

Eliza Reid

*The Presidential Residence
Bessastadir, Iceland*

24 June 2024

Dr. Guila Clara Kessous
UNESCO Artist for Peace
Peace Ambassador

Half a century ago, ninety percent of the women of Iceland took a day off to protest ongoing wage inequalities. Women who took part did not go to their jobs, nor did they take part in any domestic work at home. Predictably, the country essentially shut down, with schools, banks, workplaces closed. The success of this day galvanized the nation to work towards greater equality.

Today, Iceland is the country in the world closest to closing the gender gap. Our ongoing achievements in this field have happened because of a concerted effort, hard work, and the knowledge that increased equality benefits people of all genders.

The unofficial motto of the women taking part in the day off fifty years ago was "We dare, we can, we will." May this motto accompany you in your initiative of the "International Accords for Women in Diplomacy" to promote equality in an international context. I have no doubt it will benefit all people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eliza Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized 'E' and 'R'.