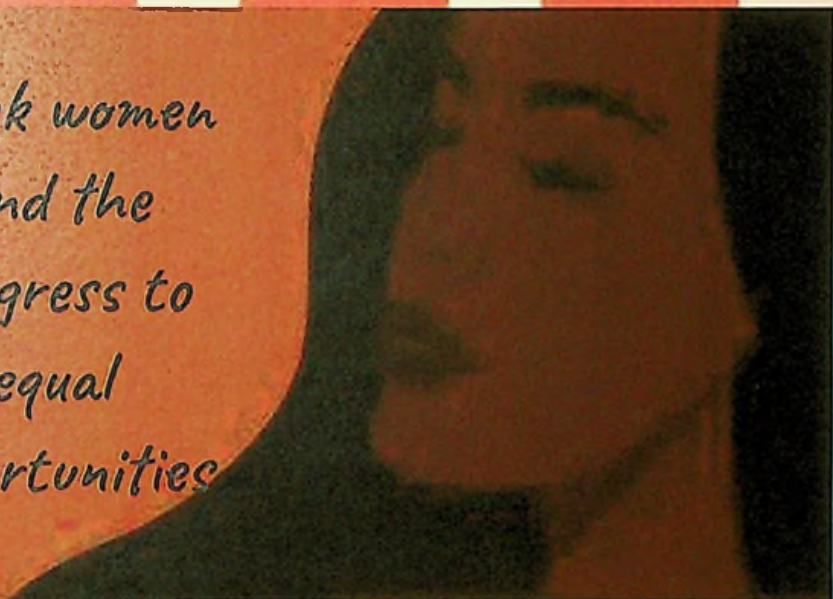




*Black women
and the
progress to
equal
opportunities*



*Eren
Palencia-Maldonado*

Introduction

Women have fought long and hard in order to get the justice that they deserve. From traditional housewives to college educated independent women, the journey has not been easy. Black women have had the same challenge from the start and fought ten times harder in order for their independence to be claimed and for their voices to be heard. Coming into the 21st century black women still struggle to be accepted whether it be by their appearance, education and social status. Black women have demonstrated the true efforts of fighting for what you believe. A battle that cannot be easily won, with their dedication, eagerness and motivation for a successful future.

From "the problem with no name" that reached all women of all social statuses and races, to voting rights for all women no matter their sexual orientation and preference. The desire to keep the peace for all women in order to unite and create a better future for generations to come. Black women have never been granted any opportunities they have taken initiative and worked hard and fought for all opportunities. With the correct motivation they have passed down through generations, young black women have the confidence of standing up for themselves and protecting themselves when no one else can.

The "double consciousness" that continues to this day whether it is straightening their natural hair in order to be considered "professional", bleaching their skin in order to live up to the image of beauty, and becoming accustomed to "American" or "white" values in order to be accepted by the community. Through this journey, many black women have lost their true identity as they seek this sense of belonging within the typical white woman. The desire to be accepted and the need to explain themselves in order to be considered valid has impacted many black women to speak out and change this norm so everyone can accept their natural skin and be beautiful without living up to this idea of "a normal woman"



Books such as "The Feminine Mystique" that was written for the middle class white woman. Once this book was published Betty Friedan discovered the uproar of impact that many women had in relations to this book. What once was considered a "problem with no name" turned out to be a shared feeling within all women. Women eager to fill this void but not knowing how and with what. Women who have struggled in many ways shape and form left without a purpose as they become bored to their typical normal life. "The Feminine Mystique" served as a motivation for women to go out and seek this happiness that they long deserved within themselves. As they are able to reach any opportunity that they desire

Girl Power



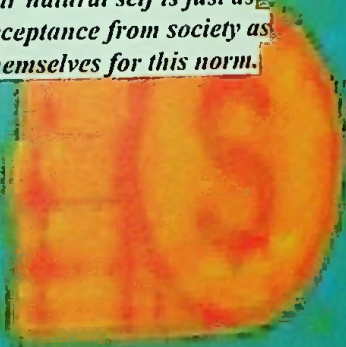
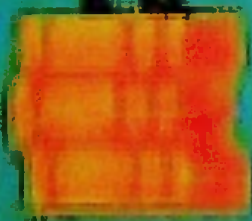


It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.

