



Womxn's Equality Walk

Presented by | WOMXN + AT SPLUNK

Celebrate Women's History Month with Womxn + at Splunk

The Womxn's Equality Walk was inspired by the theme of the 2020 International Women's Day, #eachforequal. Each milestone represents a historically significant event for human rights for a variety of communities. This exhibit celebrates points in history where equal rights were achieved while also calling attention to the discrimination and institutional barriers that womxn and minoritized groups have faced and continue to endure.

Note: These events were selected by a committee of volunteers and are not meant to be a comprehensive or final list of significant points in our history. In fact, **this timeline is expanded online and is meant to evolve and grow over time through community participation.**

Recognized as one of the first female gynecologists, Agnodice is said to have courageously practiced medicine in Greece when women faced the death penalty for doing so. Eventually caught, she was vindicated and allowed to continue when patients came to her defense.

400 BC

Queen Seondeok of Silla reigned as Queen Regnant of Silla, one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea, from 632 to 647. She was Silla's 27th ruler and its first reigning queen. She was the second female sovereign in recorded East Asian history and encouraged a renaissance in thought, literature, and the arts.

632 BC

After Columbus landed in the Americas, Queen Isabella of Spain declared all indigenous peoples her subjects, in the lands claimed by Columbus for Spain. The Spanish then enslaved indigenous peoples of the Caribbean, who were almost entirely killed by diseases only a few decades after the Spanish arrived.

1492

Tan Yunxian (谈允贤) was a physician during the Ming Dynasty. As she wasn't permitted to treat men, she specialized in women's health and was one of the first Chinese doctors to take gynecology and obstetrics seriously. Tan Yunxian wrote and released a book about her medical practice called "Miscellaneous Records of a Female Doctor" this year in an age when most women weren't allowed to go to primary school.

1511

A ship carrying abducted Africans arrived at Point Comfort, in the British colony of Virginia. About 20 African people were sold into slavery to white colonists. By British law, Africans could be held in servitude for life, though white indentured servants could only be held for a limited term.

1619





Gabriela Silang, a fearless Ilocana warrior, is the first Pilipina to lead an uprising against a foreign power this year during Spanish colonization of the Philippines.

1763

All new U.S. states pass laws which take away women's right to vote.

In July, suffragists met in Seneca Falls, New York, to advocate for the right of white women to vote in the U.S. Participants were middle and upper-class white women, white male supporters, and one African-American man, Frederick Douglass. He had forged a strong working relationship with fellow abolitionists and white women suffragists, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. No Black women attended the convention. None were invited.

1777

1848



Sojourner Truth began her anti-slavery activism in 1843. Her most famous speech, "Ain't I a Woman?," was given this year at a women's rights convention in Ohio. Sojourner Truth addressed the ways in which she was oppressed as both a woman and a Black woman, which remains a core tenet of interlocking systems of oppression today.

1851

Susan B. Anthony casts her first vote to test whether the 14th Amendment would be interpreted broadly to guarantee white women the right to vote. She is convicted of "unlawful voting."

1872



The Chinese Exclusion Act prevented Chinese laborers from immigrating to the U.S. and excluded Chinese nationals from eligibility for U.S. citizenship. This is the first act in American history to place broad restrictions on immigrants by ethnicity and first immigration law that excluded an entire ethnic group. Because of the way marriage was regulated through immigration law, the act had distinctly harsh consequences for Chinese women. Women who were American citizens by birth lost citizenship due to this act and a later 1907 law that stated “any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband.”

The act was amended in 1924 to prevent immigration from other Asian nations to the U.S. These laws were in effect until being repealed in 1943.

1882

Harriet Tubman made her first trip back to the South to help members of her family to freedom; she made a total of 19 trips back to help enslaved people escape.

When Tubman first reached Philadelphia, she was, under the law of the time, a free woman, but passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 made her a wanted fugitive again. All citizens were obligated to aid in her recapture, so she had to operate quietly. But she soon became known throughout abolitionist circles and freedmen's communities.

After the Fugitive Slave Act passed, Tubman began guiding her Underground Railroad passengers to Canada, where they could be truly free.



1851

New Zealand's most celebrated suffragist, Kate Sheppard along with fellow campaigners presented a "monster" petition to Parliament demanding women's suffrage with nearly 32,000 signatures, an instrumental move that led to New Zealand becoming the first self-governing country to grant national voting rights to women this year.

All adult women in South Australia, including Indigenous women, won the right to vote.

