

Coalition for the International Criminal Court Commemorates International Women’s Day with International Gender Champions

An exclusive interview with Melinda Reed, Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

1. What does International Women’s Day mean to you?

International Women’s Day is generally referred to as a focal point in the movement for women’s rights. For me, this is a day to highlight positive examples of women achieving equal rights, and to call attention to ongoing barriers and challenges for so many women. International Women’s Day is a day for all of us to take stock of the global movement for women’s rights, and to recognize that even today is 2019, there is still a significant need for a movement to seek equality for women.

2. What is the most pressing issue for women in 2019?

The most pressing issue for women in 2019 is the continued culture of impunity for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes, both nationally and internationally. Until there is accountability for these crimes, equality cannot be fully realized.

3. Is the gender equality gap narrowing or growing?

There has been significant progress in narrowing the equality gap in some areas, but in my opinion, whether the gap is bigger or smaller is less meaningful than whether a gap exists at all or not.

4. As an International Gender Champion, what message would you like to send on International Women’s Day?

My message on International Women’s Day is: the time is now. There is never a “good time” to challenge structural inequality, and we should build on the momentum of all of those strong women before us to keep moving forward.