



**100** women on the frontline we honour today

**100,000** lives improved by the work of our women

The women of Shanti Ashram have worked consistently on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic in the face of increasing risk. They have braved a staggering rise in numbers as they continue to serve the societies around them.

March 8th is celebrated as International Women's Day, all over the world.

The 2021 theme for International Women's Day is:  
'Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a COVID-19 World'

The theme celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world to mitigate the impact of the current multi-dimensional crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic. Women have stood on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, as health care workers, emergency relief volunteers, caregivers, innovators, community organizers, educators and many more.

As some of the most exemplary and effective national leaders have demonstrated, their strategies, humanity and impact in combating the pandemic has stood out. Majority of the countries that have been more successful in stemming the tide of the COVID-19 pandemic and responding to its health and broader socio-economic impacts, are headed by women. Women on the frontlines have equally demonstrated their skills, knowledge and commitment to effectively lead the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts in their own local communities. They have saved precious lives, ensured the continuity of essentials services, and cared for the most vulnerable.

Today, there is more acceptance than ever before that women bring different experiences, perspectives and skills to the table, and make irreplaceable contributions to decisions, policies, on ground implementation and laws that work better for all. Social and systemic barriers to women's participation and leadership persist, and new barriers have emerged with the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the world, women are facing increased domestic violence, unpaid care duties, unemployment and poverty.

To celebrate women's contributions, uphold women's rights and fully leverage the potential of women's leadership, we hope to pause this Women's Day. We will begin the celebration with honouring 100 exemplary frontline workers, who have served beyond their call of duty.

LET'S HONOUR OUR WOMEN FROM THE FRONTLINES : WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP!

# Creating equal futures for women, with everyone