

INTERNATIONAL MENS DAY

November 19

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

International Men's Day on the 19 November was founded in 1999 by Dr Jerome Teelucksingh a history lecturer at University of the West Indies in Trinidad Tabago.

Interestingly calls for an International Men's Day (IMD) have been going on since at least the 1960's when it was reported in the New York Times, Feb 24 1969 that "Many men have been agitating privately to make February 23 International Men's Day, the equivalent of March 8, which is International Women's day" This Day for women was first inaugurated in 1909

Since the 1960's there have been persistent international calls for the creation of an IMD, calls in the form of rhetorical questions about gender equality. For example, "Why do women have an international celebration and not men?" and more commonly in the form of statements like "Men's contributions and concerns deserve a day of recognition in their own right" i.e. not merely by analogy with International Women's Day.

In more recent decades there have been a number of attempts at establishing an IMD in individual countries (eg. Canada, France, USA, Colombia, Russia, Canada, China) with the hope that these gestures would be witnessed abroad by others who might follow suit and join in to celebrate their own IMD in synchrony with the founders. Whilst small celebrations of this nature were apparently observed by individuals in several countries they suffered a lack of publicity necessary to reach interested parties abroad, and therefore the initiatives were not continued.

In the early 1990s, for instance, organizations in the United States, Europe, and Australia held small events in February at the invitation of Professor Thomas Oaster who directed the Missouri Center for Men's Studies at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Oaster successfully promoted the event in 1994, but his following attempt in 1995 was poorly attended and he ceased plans to continue the event in subsequent years.

Whilst the Australians also ceased to observe the event again until November 19, 2003, only the Maltese Association for Men's Rights continued to observe the event each year in February. As the single remaining country still observing the earlier February celebration, the Maltese AMR Committee voted in 2009 to shift the date of their observation to November 19 at the request of Australian International Men's Day organisers.

The Australian men and fathers advocates are the same group who established the current International Men's Day website. www.internationalmensday.com The Australian IMD organisers brought several other countries into line with the small group of countries that had newly come to celebrate on the November date which was inaugurated in Trinidad and Tobago by Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh in 1999.

THE 6 PILLARS OF INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

1. **To promote positive male role models;** not just movie stars and sports men but every day, working class men who are living decent, honest lives.
2. **To celebrate men's positive contributions to society,** community, family, marriage, child care, and to the environment.
3. **To focus on men's health and wellbeing;** social, emotional, physical and spiritual.
4. **To highlight discrimination against men;** in areas of social services, social attitudes and expectations, and law.
5. **To improve gender relations and promote gender equality.**
6. **To create a safer, better world;** where people can be safe and grow to reach their full potential.

FOUNDER'S STATEMENT



"International Men's Day has the potential to become the global medium to heal our world. The concept and themes of International Men's Day are designed to give hope to the depressed, faith to the lonely, comfort to the broken-hearted, transcend barriers, eliminate stereotypes and create a more caring humanity. Since its inception in 1999, International Men's Day has blossomed into a movement which promotes goodwill and has positively transformed the lives of many people all around the globe. Every year I am overjoyed to witness and read testimonies of persons who genuinely believe that the observance of International Men's Day has resulted in greater stability in their lives and guided them from darkness into light."

Yours for a Better World

Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh

Trinidad Tobago

GREAT MANHOOD QUOTES

1. "Being a male is a matter of birth. Being a man is a matter of choice." — Edwin Louis Cole
2. "Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value." Albert Einstein
3. "If Boys don't learn, men won't know." Douglas Wilson
4. "Manhood is the defeat of childhood narcissism." —David Gilmore
5. "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Edmund Burke
6. "Strength, Courage, Mastery, and Honor are the alpha virtues of men all over the world." —Jack Donovan
7. "Manliness means perfect manhood, as womanliness implies perfect womanhood. Manliness is the character of a man as he ought to be, as he was meant to be." —James Freeman Clarke
8. "A man's got to have a code, a creed to live by, no matter his job." —John Wayne
9. "Men and women have strengths that complement each other." Edwin Louis Cole
10. "It is not the situation which makes the man, but the man who makes the situation." —Frederick William Robertson
11. "Adversity toughens manhood, and the characteristic of the good or the great man is not that he has been exempt from the evils of life, but that he has surmounted them." —Patrick Henry
12. "There never was yet a truly great man, that was not at the same time truly virtuous." —Benjamin Franklin
13. "Man is never so manly as when he feels deeply, acts boldly, and expresses himself with frankness and with fervor." —Benjamin Disraeli
14. "When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me." —The Bible
15. "Waste no more time arguing what a good man should be. Be one." — Marcus Aurelius
16. "No man stands so tall as when he stoops to help a child." —Abraham Lincoln
17. "It was men who stopped slavery. It was men who ran up the stairs in the Twin Towers to rescue people. It was men who gave up their seats on the lifeboats of the Titanic. Men are made to take risks and live passionately on behalf of others." John Eldredge
18. "Men want a battle to fight, an adventure to live, and a beauty to rescue. That is what is written in their hearts. That is what little boys play at. That is what men's movies are about. You just see it. It is undeniable." John Eldredge
19. "A real man loves his wife and places his family as the most important thing in life. Nothing has brought me more peace and content in life than simply being a good husband and father." Frank Abagnale

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