

# March: Women's History Month

Underrecognized and Forgotten Great Women of History

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# Introduction There are many great women who have made very important contributions that have tremendous impact on the world we live in today. Unfortunately, they have not been given proper recognition like their male counterparts have.

# Overview This project will discuss: The theories and concepts surrounding how and why this happened Introduce some of these remarkable women Relevant communication theories and concepts Legal restrictions upon women What the result is when women's voices aren't included How we can create more gender equality How to celebrate women

# **Theories and Concepts**

### Gender

- Consists of social, psychological and cultural traits generally associated with one sex or another
- Largely learned
  - o A woman's place is in the home

### Genderism

- The belief that gender is binary and is linked to sex at birth
- Feminine traits are not valued when expressed by women
  - o Loyal, collaborative, encouraging, understanding, considerate

### **Gender and Conflict**

- Women are encouraged to avoid and suppress conflict and to sacrifice their own goals to accommodate others when conflict is unavoidable
  - $\circ\quad$  Having to become one of the guys and accept unfair treatment
  - o Many women have little experience pursuing goals during a dispute



# **Theories and Concepts**

### Sexism

- Prejudice or discrimination based on sex or gender, especially against women and girls
- A belief that one sex is superior to or more valuable than another sex

  • believing men are superior to women

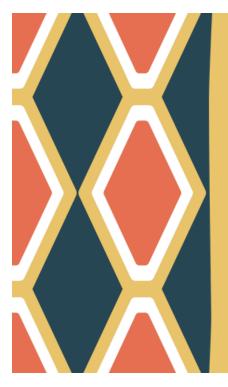
### Gender Discrimination

- Treating someone unfavorably because of that person's sex
  - A woman more qualified for a position than a man is is passed over for a promotion

### **Gender Bias**

- Unconsciously attributing certain attitudes and stereotypes to a person
  - Believing a woman is delicate just because of her gender

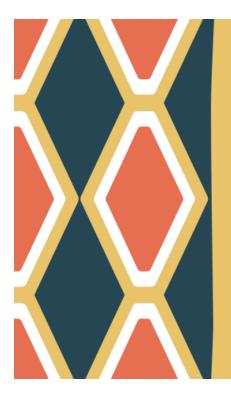




# **Legal and Gender Inequalities**

- Women could not vote until the 19th amendment was passed in
- Married women were held back by federal legislation from working through the 1930s - Black women faced fewer laws but also has fewer opportunities
- Women could not join the military until 1942
- Women could not serve on a jury in all states until 1961
- It wasn't acceptable for women to wear pants until the 1960s
- Women could not open their own bank accounts or have credit till the 1970s without their husbands permission
- Until 1963, women could legally be paid less than men





# **Legal and Gender Inequalities**

- Until 1964, women could be discriminated against in the work place by basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.
- Married women could not get a prescription for contraceptives
   until 1965
- Until 1971, private employers could refuse to hire women with small children.
- Until 1973, women could be refused early pregnancy termination procedures
- Pregnant women could be discriminate in the workplace until 1978

Source: fastcompany.com



### **Alice Coachman**

- Coachman grew up in Albany, Georgia and was a well rounded athlete who excelled in the high jump, but was kept from high-quality training because of
- segregation

  Became the 1st African American and woman from any country to win a gold medal in the 1948 Olympics in London
  The gold medal was presented to her by King
- George VI.
- When she returned home to Albany she was received by President Harry Truman In 1952, she became the first female African American athlete to endorse an international product

Source: olympic.org

"I've always believed I could do whatever I set my mind to do."





Hedy Lamarr Born - Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler "The Most Beautiful Woman in Film" 1914-2000

- Born in Vienna, Austria and stared in her first film at 17
   Lamarr was Jewish and narrowly escaped her marriage to a powerful Nazi sympathizer in 1937 and moved to
- America.

  She signed an acting contract with MGM studios in Hollywood in the 1930's and became a top actress.

