

Senate Resolution No. 913

**BY:** Senator STEWART-COUSINS

**RECOGNIZING** March 8, 2017, as International Women's Day

**WHEREAS,** March 8th is International Women's Day; and

**WHEREAS,** International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations in 1975; then in December of 1977, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions; and

**WHEREAS,** International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Women comprise almost 15 percent of the active duty, reserve, and guard units of the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State has a distinguished history of monumental achievements in the area of women's rights; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1826, New York State opened one of the first public high schools for girls; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1848 in New York, the first women's rights convention was held in Seneca Falls to secure all women the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1968, New York State Assemblywoman Shirley Chisholm became the first black woman elected to Congress, and in 1972, she ran for President of the United States, another first for black women; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1983, New York State women legislators established the Legislative Women's Caucus to improve the participation of women in all areas of government, support issues that benefit women, and provide a network of support for women in the State Legislature; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, 58 women serve in the New York State Legislature, holding leadership positions in both houses and bringing the diverse experiences of women into law and public policy; and

**WHEREAS,** On this day, the progress that has been made may be celebrated but also contemplate those areas of women's lives where more can be done; and

**WHEREAS,** International Women's Day addresses the social, economic, and political barriers still facing women and girls while celebrating their achievements and the progress that have been made in support of women's equality; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize March 8, 2017, as International Women's Day; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Legislative Women's Caucus of New York State.