

Chance to enjoy host of activities at International Women's Day city event

A FREE day-long event to mark International Women's Day is being held in Derby on Saturday, March 6.

The multi-cultural Women's Worth event takes place between 10am and 4pm at The Heritage Hotel in Macklin Street.

It is being organised by award-winning charity Women's Work and Derby City Council's gender diversity and sexuality forum, in partnership with local organisations.

The programme has career booster sessions, advice and support on issues facing women and girls, and information about education and training opportunities.

Entertainment will include school dance troupes, salsa, Asian and hip-hop dancing.

Free refreshments will be available. Small children will be entertained with face painting, a bouncy castle and other play activities.

Dionne Reid, chief executive of Women's Work, Derby, said: "Recognising the value of women's contribution to the economy and voluntary sector, as well as in traditional roles such as raising families, is what we are trying to do as part of the



programme in Derby," she said.

A number of organisations will be represented at the event, providing information and advice.

The Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trust will talk about women's health issues, and organisations such as Family Action and Sure Start will also attend.

Events for International Women's Day will be held across the globe to celebrate the eco-

nomie, political and social achievements of women.

The day has come a long way since it was first celebrated in 1911.

It is now an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

The tradition sees men honouring their mothers, wives, girlfriends and colleagues with



LOTS OF SMILES: Celebration cakes and dance groups featured at the 2009 Derby event.

flowers and small gifts. In some countries the day has the equivalent status of Mother's Day - where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers.

The new millennium has witnessed a significant change in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality.

With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of wo-

men's visibility as role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality.

The unfortunate fact is that women are still not always paid the same as their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics and, globally, women's education and healthcare is inferior to that experienced by men.

However, great improvements have been made.

We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, schoolgirls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, and women have real choices.

And so the tone and nature of

verse local activity connects women from all around the world - ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatrical performances, fashion parades and celebrations such as the Women's Worth event held in Derby on Saturday, March 6.

Many global corporations have also started to more actively support IWD by running their own internal events and through supporting external ones.

For example, search engine and media giant Google has, in the past, even changed the logo on its global search pages to

