

Women Activists nominated by JtoJ walkers for Economic Justice

Research by JtoJ volunteer Hannah Simpson

Maya Angelou



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Maya_angelou.jpg

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."¹

Marguerite Annie Johnson was born in St Louis, Missouri in 1928. Angelou was an American author, poet, civil rights activist, actress and screenwriter, best known for her highly acclaimed memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.² The 1969 work made history as the first nonfiction bestseller written by an African American woman.³ Angelou was the author of 30 books, the recipient of over 50 honorary degrees and winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.⁴ She delivered her inaugural poem, "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in January 1993.⁵ Barack Obama described her as "one of the brightest lights of our time."⁶

¹ <https://www.goalcast.com/2017/04/03/maya-angelou-quotes-to-inspire-your-life/>

² <https://www.biography.com/writer/maya-angelou>

³ <https://www.biography.com/writer/maya-angelou>

⁴ <https://time.com/5226045/dr-maya-angelous-90th-birthday/>

⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/29/arts/maya-angelou-lyrical-witness-of-the-jim-crow-south-dies-at-86.html>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/29/arts/maya-angelou-lyrical-witness-of-the-jim-crow-south-dies-at-86.html>

Erin Pizzey



<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/02/feminism-mens-rights-activism-cancel-culture/607057/>

“Family life was and always will be the foundation of any civilization. Destroy the family and you destroy the country.”⁷

Erin Pizzey, born on 19th February 1939, is a British women’s rights activist, author and founder of the charity Chiswick Women’s Aid, later known as Refuge. The organisation is recognised as the modern world’s first refuge for women and children escaping domestic violence.⁸ Pizzey founded the first women’s refuge in 1971, helping women escape their abusive partners and providing assistance with divorce proceedings, benefits and issues of alcohol and substance abuse.⁹ Refuge remains the largest domestic violence charity in the UK.¹⁰ Pizzey was integral to the refuge movement which is considered one of the greatest achievements of second wave feminism, through its achievements of changing social attitudes towards domestic violence.¹¹

Kathleen Ferrier



<https://www.theguardian.com/music/musicblog/2016/sep/29/kathleen-ferrier-in-her-own-words-lucy-stevens>

⁷ <https://citatis.com/a37148/>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erin_Pizzey

⁹ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/02/feminism-mens-rights-activism-cancel-culture/607057/>

¹⁰ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refuge_\(United_Kingdom_charity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refuge_(United_Kingdom_charity))

¹¹ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/02/feminism-mens-rights-activism-cancel-culture/607057/>

“The greatest thing in music in my life has been to know Kathleen Ferrier and Gustav Mahler – in that order.” Conductor Bruno Walter

Kathleen Ferrier was a British singer, considered to be “the greatest lyric contralto England has ever produced.”¹² Ferrier was born on 22nd April 1912 in Lancashire, and went from working as a telephone operator during the mid-1930s, to becoming a nationally recognised singer.¹³ Ferrier had no formal music training, but was a talented pianist and musician and went on to achieve international recognition as a stage, concert and recording singer.¹⁴ After the outbreak of World War II, the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA) recruited Ferrier and she went on to perform at concerts and recitals around the UK.¹⁵ She was best known for performing great oratorio works including Elgar’s *The Dream of Gerontius* and the *Messiah*.¹⁶ Benjamin Britten wrote his opera *The Rape of Lucretia* for Ferrier. She was appointed a CBE in January 1953 but died later that year.

Barbara Castle



<https://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/news/nostalgia/non-driver-derbyshire-born-mp-1866069>
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“I will fight for what I believe in until I drop dead. And that’s what keeps you alive.”

Barbara Castle, born on 6th October 1910, was a British Labour Party politician and considered one of the most significant Labour Party politicians of the 20th century.¹⁷ She made history as the longest-serving female Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, and the only woman to serve as First Secretary of State.¹⁸ As Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity in 1968, Castle helped resolve the Ford sewing machinists’ strike after women from the Dagenham Ford Plant

¹² <https://ferrierawards.org.uk/kathleen-ferrier/>

¹³ <https://kathleenferrier.org.uk/kathleenferrier/>
<https://ferrierawards.org.uk/kathleen-ferrier/>

¹⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/15bd63ca-c6d9-430a-9779-072c5dc7396f>

¹⁵ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/music/artists/15bd63ca-c6d9-430a-9779-072c5dc7396f>

