



International Women's Day in Burlington, VT co-coordinated by a VT LEND fellow, Fatuma Bulle, appearing 4th from the left in the above photo. Photo courtesy of Vermont Woman Newspaper.

The VT-ILEHP LEND program is proud to announce that our family fellow, Fatuma Bulle, was one of the organizers of the International Women's Day at Burlington City Hall on March 8, 2014. Her co-organizer was Sandy Baird, Director of Institute for Civic Engagement at Burlington College. International Women's Day has been and is celebrated all over the world in many countries. This was the first such celebration in Burlington, Vermont.

As a refugee from Somalia who has lived in Burlington for ten years, Ms. Bulle wishes for Vermonters to know more about the women immigrants and refugees who have relocated here from other countries. Ms. Bulle feels it is important for these women to share their stories and for Vermonters to have a better understanding of their life experiences, past, present, and future.

Over 200 people participated in the International Women's Day Burlington event and heard the riveting stories of community members' journeys to America. Guest speakers were women from many countries in the world including: Africa, Europe, India, Asia, Nepal, and the Arab world.

One critical message to be taken away is to end violence against women and that women should be treated with respect. Men who support women were also appreciated and mention was made to be mindful to raise men who are not threatened by women's success. This event was intended to help raise the status of women, and was indeed a celebration of women and all that they contribute to their families and society.

International food was provided at this free and engaging event.

For additional information, please read the full Burlington Free Press introductory article here:<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014302220016>