

February 2017

She came, she saw, she conquered

The day after Trump's presidential inauguration, millions of people around the world came together to raise their voices and share their opinions in a peaceful manner. On January 21st, 2017, over 4 million people participated in protests to support the Women's March on Washington, in Washington, DC. An estimated 673 marches were organized worldwide, including 29 in Canada, one taking place in Montreal.



The flagship march in Washington attracted a crowd of an estimated 500 000 people. The event was organized mainly in protest to the controversial political values of the new president. As well as arguing women's rights, many other issues regarding immigration and healthcare reform, LGBTQ+ rights, and racial and religious equality were acted upon.

The idea of a Women's March began a day after the election of Donald Trump. On November 9th, 2016, Teresa Shook of Hawaii created a Facebook page, inviting friends to participate in a walking protest in Washington. After the page gained attention, other pages were created by people of different cultural backgrounds and then merged to form the official Women's Walk on Washington. Citizens then began to quickly sign up to participate in the main march and to support the event from other locations.

Before the event took place, organizers expected an attendance of about 200 000 people. The march ended up attracting a crowd of about 500 000 participating in the protest. The day of the event, The Washington Metro system reported over one million trips taken, it's second busiest day ever, following the day of Barack Obama's first inauguration, eight years ago.

Many guest speakers also attended the march, encouraging the crowd with positive speeches, and spreading positive messages. Countless other celebrities, politicians, and activists were spotted at the marches, supporting the cause.

While the marches are now over, the message and the campaign continues. A new campaign called "10 Actions for the First 100 Days" was unveiled at the Women's March in Washington. The campaign consists of a new positive "action" item being every 10 days of the first 100 days of the new presidency. Organizers of the campaign hope that this will encourage the marchers and other supporters of the original event to continue to spread the message.

by Hayley Daye (grade 9 student)