

International Women's Day Speech 😊

Hi, My name is Emer and I'm 20 years old.

It's a real honour to be here today, representing the young women at the rally (pause).

If I'm honest though, before last year when I started university, I didn't really know what International Women's Day was about or why it was important.

This was partly due to the fact that I didn't really realise the extent of the discrimination that young women continue to face in relation to healthcare, violence and employment.

I was believing the lies that many young women hear about things being equal today, that we can be what we want and do what we want and that the only thing stopping this from happening was ourselves.

It was only through going to university and being on placement in YouthAction that I became aware of the issues

that continue to face young women and the structural, not personal barriers, that can get in our way.

Some people think that young women aren't interested in politics, feminism or fighting for equality but that's another lie. We are here today. Young women from...

Newlodge (pause)

Clonard (pause)

Derry (pause)

Enniskillen (pause)

These young women are not disengage but rather have been excluded, their voices silenced by those who tell them that everything is fair and that everyone is equal and to shut up and stop rocking the boat.

But...we will not be quiet, we will stand up, we will make ourselves heard. And we will stand together with all those other women who continue to fight for equality.