

A Women's Equality Day

On August 26, we celebrate Women's Equality Day. On August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was signed into law giving women the right to vote.

In 1971, New York Representative, Bella Abzug, a feminist and civil rights advocate, known as "Battling Bella" in her many hats, introduced a Congressional Resolution that the United States Congress designate August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." It took two years before Congress passed the resolution commemorating the passage of the 19th Amendment.

The Joint Resolution of Congress, 1971 Designating August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day.

"WHEREAS, the women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex; and WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the certification of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights: and WHEREAS, the women of United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26th of each year is designated as Women's Equality Day, and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place."

At the first Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 the members called for a broad list of women's rights: the right to education, economic rights, the right to a good job, the right to own property, and the right to vote. The fight for these rights began long before the convention and continue today along with reproductive rights, equal pay, closing the pay gap and freedom from sexual abuse and violence. The Resolution focuses on women's continued fight toward full equality.

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." — Malala Yousafzai

"Women will only have true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation." — Ruth Bader Ginsburg

"I do not wish women to have power over men; but over themselves." — Mary Shelley

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." — Audre Lorde

"In the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders." — Sheryl Sandberg

"When there are no ceilings, the sky's the limit." — Hillary Clinton

"You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it." — Margaret Thatcher

By Marge Massarello. League of Women Voters - Oak Park River Forest

Thank you to...

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Kathryn Kattalia, *Women's Equality Day Quotes*

