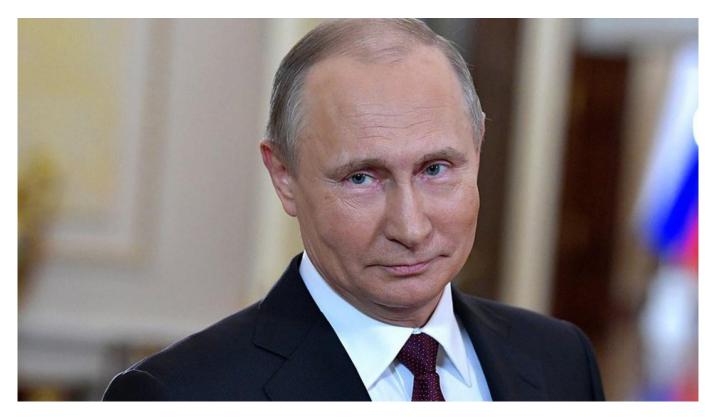


On Women's Day, Putin Applauds Russian Women for 'Taking Care of Homes and Children'

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Kremlin Press Service

Vladimir Putin congratulated Russian women on International Women's Day Thursday by reciting a Soviet-era poem and saying "Woman is the kind and serene figure in every man's life."

Women's Day is a national holiday in Russia and one of the most <u>important</u> public holidays inherited from the Soviet period.

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"Only women can create a welcoming atmosphere at work and at home, take care of our homes and children every day and be a moral example to them," the president said according to a Kremlin statement.

"We are happy to have such a wonderful occasion to express again our deep respect for you, our enchantment with your beauty and tenderness."

In a <u>video</u> posted on his official Twitter account, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev thanked women "for always being by our side."

"We want you to be tired less, and smile more," he said.

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