



Subject:	International Women's Day 2019
Date:	25th January 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officers:	Lorraine Dennis, Equality and Diversity Officer Clare Hutchinson

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members are requested to note this information regarding the International Women's Day event, which will be held on Saturday 9 March 2019 and to recommend support for the planned activities.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none">To approve the award of financial support in respect of International Women's Day on 9 March 2019.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members will be aware that the Council, at its meeting on 2 December 2013 unanimously passed the following Notice of Motion by Councillor B Kelly:

	<p>“International Women’s Day on 8th March is acknowledged globally as a day on which to celebrate the achievements of women across the world. For the past four years, the women’s sector in Belfast has marked this special day with a public rally to the City Hall. This public event has become popular recently and, for the past 3 years since 2013, the Council has provided some financial support for it. Providing support to an annual public event would be a simple way of demonstrating our acknowledgement of this special day and pledging our commitment to working towards greater equality of opportunity for all women in Belfast.”</p> <p>The Council had recognised at its Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting of January 2014 that this was likely to be a recurring annual expenditure.</p>
3.2	<p>The 2019 event will take place on Saturday 9 March, with the rally arriving at City Hall at 1pm for speeches, music etc. on the cobbled area outside the front gates of City Hall. The theme of the event is ‘The Time is Now – Women Rise Up’. There will be a light lunch for 200 people in City Hall at the close of the rally.</p>
3.3	<p>The women’s sector in Belfast is very keen that the Council should maintain its support for the International Women’s Day and has provided estimated costs for similar provision this year.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is expected that the Council funding contribution will be allocated to cover costs of a temporary stage and sound system for the public rally and a lunch for 200 participants in City Hall following the rally (similar to costs covered for 2018 event). The budget of £6,500 will be provided through the existing Organisational Development budget.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The purpose of the proposal in this report is to assist the council to meet its equality and diversity aspirations. This proposal has been agreed following an initial meeting with the organisers of International Women’s Day. It is in line with the Council’s stated aims as set out in its gender equality action plan.</p>
3.8	<p>We do not consider this initiative to have relevance to the social and economic needs of persons in the rural areas.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None