



PRIME MINISTER

CANBERRA

**MESSAGE: UNIFEM AUSTRALIA – INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S
DAY FUNCTIONS**

I am delighted to have the opportunity to send my greetings to everyone attending a UNIFEM Australia International Women’s Day function this year.

The celebration of International Women’s Day each year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of women around the world and the progress that has been made in improving the lives of women everywhere.

UNIFEM Australia contributes greatly to this endeavour. Through events linked to International Women’s Day, involvement in White Ribbon Day held on the UN Day for the Elimination of the Violence Against Women, the funding of Peace Scholarships and support for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, UNIFEM Australia is making a difference to women both in Australia and overseas.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting women by giving them greater choice and by creating more opportunities. I am pleased that over the last decade more women have attained higher levels of education, gained positions of influence and leadership and entered the workforce, enabling them to benefit from real increases in wages. The government is also providing greater support for women raising families and providing care and has contributed to better health outcomes for women. The government will continue to recognise the changing needs of women and to promote their interests.

I commend UNIFEM Australia for organising events to celebrate International Women’s Day and I wish everyone involved a most enjoyable and memorable time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads 'John Howard'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

(John Howard)