1893

1895


Major Wanda Gertz von Schliess is born in Warsaw this year. She began her military career in the Polish Legion during World War I, dressed as a man and using pseudonym of "Kazimierz 'Kazik' Żuchowicz". She served during WWI, Polish-Soviet War, and WWII, and won Poland's highest military honors.



1896

By this year, every U.S. state had passed legislation granting married white women the right to keep their own wages and to own property in their own name.

1900





Marie Skłodowska Curie wins part of the Nobel Prize in Physics for her pioneering work in studying radiation. She is the first woman to win the Nobel Prize. In 1911 she wins a *another* Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry, for the discovery of polonium and radium. She remains the only person in history to win two Nobel prizes in different scientific fields of study.

A quote from Dr. Curie's article in Wikipedia:
"To attain her scientific achievements, she had to overcome barriers, in both her native and her adoptive country, that were placed in her way because she was a woman. This aspect of her life and career is highlighted in Françoise Giroud's Marie Curie: A Life, which emphasizes Curie's role as a feminist precursor."

1903

Concepción Felix founded the Asociación Feminista Filipina (Feminist Association of the Philippines) as a volunteer social reform group aimed at acquiring prison and labor reform for women and children. The organization implemented campaigns in schools and factories, supported lectures on health and hygiene and campaigned for inclusion of women on local boards of education and municipal committees.

Recognizing that women did not have a legal identity, Felix gained the backing of a group of male doctors who incorporated one of the first non-profit organizations in the country, La Protección de la Infancia, Inc. Through the organization in 1907, Felix founded La Gota de Leche, the first organization aimed solely at the welfare of mothers and children.

1905

Selma Lagerlöf wins the Nobel Prize. She is the first female writer awarded in Literature and the first woman to appear on Swedish banknote.

A pioneering Japanese editor, writer and political activist, Raichō Hiratsuka co-founded her country's first all-women run literary journal Seitō, through which she challenged women's traditional roles at home. In the magazine's inaugural issue, she emboldens women to "reveal the genius hidden within us!"

1909

1911

In South Africa, Charlotte Maxeke started the first formal women's organization, called the Bantu Women's League. She also worked with Nontsizi Mngqwele to advance Black women's rights.

1918

The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, ensuring the right of white women to vote.



1920

Swedish women's suffrage was introduced, with women being formally awarded equal rights as male citizens in Sweden.

Women in England, Wales and Scotland received the vote on the same terms as men (over the age of 21) as a result of the Representation of the People Act 1928.

1921

1928

In France, women were granted the right to vote on April 21 by General de Gaulle, the head of the Provisional Government.

1944

The 1946 Constitution of Japan (Nihon Koku Kenpo) formally adopted human rights, with a provision on “fundamental human rights” in Article 11. It also provides for women suffrage and the separation of state powers as a principle of democratic Japanese government.

The right to vote in federal elections was extended to Indigenous people who had served in the armed forces, or were enrolled to vote in state elections. Indigenous people in Queensland, Western Australia, and the Northern Territory still could not vote in their own state/territory elections.

1946

1949

In Topeka, Kansas, Linda Brown's father sued the school board because she had to travel by bus to a school for African-American children when she could walk to the segregated school for white children only. This would become the *Brown v. Board of Education* landmark civil rights case, which held that the racial segregation of children in public schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

1951



Doria Shafik catalyzed a women's rights movement in Egypt this year when she along with 1,500 women stormed parliament demanding full political rights, pay equality and reforms to personal status laws. These efforts, along with countless others to come, helped pave the way to women's right to vote in 1956.

1951

Ruby Bridges integrated
an all-white elementary school
in New Orleans, Louisiana.

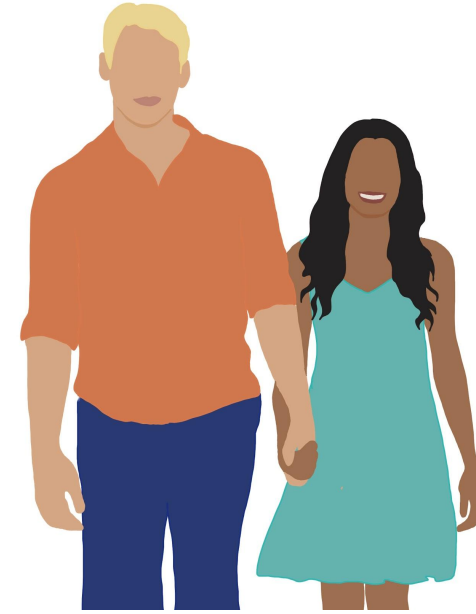
1960



Joan Baez, a Chicana singer who helped bring Bob Dylan recognition, declined to play any segregated venues; she only played at Black colleges when touring the South.

