

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SOME SPECIAL DAY's **OBSERVED**

Throughout the year, the National Family Planning Board (NFPB) celebrates days that have specific significance to Reproductive Health and the rights of men, women and children. The information below highlights some specific months or days of special significance from October 2010 to March 2011 which can be used as a guide to our Calendar that observes the same time period.

World Rural Women's Day- October 15

According to the Women's World Summit Foundation, the day provides rural women and their organisations with a focal point to :

1. Raise the profile of rural women;
2. Sensitise both government and public to their crucial, yet largely unrecognised roles; and
3. Promote action in their support. Initiatives on how to celebrate this day are left to individual organisations and communities, according to their own traditions and requirements. Activities or events should be concrete and visible. This action undertaken by rural and farming women in all parts of the world on the very same day, in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, would strengthen the impact of the day.

You can get more information on this day on the link below:

<http://www.rural-womens-day.org/>

Breast Cancer Awareness Month- October

The AstraZeneca HealthCare Foundation explains that "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is dedicated to increasing awareness of the importance of early breast cancer detection."

You can get more information on this day on the link below:

www.nbcam.org/

Family Planning Week

Family Planning Week is observed in the final full week of October each year and brings into greater focus the work of the National Family Planning Board (NFPB). The various events which are organised facilitate partnerships between the NFPB and other agencies that cater to the Reproductive Health needs of the populace and allow the NFPB's personnel to meet the persons who we serve.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW)- November 25

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), “women's activists have marked 25 November as a day against violence since 1981. The date commemorates the brutal assassination of the three Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic, in 1960 on orders of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).”

The WHO go on to explain that “governments, international organizations and NGOs are invited to organize activities on the day to raise public awareness of the problem. The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women also launches the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, which runs through 10 December, Human Rights Day.”

You can get more information on this day on the link below:

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/elimination_vaw/en/index.html

World AIDS Day- December 1

“World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1 each year around the world. It has become one of the most recognised international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.”

Please visit the link below for more information:

<http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/en/World-AIDS-Day>

Human Rights Day- December 10

The United Nations describe Human Rights Day by stating that “respect for human rights and human dignity "is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world", the General Assembly declared three years later in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). In 1950, all States and interested organizations were invited by the General Assembly to observe 10 December as Human Rights Day.”

Please visit the link below for more information:

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/humanrights/>

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Anniversary- December 18

On the 18th of December the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) will celebrate its anniversary.

According to the Inter Press Service, “often described as an international bill of rights for women, CEDAW provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men. In a very real sense CEDAW is the legal bedrock upon which a goal like MDG3 ”Promote gender equality and empower women” rests. Since its adoption by the UN General Assembly 186 countries have ratified the Convention.”

Please visit the link below for more information:

<http://www.ips.org/mdg3/ips-partners-with-unifem-to-mark-the-30th-anniversary-of-cedaw/>

International Women’s Day- March 8

“International Women's Day (8 March) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.”

Please visit the link below for more information:

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>