

## Women's History Month Resources- Primary Sources

Check out these primary sources from Gale databases that showcase important events and women throughout history.

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### *Gale In Context: World History*

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#### **Letter from Jeanne Deroine and Pauline Roland, Prison of St. Lagare, Paris, 1851**

The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, the first woman's rights convention held in America, provoked an international reaction. This is a passionate letter from two imprisoned French women, writing from Paris.

#### **The Degraded Status of Woman in the Bible**

Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902) was one of the most influential women's rights proponents in America during the nineteenth century. Stanton was a prolific writer on women's issues and she worked as an organizer on a broad range of women's issues, including female suffrage, property rights, temperance, and the liberalization of existing divorce laws.

Stanton was a well-educated woman for the times and her various writings reflect a considerable understanding of Christian theology. Like many leaders of the feminist movements that grew throughout North America in the 1960s and 1970s, Stanton did not profess a conventional faith in God and Christian worship. Organized religion was an institution that she viewed as one that limited the ability of women to find their true place in society. The chief target of attack in her 1895 work, the *Woman's Bible*, was the relationship between the expressions of Christian faith and the subordination of women through church practices.



*Kuwaiti women demonstrate for suffrage.*

Image from: <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/BT2380000670/WHIC?u=sout20411&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=26c34a35>

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*Gale In Context: US History*

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### **A Crisis in the History of Women. Let Us Have Action Instead of Lip-Service (1943)**

In her speech in 1943, novelist Fannie Hurst (1889-1968) urged women to take a good look at the war and then to evaluate their past, present, and future. Hurst urges women not to make the mistake at the end of World War II that they made at the end of World War I when they stepped aside "when our men came home" and women returned "economically, industrially, almost where we left off." Women during World War II, she proclaimed, had progressed, moving into the workforce, and should not give this up when the soldiers return. It was time, she said, to capitalize on this progress. She believed that women still must participate in important positions and demonstrate their influence upon government.

### **Irene Natividad Speaks in 1991 on the Achievements of Women**

Irene Natividad (1948–) has been an activist for Asian Americans and women's rights for decades. She was born in Manila in the Philippines, and her family lived in a variety of different countries when she was a child. She moved to the United States for college and then obtained two master's degrees from Columbia University. Her political activity began with the 1968 presidential election, and she later helped found multiple organizations that helped Asian American women become politically active. In 1984, she assisted vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, who was the first woman on a major party ticket. Then the following year she became head of the National Women's Political Caucus, the

first non-white woman to head that organization. She delivered a keynote address in 1991 at a symposium in Washington, D.C. In her speech, Natividad talks of the many achievements women have made in U.S. politics, and she emphasizes the importance of women voting.



*Supporters of the Equal Rights Amendment carry a banner down Pennsylvania Avenue during a march in Washington, D.C., on the Friday, August 26, 1977. AP Images.*

Image from: <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/PC3283187019/WHIC?u=sout20411&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=99d0bde8>

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*Gale Literature Resource Center*

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### **Above the Wind: An Interview with Audre Lorde**

In this interview, conducted by telephone on August 29, 1990, Lorde discusses her reasons for moving from New York City to St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; the role of the poet in society; the continued relevance of her early poetry; her essays "Eye to Eye: Black Women, Hatred, and Anger" and "Poetry Is Not a Luxury"; and the relationship between her sexuality and her art.

### **Why Mary Wollstonecraft was an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Feminist Rock Star**

Mary Wollstonecraft's main claim to the attention of posterity rests on her radical critique of patriarchal rule, in its public and private forms, in the England of her day. She gained contemporary fame by being one of the first to answer Edmund Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790) with her *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*, written and printed

in less than a month in late 1790. She followed this with *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), a work that has made her a patron saint of feminism.

This broadcast dives into what made Mary Wollstonecraft such an important figure in the world of literature and beyond.



*Lawyer Inez Boissevain, dressed in white and on horseback, led the National American Woman Suffrage Association parade through the streets of Washington, D.C., in 1913.*

Image from: <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/PC2587187131/WHIC?u=sout20411&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=f14caa3c>

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### *Gale In Context: Opposing Viewpoints*

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#### **Barefoot in Baghdad (2010)**

Manal M. Omar was born in Saudi Arabia in 1975 to Palestinian parents. Her family moved to Texas when she was six months old. Although surrounded by a loving family, she struggled with identity while growing up as an Arab-American Muslim. By her teenage years, she came to the conclusion that her multicultural heritage was her strength. Having spent most of her summers in the Middle East, Omar had a deep affection for the region. Her desire to aid its people was rooted in this love. After earning a bachelor's degree in international development and a master's degree in Arab studies, she began a career that took her to Iraq shortly after the Persian Gulf War.

This excerpt from *Barefoot in Baghdad: A Story of Identity—My Own—and What It Means to Be a Woman in Chaos* is an account of some of Omar's experiences during her two years in

Iraq. She found that despite their hardships Iraqi women are hopeful and committed to improving their lot in life.

### Women's Rights: National Organization for Women Statement of Purpose

The establishment of the National Organization for Women (NOW) in 1966 signaled the growing strength of modern feminism. Initially, NOW directed most of its resources toward the needs of working women. It attacked the exclusion of women from the professions, politics, and other areas of society because of outdated male views about women. It also denounced and attacked legal and economic discrimination, such as bank practices that denied married women credit in their own names.

NOW's Statement of Purpose defined the mainstream of the modern feminist movement. Though many women and men refused to be labeled "feminists," they agreed with NOW's basic demand that women in the workforce be treated equally with men, receive equal pay for equal work, and enjoy access to jobs and promotions to which their talents entitled them.



*A large crowd fills up the reflecting pond in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on January 20, 2018. This is the one year anniversary of the Women's March where hundreds of thousands gathered in DC and all over the United States in support of women and to protest Donald Trump's election to President of the United States.*

Image from: <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/PAZZGX723031340/OVIC?u=sout20411&sid=bookmark-OVIC&xid=e649ac71>

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### *More Resources*

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If you want to explore similar topics, visit these topic pages from your Gale resources!

- [Women's Rights, In Context: Opposing Viewpoints](#)
- [Women in the Workplace, In Context: Opposing Viewpoints](#)
- [Women's Rights, In Context: World History](#)
- [Women's Suffrage, In Context: U.S. History](#)
- [Women's Rights Movement, In Context: U.S. History](#)
- [Japanese Women Short-Fiction Writers, Literature Resource Center](#)
- [American Women Social Activists, Nineteenth-Century: Indian Rights, Literature Resource Center](#)
- [Contemporary Lesbian Literature, Literature Resource Center](#)
- [Women and Medicine, Literature Resource Center](#)
- [Feminism in Nineteenth-Century Literature, Literature Resource Center](#)