1965

In the case of Loving v. Virginia, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that laws prohibiting interracial marriage were unconstitutional, voiding statutes still on the books in 16 states.



1967

The 1967 Constitutional Referendum recognised Indigenous Australians as citizens, and they were included in the census. A 90% affirmative vote approved the constitutional amendment, passed by both Houses of Parliament unanimously.

1967



On October 21, hundreds of women marched through the streets of Tokyo, an occasion that is often referred to as the birth of the women's liberation movement in Japan. The movement, called ūman libu (women's lib) in Japanese, was eventually adopted by women who embraced the concept of feminism, striving to define, establish and achieve political, economic, cultural, personal and social rights for women.

1970

The London Gay Liberation Front organised the first UK Gay Pride march in London. The march ran from Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park with around 1,000 people marching through the capital.

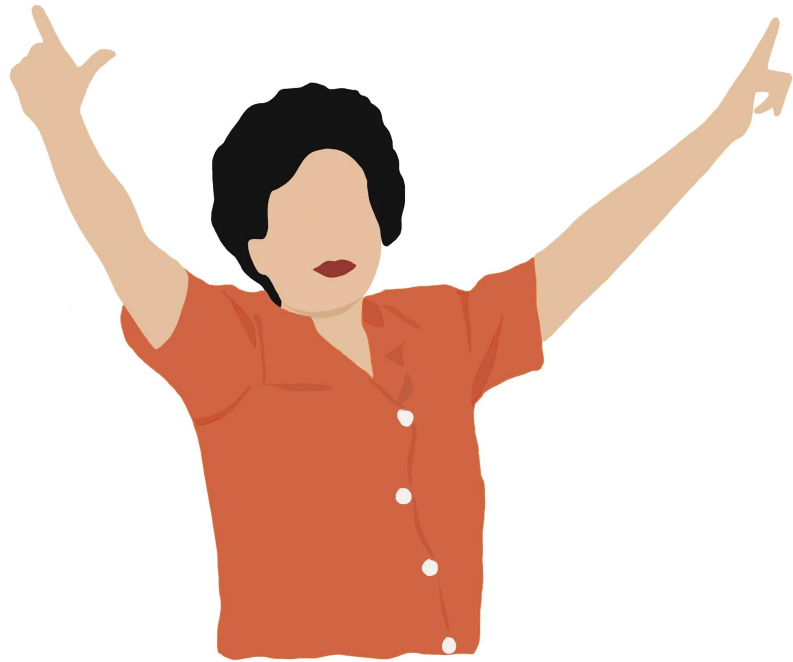
Margaret Thatcher is elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, becoming Europe's first female elected head of state.

1972

1976

China introduced the "one child policy" this year, initiated to curtail China's rapid population growth. Due to the cultural stigma of having female children, the stringent policy led to millions of female infants being aborted, abandoned, or killed. As China struggles with population control, families are faced with the necessity of bearing male children, who are perceived as being more valuable to the family and who are often charged with the care of their elderly parents. This is just one example of the codification of a long and broad cultural preference for boys, stretching from millennia before 1979 and broadly beyond China, including male primogeniture laws in Europe.

1979



Maria Corazon Aquino becomes the first female President of the Philippines and the first female president in Asia.

1986

In April, the Japanese Equal Employment Opportunity Law went into effect. This law prohibits gender discrimination with respect to vocational training, fringe benefits, retirement and dismissal, and urges firms to try to equalize opportunity with regard to recruitment, hiring, job assignment, and promotion.



1986 |

The Danish were the first to grant same-sex unions almost the exact same rights as marriages, with its Registered Partnerships Act of 1989. However, the law stopped short of calling same-sex unions "marriages," and couples could not be married in the Danish state church or adopt a child.

1989

Dr. Antonia C. Novello is the first Latina woman to be appointed US Surgeon General. She was appointed by President George H. Bush.



1990

In October, while the Senate Judiciary Committee was deliberating over the final vote on U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas, Anita Hill stepped forward with accusations of sexual harassment against him. The committee held three days of investigative hearings but voted to send the Thomas nomination to the full Senate. Thomas was confirmed. 27 years later, Professor Christine Blasey Ford's hearings on Brett Kavanaugh parallels Anita Hill's battle. Kavanaugh was sworn in in October 2018.