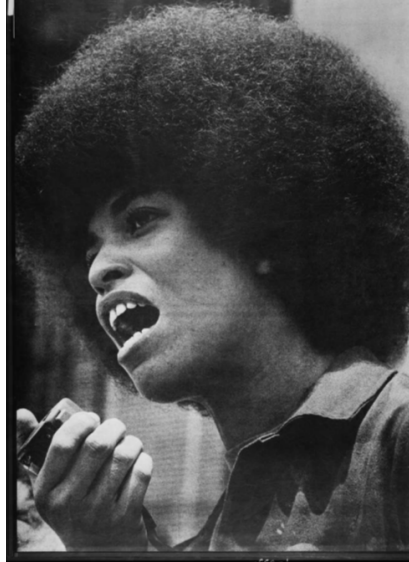
¹⁶ <https://kathleenferrier.org.uk/kathleenferrier/>

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Castle

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Castle

demanded equal wages to their male counterparts.¹⁹ Castle intervened and helped secure a payrise for the workers, before introducing the Equal Pay Act of 1970. She was granted a life peerage in 1990 and passed away in 2002.²⁰

Professor Angela Davis



<https://picryl.com/media/angela-davis-078a0a>

"I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change... I'm changing the things I cannot accept."

Angela Davis is an American activist, academic and author and is best known as a radical African American activist for civil rights and social issues. Born in Birmingham, Alabama on January 26th, 1944 during segregation, Davis became aware of the prevalence of racial discrimination in the South.²¹ As a teen, she organised interracial study groups which were disbanded by the police, and later became involved with the Black Panthers and the Communist Party. She has taught issues of race, the criminal justice system and women's rights at a variety of prestigious universities including the University of California, Berkeley.²² In 2017, Davis was made an honorary co-chair at the Women's March on Washington which followed the inauguration of President Donald Trump. In 2020, she was listed by *Time* magazine as the 1971 "Woman of the Year."²³ Davis is the author of several books including *Women, Race and Class* (1980). She is considered by Ibram X. Kendi, "a legend, as revered by my generation of millennials as she is her own."²⁴

¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford_sewing_machinists_strike_of_1968

²⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Barbara-Anne-Castle-Baroness-Castle-of-Blackburn>

²¹ <https://www.biography.com/activist/angela-davis>

²² <https://www.biography.com/activist/angela-davis>

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Davis

²⁴ <https://time.com/5793638/angela-davis-100-women-of-the-year/>

Diane Abbott MP



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Official_portrait_of_Ms_Diane_Abbott_crop_1.jpg

“White people love playing ‘divide and rule.’ We should not play their game.”

Diane Abbott, born on 27th September 1953, is a British politician who became the country’s first Black woman to be elected as Member of Parliament, and the longest-serving Black MP in the House of Commons.²⁵ Abbott has served as MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington since 1987, and Shadow Home Secretary under Jeremy Corbyn from 2016.²⁶ Abbott delivered a speech on civil liberties in 2008 during a debate on the Counter-Terrorism Bill, for which she won The *Spectator* magazine’s “Parliamentary Speech of the Year” award and recognition at the 2008 Human Rights awards.²⁷

Harriet Tubman



²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diane_Abbott

²⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diane_Abbott

²⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diane_Abbott

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Harriet_Tubman.jpg

"I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other."

Harriet Tubman was an American abolitionist and political activist of the 19th century.²⁸ Tubman was born into slavery around 1820 on a plantation in Maryland, United States. Tubman escaped the plantation in 1849, travelling 90 miles north to Pennsylvania with the help of the Underground Railroad. She subsequently established her own Underground railroad network to bring family and friends to freedom. The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act made Harriet's job of rescuing family and friends more difficult, so she led enslaved people further north to Canada, often traveling at night. It is widely reported that Tubman emancipated 300 enslaved people.²⁹ She died of pneumonia in March 1913 and is still celebrated today as a leading icon in American history.³⁰

Fannie Lou Hamer



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Fannie_Lou_Hamer_1964-08-22.jpg

"I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired."

Fannie Lou Hamer was a prominent African American political activist and one of the most powerful voices of the Civil Rights Movement.³¹ Hamer was born on October 6th, 1917 in Mississippi to sharecroppers Lou Ella and James Townsend. She grew up in poverty and aged six, joined her family picking cotton on the plantation. She became involved in the civil rights movement in 1962 as an organiser for the Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee and led volunteers to register to vote. She was devoted to this cause and gained national attention in 1964 when she co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and delivered an address at the Democratic National Convention. By 1968, Hamer achieved her vision of racial parity in delegations and served as a member of Mississippi's first integrated delegation. Later she turned her attention to economic

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet_Tubman

²⁹ <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/harriet-tubman>

³⁰ <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/harriet-tubman>

³¹ <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/fannie-lou-hamer>

injustice in Mississippi, launching the Freedom Farm Cooperative and single-handedly ensuring that 200 units of low-income housing were constructed. In 1977, Hamer died of cancer at the age of 59.³²

