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International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

CELEBRATING IBA WOMEN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

Colleagues, this day has become much more meaningful around the world as women are finding their voices – speaking out about the many injustices which still blight women's lives. I am not going to document them; we know them so well because of the work which the IBA and the IBAHRI undertakes. Inequality comes in so many forms and is maintained by so many invisible threads and unspoken beliefs. What we all know is that a better world will only come into being when all our common humanity is cherished and respected and there is genuine gender equality. It will enrich the lives of us all, men and women both.

Law has a vital role to play in achieving parity. As a lawyers' organisation we are guardians of the rule of law and human rights. All of us have a part to play in championing these rights in our workplaces and in our communities. Law is the bedrock of our nations and if it fails sections of society it fails in its role. Men have to join with women in achieving this great goal.

So let me on this special day join with you in celebrating the wonderful work you do, women and men both, and the values we share.

My warm regards,

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC

Director, IBAHRI