  As a brilliant inventor, she and a partner developed a "Secret Communication System" in 1942 that simultaneously changed radio frequencies to prevent enemies ships from jamming torpedo signals = "frequency hopping"
  - "frequency hopping"

    This technology is the foundation of WiFi, Bluetooth, GPS and cell phones
  - The United States military never compensated her for using the technology and she was not given credit until 1997



# Jane Cooke Wright

- Wright graduated from New York Medical College in 1945 with honors while completing a three year accelerated program
   Upon completing her residency from Harlem Hospital, she worked with her father Dr. Louis Wright in the hospital's Cancer Research Foundation
- When her father passed in 1952, she became the head of the
- When her father passed in 1952, she became the head of the foundation at age 33
   In 1955, she began teaching surgical research at New York University. She also became the director of Cancer Chemotherapy Research at New York University Medical Center and at Bellevue Hospital
   She studied anti cancer agents, developed new ways to administer chemotherapy, and studied stroke and heart disease
   In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Dr. Wright to the President's Commission on Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke

  - In 1971, Dr. Jane Wright became the first woman president of the New York Cancer Society.





# Katherine Johnson 1918-2020

- Johnson was a female mathematician that did calculations of orbital mechanics at NASA
   She graduated from West Virginia University
   She received the following rewards: Presidential Medal of Freedom, Congressional Gold Medal, and NASA Group Achievement Award
   She is best known for being part of the team that had success with the first flights of U.S. crewed space flights

Source:nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography



# Shirley Chisholm

- Chisholm attended Teachers College, Columbia University (1952), and Brooklyn College (1946) She is a former vice chair of the House of Democratic
- Caucus
- She is known for being the first black woman to be elected into the U.S. congress.

  She represented New York as the 12th congressional district for 7 terms.



Source:womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/shirley-chisholm



# Marsha P. Johnson

- August 25, 1945- July 6, 1992 Johnson was an American gay activist who identified

- Johnson was an American gay activist who identified as a drag queen.
  She founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries. She was best known for advocating for gay rights and was one of figures at Stone Wall uprising of 1969.

  \*Stonewall uprising were riots begun by the gay community in response to a police raid\*
  I chose to discuss Ms. Johnson because the lgbt are still fighting for what they believe in today. I wanted to point out someone who began fighting for their rights when others were afraid.

Source: ucnj.org/mpj/about-marsha-p-johnson/

# What happens when women aren't included?

- The audience only hears one voice which does not represent them and that becomes "status quo"
- A lack of inclusion and diversity in important decisions and policy making occurs
- Gender inequality is created or widened
- Women lose control of their freedoms



# What can we do?

Small steps to an equal future

- · Include women's voices
- · Share household work with women
- · Speak up when women are being treated poorly
- · Use gender neutral words
- · Demand equal treatment at work
- · Vote!!!!
- Buy and recommend products made by women
- · Support women
- · Get involved in a cause
- · Challenge beauty standards
- · Respect others choices







# How to celebrate women - Create more recognition days for women - Include women in textbooks and school history courses - Give women more opportunities to prosper - Give women equal rights and hold those accountable who are unwilling to do so

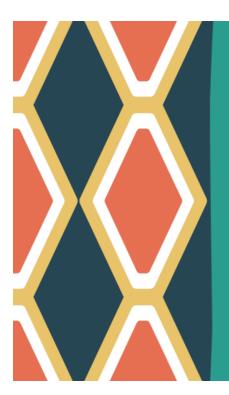
# Conclusion

Throughout this presentation we have discussed important concepts and theories that explain why many historically relevant women have been under recognised and forgotten - women who have had a large role in our world and pave the way for future generations

There are many more women beyond this short list who continue to excel inspite of the discrimination, harrassment, bias, and inequality they face each day.

Women deserve respect, support, equality and recognition.







## Resources

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## Resources

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