

Women in History *Activism and Education*

Compiled by Mev Miller with assistance from issue editors

This timeline highlights a few events important in the history of women's rights and education since the 1800s. Use it in class during women's history month or for general lessons in social studies, history, math, EL/Civics, writing memoir, and Internet/computer projects. If teachers or students would like to add events or writings to the timeline on the WE LEARN Web site, please send suggestions and essays to Mev Miller at welearn@litwomen.org.

The interactive version of this timeline is located on the WE LEARN Web site at: www.litwomen.org/tca/timeline.html

Historical Events

1848 Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls, NY. - Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote, "all men and women are created equal."



1848

1851

Sojourner Truth gives "Ain't I a Woman" speech at Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio.

1896 National Association of Colored Women founded to show achievements of African Americans and to help those in poverty



1903 National Women's Trade Union League is founded to improve wages and working conditions for women

Educational Events

1853 Mary Douglass of Norfolk, Virginia is arrested for teaching reading and writing to black children

1861 Vassar College opens as one of the first women's colleges in the U.S.

1864 Congress makes it illegal for **Native Americans** to be taught in their native languages

1889 Jane Addams & Ellen Starr found **Hull House**—a place where women could bring their children for kindergarten and where women could sit, talk, and learn from each other



Historical Events

1911

Triangle Shirt Factory Fire: This disaster killed 145 women and led to the founding of the International Ladies Garment Workers



The **First International Women's Day** calls for women's economic equality

1915

Jane Addams founds the **International Women's League for Peace and Freedom**

1916

Margaret Sanger sets up **first birth control clinic** in U.S.

1920

With the 19th amendment to the Constitution, **women gain the right to vote**

1935

Mary McLeod Bethune founds the **National Council of Negro Women** to fight discrimination, racism, and sexism

1955

Rosa Parks refuses to ride in the back of the bus



Daughters of Bilitis becomes the first lesbian organization in the U.S.

Educational Events

1917

Smith Hughes Act provides federal funds for vocational education

1951

Welthy Honsinger Fisher founds **World Education**



1954

Through **Brown v. Board of Education**, the Supreme Court unanimously agrees segregated schools are "inherently unequal" and must be abolished

Women Making a Difference

Historical Events	1961	President Kennedy establishes the President's Commission on the Status of Women and appoints Eleanor Roosevelt as chairwoman.	1966	National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded in the U.S.		
	1963	Equal Pay Act promises equal wages for similar work regardless of race, sex, religion or nationality.	1969	Stonewall Riots start the modern gay rights movement in the U.S. and worldwide		
	1964	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits employment discrimination and creates The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)	1972	Equal Rights Amendment seeks to add equal rights for women to the Constitution.		
	1965	Patsy Mink is the first woman of color to serve in Congress	1973	Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade , legalizes abortion		
	1974	Coalition of Labor Union Women founded	1977	National Women's Studies Association founded		
	Educational Events	1966	Adult Education Act helps adults to get their diplomas	1969	Boston Women's Health Book Collective writes <i>Our Bodies, Ourselves</i> , an important women's health book	
		1971	Ms. Magazine becomes a major publication for feminist voices	1972	Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in all aspects of education programs that receive federal support	
		1974	Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) funds gender equity education and supports reentering women students	1977	National Women's Studies Association founded	

Historical Events

1978

The **Pregnancy Discrimination Act** bans employment discrimination against pregnant women

1985

Wilma Mankiller becomes the first woman chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma



1995

The **UN Fourth World Conference on Women** seeks equality and peace for all women in the world

1982

The **first Hispanic Women's Conference** is the largest gathering of Latina women in the nation

1992

National Network to End Violence Against Immigrant Women is founded



The **March for Women's Lives** seeks reproductive freedom and rights for women

1983

The **Women's Encampment for a Future of Peace and Justice** created Peace Land for women

2004

Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA) was founded to address the needs of low-income Asian immigrant women

1994

The **Violence Against Women Act** gives women a federal civil rights provision to combat gender-based violent crimes

Educational Events

National Literacy Act creates more adult literacy programs



1991

Gender Equity in Education Act promotes math and science for girls, counsels pregnant teens, and prevents sexual harassment

1994

2003

WE LEARN is formed to address women's literacy issues