



AMA-ZINE CREATIONS

Celebrate International Women's Day by making a zine

This document contains advice and ideas for all that wish to take part of the weeklong activities celebrating International Women's Day in Bristol:

From 8th to 14th of March 2021

International Women's Day (March 8th) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

You will need

- Pens or pencils
- Coloured pens or pencils
- A4 paper
- Scissors

What is a zine?

Zines (pronounced to rhyme with magazine) are short booklets that are self-published or produced by a small, independent publisher. They're creative, empowering, and sometimes controversial – and a fantastic way to express ideas in a fun and informal way.

Technically, zines have existed since people began to write, print and share information. The zine explosion came later, fuelled by the do-it-yourself ethos of the 1970s British punk movement and access to photocopying.



Today, the majority of creators are female, topics are often political, and representation is wide – so they're a great way to celebrate International Women's Day.

Talk about zines

Zines are short booklets that are self-published or produced by a small, independent publisher. They exist to share ideas. Groups of people who aren't always listened to sometimes use zines to share their stories and get their voices heard.

You could make a zine to show everyone or share your screen and share examples like [Soofiya's zines](#).

Although zines have technically existed since people began to write, print, and share information, one reason they're so popular is because of the 1991 underground, feminist punk movement riot grrrl. Riot grrrl encouraged girls and women to create zines and be heard.

Zines were used because women could make them themselves; they allowed them to talk about issues that were considered taboo such as sexism, domestic violence, and mental illness. Making zines helped women form communities.

Plan your zine

International Women's Day is all about celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness about women's equality, trying to make things fairer, and fundraising for charities.



International Women's Day exists because the achievements of women haven't always been celebrated and because there's still gender inequality in the world.

Choose a theme relevant to ***International Women's Day***. You could choose a female role model, for example. Riot grrrl often made zines about inequality. What difficulties do women face today? How are women challenging inequality?

Famous faces are a great place to start discovering some female role models, but don't overlook people in your lives and local community too.

Think about how their zine fits in with the theme of International Women's Day 2021: **#ChooseToChallenge**. Decide what content you'll include in your zine. It's up to each person whether they write, draw, or both. They could include poems, comics, or drawings, for example.

Fold your zine

. You could also watch a YouTube video of how to fold a zine.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxqr9e3wCxl&t=19s&ab_channel=TheOregonian

Follow the instructions below to make your own zine.

You may need to see some of the trickier steps more than once for everyone to get the idea.

Take the piece of paper and fold it in half from top to bottom.



Fold in half from left to right, then the left and right edges in to meet the middle line.

Open up the sheet, which should have eight rectangles on it.

Fold the paper in half from left to right. Cut along the centerfold in the middle – the cut should be two rectangles wide and it shouldn't make the zine fall apart.

Fold it in half from top to bottom, along the centerfold you just cut.

Take the left and right edges (keeping it folded) and push them together. The last double page will fold over the top of the other pages to become a cover.

This step takes a little practice. It's easiest to check out the diagram or video linked above to see what you need to do.

Fill your zine

Get creative and decorate your zine. It's up to you whether you unfold it to work on it or whether you leave it folded.

Once you've finished filling your zines, You should share what you've made. Who or what is it about? Is there a main message?

This activity was all about trying new things. Had anyone heard of a zine before this activity? Why were they so popular in the 1990s? People could think about their history as a way for women to get their voices heard. How else could people spread the messages of International Women's Day?



This activity was also about respecting others. Who featured in people's zines? Have these people always been respected? What difficulties were women experiencing in the 1990s? What issues do women face today?

SHARE YOUR WORK

When you have done your **Ama-zine** let us know how it went! Take a photo and post it on your social media with the hashtags:

#IWD2021

#IWD2021BWV

#ChooseToChallenge

#WeAreBristol

And tag us too! You can link to our social media through:

Twitter @BWV2

Facebook @BristolWomensVoice

Instagram @bristolwomensvoice