(W. E. B. Du Bois)



W.E.B. Du Bois's double consciousness relates to the struggle that many black women have had in order to be accepted in society. The need to be considered a valid woman and have this beauty image in order to be considered beautiful and appreciated. With the ideal image of "beauty" along with being considered "professional" black women have struggled to be accepted with these social norms that are in place. By having these attempts of acceptance they have lost who they are in their road to acceptance. In the 21st century, many black women have broken the norm and demonstrated that their natural self is just as beautiful as the "norm" and demand the acceptance from society as they will not be changing anything about themselves for this norm.



Women in the Civil Rights Movement

Many women played important roles in the Civil Rights Movement, from leading local civil rights organizations to serving as lawyers on school segregation lawsuits. Their efforts to lead the movement were often overshadowed by men, who still get more attention and credit for its successes in popular historical narratives and commemorations. Many women experienced gender discrimination and sexual harassment within the movement and later turned towards the feminist movement in the 1970s. The Civil Rights History Project interviews with participants in the struggle include both expressions of pride in women's achievements and also candid assessments about the difficulties they faced within the movement.

Stronger Together

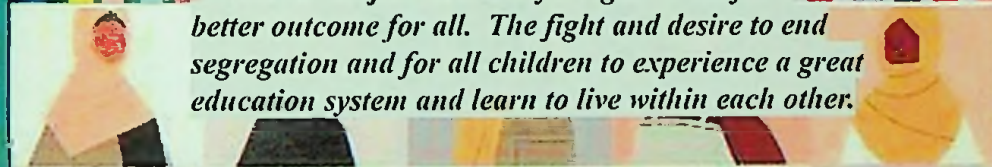
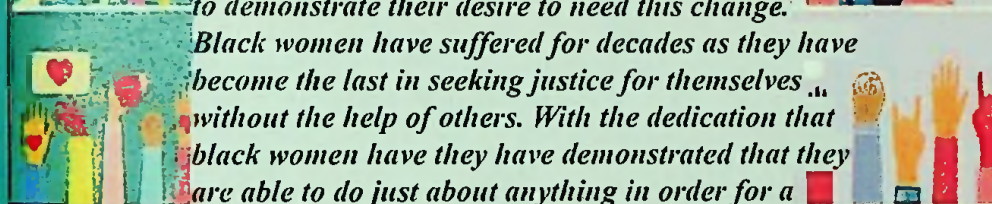


Stronger Together



During the Civil Rights Movement black women had to demonstrate their desire to need this change.

Black women have suffered for decades as they have become the last in seeking justice for themselves... without the help of others. With the dedication that black women have they have demonstrated that they are able to do just about anything in order for a better outcome for all. The fight and desire to end segregation and for all children to experience a great education system and learn to live within each other.





47:40



100 Years Later: The Complicated History Of The Women's Suffrage Movement

WE
NEED
A CHANGE

"19th Amendment and those who were left out. Black women are the high democratic voters that contribute to the Democratic Party." During the podcast, history was discussed as to how the Democratic Party depends on black women for their votes because they are highly in favor for change and advocating for rights that they have been denied in history.

During a pandemic, Michelle Obama, a leader, left a powerful message to reach all black women to encourage the expression of their right to vote

"We see black women at the forefront in the fight for the right" When discussing the powerful imagine that black women have contributed to society and how their initiative has symbolized and provided a sense of comfort. Because of their initiative black women have been looked up to and become a voice by many.

In the Red Table Talk white privilege was discussed and the opportunities that come with being white privileged along the aftermath of the College Scandal. A white young woman comes in front of three Black women to apologize to the world for being involved in the scandal while discussing the privileges that she had as a child and how it was considered normal in her neighborhood. In the interview a point that was brought across that given the take of it being a family of color there would be different consequences that would be faced.

