

## Half a million at Washington D.C. Women's March

1st February, 2017



New figures reveal that as many as 500,000 people attended the Women's March on Washington on January 21st. There has

been debate over the size of the crowds because there were no turnstiles or ticket sales. However, high-tech analysis from the company Digital Design and Imaging Service provides a "solid estimate" of there being 440,000 marchers, with a possibility of half a million. It was the biggest demonstration in the USA since the Vietnam War protests in the 1960s. The New York Times reported that the Women's March was three times the size of President Donald Trump's inauguration, which they said had 160,000 attendees. Five million people participated in women's marches around the world.

The Women's March was a global protest aimed at highlighting and protecting women's rights. The marchers also focused on immigration, healthcare, the environment, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, freedom of religion, and workers' rights. The marches were held the day after the inauguration of President Trump. Event organisers said they wanted to, "send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights". They added: "We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all."

Sources: [vox.com](http://vox.com) / [womensmarch.com](http://womensmarch.com) / [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org)

### Writing

Marching is the best way to bring about change. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

figures / debate / ticket sales / analysis / estimate / demonstration / Vietnam / size / global / protest / healthcare / freedom / equality / religion / women's rights / peace

### True / False

- a) New figures show that over half a million were at the Women's March. T / F
- b) There were record sales of tickets for the Women's March. T / F
- c) President Trump's inauguration saw bigger crowds than the Women's March. T / F
- d) Around five million people attended women's marches worldwide. T / F
- e) Marchers at the Women's March only focused on women's rights. T / F
- f) The Women's March was the day after Donald Trump became President. T / F
- g) Women's March organisers wanted to send a message to President Trump. T / F
- h) Women's March organisers said there is no peace without justice. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>reveal</b>         | a. government    |
| 2. <b>debate</b>         | b. protest       |
| 3. <b>estimate</b>       | c. took part     |
| 4. <b>demonstration</b>  | d. conducted     |
| 5. <b>participated</b>   | e. discussion    |
| 6. <b>highlighting</b>   | f. equality      |
| 7. <b>held</b>           | g. slow down     |
| 8. <b>administration</b> | h. show          |
| 9. <b>rest</b>           | i. focusing on   |
| 10. <b>parity</b>        | j. approximation |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Women's March?
- b) What were the marchers protesting against?
- c) How far do women have to go to get equality?
- d) What are the biggest equality issues for women in your country?
- e) What will President Trump do to advance women's rights?
- f) What is next for the organisers of the march?
- g) What advice do you have for the Women's March organisers?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the march organisers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. figures reveal that as many as 500,000 people | a. the size               |
| 2. There has been debate over the size           | b. in office              |
| 3. a "solid estimate" of there                   | c. inauguration           |
| 4. the Women's March was three times             | d. levels of leadership   |
| 5. President Donald Trump's                      | e. being 440,000 marchers |
| 6. freedom of                                    | f. attended               |
| 7. send a  | g. without justice        |
| 8. on their first day                            | h. bold message           |
| 9. parity and equity at all                      | i. of the crowds          |
| 10. there is no true peace                       | j. religion               |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the numbers of people marching?
- Why did it become the biggest global protest in history?
- What things would get you into the streets on a march?
- What message did the march send to world leaders?
- How much attention to world leaders pay to marches?
- Why was the march bigger than President Trump's inauguration?
- Why was there so much debate in the news about crowd size?

## Spelling

- New figures lraeve that
- high-tech lisynsaa
- provides a solid eiettsma
- the biggest rositdmoaentn
- 160,000 esntatede
- Five million people taiiacdpetrp
- marchers also focused on garnommtiii
- freedom of ieolnigr
- lrcaia equality
- the annroigiuuat of President Trump
- We will not rest until women have yrapit
- justice and tiueqy for all

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. j	4. b	5. c
6. i	7. d	8. a	9. g	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Women's Rights

You think women's rights is the biggest issue that needs resolving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to be resolved (and why): the environment, immigration reform or freedom of religion.

### Role B – The Environment

You think the environment is the biggest issue that needs resolving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to be resolved (and why): women's rights, immigration reform or freedom of religion.

### Role C – Immigration Reform

You think immigration reform is the biggest issue that needs resolving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to be resolved (and why): the environment, women's rights or freedom of religion.

### Role D – Freedom of Religion

You think freedom of religion is the biggest issue that needs resolving. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the last of these to be resolved (and why): the environment, immigration reform or women's rights.

## Speaking – Issues

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important issues at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • LGBTQ rights        | • women's rights     |
| • racial equality     | • immigration reform |
| • freedom of religion | • healthcare reform  |
| • workers' rights     | • the environment    |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.