

# POEM OF THE WEEK

## POEMS ABOUT WOMEN

#1

Did you know, 8th March, has been declared  
As "International Women's Day  
On which the progress (real or illusional)  
Gender equality can be celebrated

(or lamented). Focus, for a moment  
On the adjective "international"  
Is the day, a day when the "international"  
Community focuses on women?

(Possibly not.) Given the state and status  
Of women across the world, I don't think so  
It seems to me that women continue to be  
Treated with dismissal, disdain and disrespect

This angers me. No, I'm not female.  
There's a principle that transcends gender  
Any diminution of one is an attack on us all  
Yes, I'm male, in an unequal world

A woman's right, and by extension, women's rights  
Is my concern and my battle also. Why?  
Women's rights are human rights  
Human rights affect us all

You might peevishly exclaim  
"If there's an International Women's Day  
How about us?" "Us", meaning men?  
Fear not! There's an International Men's Day

A day. 24 hours. Insufficient  
How about a week? A month?  
Make it a seasonal thing  
Maybe even, shock, horror, a year

That would be wonderful  
Imagine, treating everyone  
With courtesy and respect  
Every moment of every day?

It can be done. It isn't complex.  
We have the strategies  
Then every day will be

Happy Human Day  
That has a nice ring to it

And The Possibility Of A Pun

Leslie D. Bush  
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