Olivia Jade Speaks Out

"Here we are, white women coming to black women for support, when we don't get the same from them... It's bothersome to me on so many levels... the epitome of white privilege to me" Adrienne Banfield Norris, Red Table Talk

"People look at us and they say ok you're black and a female and they automatically put us in a category... Just because you have privilege it does not exempt you from" Jada Pinkett Smith, Red Table Talk

"You are a beautiful, white young women who was born into privilege." Jada Pinkett Smith, Red Table Talk

"I understand that based off of my skin color I already have my foot in the door and I was ahead of everyone else" Olivia Jade Giannulli, Red Table Talk

"I feel like a huge part of having privilege is not knowing you have privilege... The fact that you could even say those things just shows how fortunate you are, that you didn't have to worry about that " Olivia Jade Giannulli, Red Table Talk

The Combahee River Collective Statement:

Black Feminist Organizing In
The Seventies and Eighties

The Combahee River Collective
Foreword by Barbara Smith

"We have spent a great deal of energy deling into the cultural and experiential nature of our oppression out of necessity because none of these matters has ever been looked at before"

In the Combahee River Collective, black women were encouraged to fight for all rights including women in the LGBTQ+ community. After being neglected by white women for the battle of equal rights, black women took it upon themselves to fight their own battles and claim their independence to join their fight for equal rights. The inclusion that the Combahee River Collective took upon themselves has demonstrated the dedication and high desire for change.



8



In this image, you can see a group of black young women coming together in unity. Women gathered together to show their support to one another. By this image it can be seen how many black women would look to each other for support. Black women supporting black women is one of the most powerful statements and by seeing this image is supports the unity that black women have to hold within themselves in a time where they only had each other.



A social club of self-supporting young women (teachers, stenographers, bookkeepers) who have made good. This picture is eight years old. One of the group is dead, eleven are married and four are successful "bachelor maids." While the club is still intact, the original membership here presented is scattered from New England to Panama and from Georgia to Colorado.

9

Ways to get involved!

SisterLove, Inc.: Founded in 1989 and headquartered in Atlanta, this nonprofit's work focuses on improving the lives of black women through HIV/AIDS education and prevention, self-help, and safer sex techniques. The organization is the largest one of its kind in Georgia that specifically specializes in addressing the needs of black women.

The National Congress of Black Women: A well-known non-profit for black women that's main goal is to provide an educational, political, and cultural development of black women and youth through training women for leadership positions in government, non-profit, and private sectors.

National Women's Day!! August 9, 2021!
Save the date!



Bibliography

- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division, The New York Public Library. "A social club of self-supporting young women [teachers, stenographers, and bookkeepers] who have made good." New York Public Library Digital Collections. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47df-1f4d-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99> Accessed December 8, 2020.
- Friedan, Betty. 1963. *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: Norton.
- THE COMBAHEE RIVER COLLECTIVE: "The Combahee River Collective Statement," copyright © 1978 by Zillah Eisenstein.
- DuBois, W.E.B. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" (1903). In *The American Studies Anthology*, edited by Richard P. Horwitz, 240-248. Wilmington: SR Books, 2001.
- "Olivia Jade Speaks out ." Facebook, December 8, 2020. <https://www.facebook.com/redtabletalk/videos/vb.538649879867825/298151528184131/?type=2>
- "Women in the Civil Rights Movement : Articles and Essays : Civil Rights History Project : Digital Collections : Library of Congress." The Library of Congress. Accessed December 3, 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/civil-rights-history-project/articles-and-essays/women-in-the-civil-rights-movement>
- McQuilkin, Hilary, and Meghna Chakrabarti. "100 Years Later: The Complicated History Of The Women's Suffrage Movement." 100 Years Later: The Complicated History Of The Women's Suffrage Movement | On Point. WBUR, August 18, 2020. <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2020/08/18/women-vote-19th-amendment>



