UNESCO Anniversaries Programme

PRIORITY GENDER EQUALITY GUIDELINES

Prepared by: Division for Gender Equality

1. Context/background

- Following the IOS Evaluation of the Revised Anniversaries Programme, at its 205th session, the Executive Board encouraged Member States to improve geographical representation and to promote gender equality and requested the Director General to present to it at its 206th session an updated proposal for strengthening the revised anniversaries programme.

- The particular sensitivity of the Anniversary Programme to Gender Equality is required due to the fact that in many parts of the world, until the nineteenth or twentieth century, women personalities were largely excluded from prominent public life. As a result, Member States have had difficulties in proposing celebration of women personalities that would comply with the criteria for submitting proposals for commemorations and celebrations of anniversaries.

2. Objectives of these guidelines

- To contribute to the implementation of the global priority Gender Equality.

- To facilitate the integration of gender equality considerations in the proposals for commemorations of historical events and celebration of anniversaries of eminent personalities in Member States.

- To contribute to building commitment, competence and capacity for gender equality efforts within UNESCO Member States.

3. How to implement these guidelines

When elaborating their proposals, National Commissions are strongly encouraged:

- To contribute to efforts towards promotion of global priority Gender Equality in UNESCO’s fields of competence;

- To submit at least one proposal for either:
  - Commemoration of historical events marking important accomplishments in the struggle for gender equality and women’s empowerment; or
  - Celebration of anniversaries of eminent female personalities with undisputable achievements in UNESCO fields of competence; or
  - Celebration of anniversaries of eminent male personalities whose undisputable achievements contribute significantly to gender equality and women’s empowerment.

- In cases where there is no proposal related to gender equality, National Commissions should provide justification with compelling reasons for the absence of such proposals.

- All proposals in all phases of their implementation - from planning to reporting, should employ gender-inclusive language.

- All proposals should avoid reliance on gender stereotypes.
- Images used in all phases of the implementation of the proposals – photographs, illustrations, book covers – should be gender-balanced and should illustrate the active role played by women.

- Conferences, seminars, workshops, communication campaigns or any other event organized within the implementation of the proposals should be gender balanced in terms of:
  - Participants (panelists, speakers, audience etc.);
  - Inclusion of specific objectives related to gender equality and women’s empowerment; and
  - Assessment of the impact of the event on both women and men and/or on the advancement of gender equality.
Annex 1: Roles and responsibilities

- **National Commissions for UNESCO** should ensure that at least one proposal for commemoration of historic events or celebration of anniversaries of eminent personalities is related to gender equality, as well as that gender equality considerations are taken into account from the very beginning of the preparation of the proposals, during their implementation and reporting.

- **Anniversaries Programme Unit** (PAX/AP) is responsible for early transmission of gender equality related proposals to the Division for Gender Equality (CAB/GE) for evaluation and recommendation.

- **The Division for Gender Equality** (CAB/GE) is responsible for evaluation of the Anniversaries Programme proposals from gender equality perspectives, for providing guidance, advice and technical support for incorporating gender equality considerations into the proposals and their implementation, for formulation of the recommendations for approval and for overall monitoring the compliance with these Guidelines.

- **The UNESCO Intersectoral Anniversaries Programme Committee** ensures that gender equality considerations are incorporated in the final recommendations for approval of the Anniversaries Programme proposals and in evaluation of the related implementation reports.

Annex 2: Best practices

1. **Commemoration of historical events marking important accomplishments in the struggle for gender equality and women’s empowerment**

   1. **350th anniversary of the establishment of the French Academy of Sciences (France)**

       The French Academy of Sciences, founded in 1666, remains as one of the longest lasting, oldest and prestigious institutions devoted to scientific cooperation and basic sciences promotion. The commemoration of its anniversary is focusing on the achievements of the French Academy of Sciences in promoting international scientific research and multicultural dialogue and cooperation, as well as on the important role of women scientists in its history.

   2. **100th anniversary of the founding of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (China)**

       The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) is internationally recognized in the field of chemistry, especially in chemical nomenclature and terminology. The Union has worked very closely with UNESCO in the field of basic sciences during the International Year of Chemistry 2011 and largely contributed in implementing the related activities worldwide. The commemoration of its anniversary has a high-level impact in the scientific community worldwide, as well as contributes to the promotion of women in science through organizing a specific gender equality related activity - the Women’s Global Breakfast.
3. **Celebration of 100th anniversary of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (Georgia)**

Since its establishment in 1918, the Tbilisi State University has been promoting the ideals of equality, justice and progress and within this framework the **advancement of women’s equal participation in higher education, both as students and teaching staff.**

II. **Proposals for celebration of anniversaries of female eminent personalities**

1. **150th anniversary of the birth of Käthe Kollwitz (Germany)**

Ms. Käthe Kollwitz, painter, printmaker and sculptor (1867 – 1945) is one of the most important female sculptors and printmakers of the 20th century. Her work not only ***advocates for victims of social injustice, war, and inhumanity,*** but also is a testimony of the women’s artistic creativity engaged in the global movement for peace.

2. **300th anniversary of the birth of Regina Salomea Rusiecka (Belarus)**

Ms. Regina Salomea Rusiecka was the **first woman practicing medicine - mostly treating women, in 18th century,** in different cities of the Ottoman Empire, Bosnia, Hungary, Austria, Russia,. She is also known as writer and educator. She ***advocated for women rights and education for women,*** as well as for the spread of scientific excellence in the field of medicine.

3. **100th anniversary of the birth of Boonlua ML Debyasuvarn Kunjara (Thailand)**

Ms. Boonlua ML Debyasuvarn Kunjara (1911 - 1982) is widely acknowledged as one of Thailand’s foremost educators. Through her lifetime of service and by **personal example as a teacher, educational administrator, language and literature specialist and writer,** she was a tireless advocate for girls’ and women’s education.

III. **Proposals for celebration of anniversaries of eminent male personalities whose achievements contribute significantly to gender equality and women’s empowerment**

1. **200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko (Poland)**

Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817) lived at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth century and is considered a national hero in Poland and in the United States. As a political leader, he fought for peace, independence and democracy, as well as for freedom and equality of all citizens: peasants - who had to work as slave-like serfs; Jews - who were a religious minority; and women - who had fewer rights than
men. He emphasized the importance and role of women in the society, which at his time was a cutting-edge approach and precursor of the idea and practice of gender equality.

2. **150th anniversary of the birth of Eugenio Maria de Hostos (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela)**

Eugenio Maria de Hostos (born in Puerto Rico in 1838, died in Dominican Republic in 1903) made one of the most valuable contributions to educational work in Latin America and the Caribbean. The ideal of freedom that inspired his life led him to participate in the struggles for independence in Latin America and the Caribbean. He founded the teacher-training college of Santo Domingo. From that basis, he opposed scholasticism, applying the most modern teaching methods of his day. In *his works and political activism*, he insisted on the need to educate women, contrary to the patriarchal prejudices of his time.