Ruth Bader Ginsburg



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg,_SCOTUS_photo_portrait.jpg

“Women will have achieved true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American jurist who served as the United States’ second female Supreme Court Justice. She is widely considered a legal, cultural and feminist icon.³³ Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn on March 15th, 1933.³⁴ At 17, she won a scholarship to Cornell University and went on to attend Harvard Law School where she was only one of nine women in a class of over 500.³⁵ She is recognised as the architect of the legal fight for women’s rights and gender equality when, in 1972, she served as the founding counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union’s Women’s Rights Project. She later became the first female tenured professor at Columbia Law School and contributed to numerous Supreme Court briefs on gender discrimination. During the 1970s, she argued before the Supreme Court and won five out of six cases.³⁶ In 1980, she served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and amassed a record as a centrist liberal. In

³² <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/fannie-lou-hamer>

³³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruth_Bader_Ginsburg

³⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ruth-Bader-Ginsburg>

³⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/18/100306972/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-champion-of-gender-equality-dies-at-87>

³⁶ <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/18/100306972/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-champion-of-gender-equality-dies-at-87>
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ruth-Bader-Ginsburg>

1993, President Bill Clinton nominated Ginsburg to the Supreme Court, only the second woman to secure this position.³⁷ In September 2020, Ginsburg died, aged 87.³⁸ Her death was surrounded by controversy over the decision to fill her seat on the Supreme Court only weeks prior to the 2020 Presidential Election.³⁹

Harriet Wistrich



<https://www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk/harriet-wistrich>

Harriet Wistrich, born in 1960, is a British solicitor, feminist, founder and director of the Centre for Women's Justice. Over the course of her career, she has acted in numerous high-profile cases around violence against women.⁴⁰ In 1991, Wistrich co-founded the feminist law-reform group Justice for Women which campaigned against laws discriminating against women in cases of domestic violence. In 2014, she was named Liberty's Human rights Lawyer of the Year.⁴¹

Pragna Patel



<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/pragna-patel-southall-black-sisters>

³⁷ <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/18/100306972/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-champion-of-gender-equality-dies-at-87>

³⁸ <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/18/100306972/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-champion-of-gender-equality-dies-at-87>

³⁹ <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/18/100306972/justice-ruth-bader-ginsburg-champion-of-gender-equality-dies-at-87>

⁴⁰ <https://www.centreforwomensjustice.org.uk/harriet-wistrich>

⁴¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harriet_Wistrich

“At the heart of my work is the idea that human beings are to be intrinsically valued, that we can all co-exist through mutual respect and rights.”

Pragna Patel is a British solicitor, author and founding member of Southall Black Sisters and Women Against Fundamentalism.⁴² In 1965, Patel arrived in Britain from Kenya aged five, with her mother and younger sisters to join their father in London. Southall Black Sisters was founded in 1979, during the aftermath of London’s race riots, which provides support to women escaping domestic violence and forced marriages.⁴³ Patel worked as a senior case worker and coordinator for some of Southall Black Sisters’ most important cases around domestic violence, immigration and religious fundamentalism.⁴⁴ She is also a member of Feminist Dissent and has written prolifically on issues of race, gender and religion.⁴⁵

Sheffield Women: Mary Anne Rawson and Dorothy Dixon-Barrow

Mary Anne was an early-widowed 19th century white campaigner who was against slavery and spent a lifetime fighting against it and welcomed the likes of Frederick Douglass to her home at Wincobank Hall.

Dorothy Dixon-Barrow, was a Windrush Black woman of multiple heritage who campaigned for equal rights in education, housing and law and order as well as being a member of the Sheffield Anti-Apartheid Movement.

We are also remembering

Ahlam

Ahlam is a Syrian refugee in Za'atari camp, Jordan and has lived there since 2012.

She is a community leader within the camp, and is pioneering female enterprise through the production of soap making, in workshops,

“Any woman who believes she can’t start her own business because she has no money, it takes 5JD, come to me - I will give it to you”

She shows new groups of urban refugees how building a home business can be done practically and professionally and has trained 500 other women in soap making.

And

Cecilia, Ermina, Emilia, Greta, Mona, Marian Anderson
and the late great **Nina Simone**.

⁴² <https://justice.org.uk/pragna-patel/>

⁴³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/mar/08/pragna-patel-100-women>

⁴⁴ <https://justice.org.uk/pragna-patel/>
<https://womansplaceuk.org/2020/02/03/50-years-of-womens-liberation-in-the-uk-pragna-patel/>

⁴⁵ <https://womansplaceuk.org/2020/02/03/50-years-of-womens-liberation-in-the-uk-pragna-patel/>