it's time to discuss issues that may be difficult for some people to talk about. These issues include race, gender, class, and privilege. Talking about tough issues is imperative to progress socially, economically, and politically.

The principles that this march stands for should not be radical, and yet, for millions of people, their future is unknown and in danger. The Women's March gave a beautiful and simple reminder to President Trump, we are humans, we are here, and we're not going anywhere.