



International Women's Day Observance

Venue: Haa (Public ground)

Date: 8 March 2026

The National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) marks International Women's Day every year as a time to engage with communities and continue advancing the rights and well-being of women and girls. This year, the national programme was held in Haa Dzongkhag under the global theme "*Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls.*"

The observance was organised in collaboration with partners such as RENEW, Ministry of Health, The PEMA Secretariat, UNFPA and UNICEF. The programme brought together more than 4000 people from different walks of life including government officials, local leaders, civil society organisations, students, teachers and community members to engage in open discussions and shared learning.

Her Majesty Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, the Royal Patron of RENEW and UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador, graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Her Majesty's presence made the occasion more meaningful and inspired participants to keep working together towards stronger and more supportive communities.

During the observance, participants were presented with awareness sessions on key laws and services related to women and children: the Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan, 2011, the Child Adoption Act of Bhutan, 2012 and the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan, 2013. There were also meaningful discussions on gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, access to justice and the national support systems available for those in need.

As part of the broader advocacy programme, Her Majesty engaged with around 700 participants, including students, teachers, and officials in Samtse Dzongkhag, encouraging them, especially future educators, to use education as a powerful tool to shape values, challenge stereotypes and build a more inclusive society. Presentations and interactive discussions were also conducted for officials from the local government and administration of Chhukha Dzongkhag and Phuentsholing Thromde.

This year's observance was not just about marking the day but about listening, learning and encouraging collective actions. It highlighted the importance of working together across agencies, communities and generations to address challenges and create lasting change for women and girls in Bhutan. Aligned with the global theme, the NCWC called on everyone to play a part, in whatever way they can to support the rights, dignity and opportunities of all women and girls.

