Women’s’ participation in economy, polity and society has been kept invisible at large. Much as “History is herstory too” emphasizes the role of women in everyday lives, narratives and most importantly in histories, the theme of this year’s Gender Mela at Lady Shri Ram College is breaking both the indiscernible and the tangible barriers. Echoing the sentiments of Casey Miller and Kate Swift in Words & Women (1976): “When women in the movement use ‘herstory’, their purpose is to emphasize that women's lives, deeds, and participation in human affairs have been neglected or undervalued in standard histories” Breaking Barriers and Creating Spaces is about dismantling glass ceilings, prejudiced notions and reclaiming spaces of hope, empowerment and participation. It is as much a celebration of coming of age of women’s increasing share in public sphere as it is a rejection of binaries like womanhood and manhood, conformity and radicalism, modernity and tradition, mainstream and niche.

The Mela invites you to explore the worlds of women in all their vibrancy and feel the magic of the mundane by being a part of its ‘everydayness’. The Mela gives premium space to small time women entrepreneurs, alternate publishers and offers a chance to participate in their activities such as pottery, handicraft, textile printing, embroidery and many others.

So let’s celebrate!!

Je suis femme!!!