



**March 8, 2019**

### **International Women’s Day Message from Fethullah Gülen**

On International Women’s Day, the international community celebrates the economic, political and social contributions of women and searches for solutions that can ensure true gender equality. The efforts shown in this matter bring hope for the future. On this occasion, I would like to commend the contributions made in various fields by women throughout history.

In different parts of the world, women have continuously been victims of unjust seclusion and marginalization. Society has often deemed them as a lesser, stripping them of the freedoms they deserve, including their rights to education, free speech, property and safety. There is much more progress needed for humanity so that we set the stage for ending violations of women’s rights and for women to be able to take roles in all aspects of life.

No society can truly move forward if women, who make half of its population, are limited in their freedoms, rights, and opportunities. The way women are treated and the rights given to them are signs of where that society stands in terms of universal human values. On the occasion of International Women’s Day, I pray to God, the Most Compassionate, that we reach a world where the dignity of every human, especially women, is respected and everyone is treated equal, and I invite everyone to work harder toward this goal.

### **About Fethullah Gülen**

Fethullah Gülen is an Islamic scholar, preacher and social advocate, whose decades-long commitment to education, interfaith dialogue and altruism has inspired millions in Turkey and around the world. Gülen is the honorary chairman of the Rumi Forum, Washington, DC and the Intercultural Dialogue Platform, Brussels, Belgium.

## **About Alliance for Shared Values**

The Alliance for Shared Values (AFSV) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves as a voice for cultural organizations affiliated with Hizmet, a civil society movement inspired by prominent preacher and peace advocate Fethullah Gülen. The Alliance strives to promote peace and social harmony by helping reduce misinformation and false stereotypes about any or all ethnic, cultural and religious communities. To learn more about the Alliance, please visit [www.afsv.org](http://www.afsv.org).

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