



## This Month in Human Rights March 2026

Presented by the Mansfield Human Rights Commission



March is a month of reflection, renewal, and solidarity. For many people—especially in the northern hemisphere—it represents the start of spring and the return of light, growth, and new beginnings.

It's also a time to recognize women and the impact they've had on the world. Alongside well-known figures like Rosa Parks, Susan B. Anthony, Marie Curie, Kamala Harris, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Malala Yousafzai, countless others have shaped our lives in ways we may not realize. A few examples include:

- Stephanie Kwolek — invented Kevlar, used in bullet-resistant gear
- Hedy Lamarr — co-created frequency-hopping technology, the foundation of WiFi and Bluetooth
- Josephine Cochrane — invented the first hand-powered dishwasher
- Shirin Ebadi — first Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize
- Wilma Mankiller — first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation and a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient

Women-owned businesses have also grown over the past two decades. Supporting them strengthens our communities and honors the work women continue to do every day. Every woman's contribution—big or small—deserves recognition. Many of the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights apply to all people, yet women around the world still face violations of those rights. You can read the UDHR articles at [un.org](http://un.org) to learn more.

If you'd like more information or want a free presentation on human rights, you can contact the commission at [HRC@mansfieldct.org](mailto:HRC@mansfieldct.org)

The following dates are worth noting:

March 2, 2026	Purim (Jewish)
March 4, 2026	Holi (Hindu)
March 8, 2026	International Women's Day
March 15, 2026	Lailat al-Qadr (Islam)
March 15, 2026	International Day to Combat Islamophobia
March 17, 2026	St. Patrick's Day
March 20, 2026	First Day of Spring / Ostara
March 21, 2026	International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21, 2026	Rosie the Riveter Day

\*\*\*This is not a direct reflection of all observances, and there is no direct intent to exclude any event.

\*\*\*<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/rosie-the-riveter-day/>

\*\*\*<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Rosie-the-Riveter>

\*\*\*<https://www.biography.com/history-culture/g43336252/famous-women-in-history>

\*\*\*<https://sagesistas.com/muslim-superwomen-fighting-for-islamic-feminism/>

\*\*\*<https://www.historydefined.net/50-women-who-transformed-history/>

\*\*\*<https://historycollection.com/10-remarkable-women-who-shaped-history-but-are-often-overlooked/>

\*\*\*<https://www.rebelgirls.com/blog/8-native-american-women-who-changed-the-world>