1991

As a plaintiff, Unity Dow won a historic case enabling women married to non-citizens the right to confer nationality to their children. Later, as Botswana's first female High Court judge, she gained international acclaim on a case that allowed Botswana's San people to return to their ancestral homelands.

The 1996 Constitution of South Africa formally recognized all South African women as equal citizens. Sections 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the Bill of Rights specifically refer to women as equals and establish the basis of how women are to be treated.

1992

1996

Jenny Shipley is elected Prime Minister of New Zealand and becomes the first female head of state in Australasia.

1997



Halle Berry becomes the first Black woman to win the Oscar for Best Actress. Denzel Washington becomes the second black man to win the Oscar for Best Actor. Today, Halle Berry remains the only Black woman to have won Best Actress at the Academy Awards.



2002

Paving the way for more women to secure financial freedom and security, Maria Victoria Torres became the first person in Chilean history to file for divorce , beginning a new era for this heavily Roman Catholic country that had been the last in South America with no divorce law

“[this is] a window that opens to look at a new life with dignity, without fear.”

...“This law will allow me to recover my dignity and my freedom in a legitimate manner,” Torres told The Associated Press..

2004

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf becomes
President of Liberia, the first female
elected head of state in Africa.

2006



Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is appointed the first woman head of the African Union.

2012

Sweden's Feminist Initiative became the first feminist political party to win a mandate in the European Parliament, discussing feminism from a decisively anti-racist perspective.

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan became the first openly transgender person to work as a White House staffer, when President Barack Obama hired her as the Outreach and Recruitment Director. In 2016, she became the first transgender person to hold the role of White House primary LGBT liaison.

2014

2015

Ireland becomes the first country in the world to legalise same sex marriage through popular vote, meaning a marriage between two people of the same sex will have the same status under the Irish constitution as a marriage between a man and a woman.



2015

The U.S. Congress has a record number of women, with 104 female House members and 21 female Senators, including the chamber's first Latina, Nevada Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. In 2018, Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk Nation) and Deb Haaland (Pueblo of Laguna) became the first Native American women elected to Congress. Senator Davids identifies as a lesbian, making her the first openly LGBT member of Congress from Kansas.

19 percent of the Chinese national civic service jobs posted this year still included requirements such as “men only,” “men preferred,” or “suitable for men.”

2017

2018

In May, Japan passed the first national law that encourages political parties to field an equal number of male and female political candidates during elections.

2018



In South Africa, the Labour Laws Amendment Bill is signed into law in November. The law allows same-sex couples and adoptive and surrogate parents to take parental leave, and grants fathers at least 10 days paternity leave when a child is born or when an adoption order is granted.

2018

Same-sex marriage in Taiwan became legal on May 24. This made Taiwan the first nation in Asia to perform same-sex marriage. Though same-sex marriage is legalized, there are still limitations for same-sex couples, including adoption.

2019



Starting 2020 on a high note, Greece made history when citizens elected Katerina Sakellaropoulou in January as their first female president.

Sakellaropoulou is known for her leadership within the environmental law society, as well as a refugee rights advocate. Sakellaropoulou's appointment came on the heels of criticism about the lack of women represented in Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' cabinet.

2020



COVID-19

Early cases of COVID-19 were detected and spreading in China in January, initiating a Global pandemic that would dramatically impact the rest of the year. Throughout the rest of Winter and Early Spring, coronavirus continued to spread globally, prompting global stay at home orders and shut downs. Global responses varied and made massive impacts on collective public health, the economy, and geopolitical tensions.

First responder and medical professionals start to mobilize globally to support community and national public health and safety measures.

With the novel Coronavirus occurring in China, xenophobic, racist threats and attacks increase globally amongst those of Asian decent.

2020

COVID-19

As 2020 continues, women continued to make up the majority of essential workers, including 77% of health care workers, in addition to taking on much of the unpaid caregiving and domestic work at home, which is amplified with children home from school due to social distancing.

Among women who do remain at home, some may experience unsafe conditions due to domestic violence. Although domestic violence impacts women from all ethnicities, there may be additional challenges for women of color, especially immigrant and undocumented women, who may face limited resources, language barriers, and fear of deportation.



2020

COVID-19

At the intersection of ethnicity and gender, women of color are especially vulnerable to the impact of the pandemic as a result of historical structural inequities and discrimination. Women of color face the compounded harms and challenges associated with both their gender and ethnicity

- Women, especially women of color, are more likely than men to live in poverty, increasing food insecurity risks at a time when both grocery stores and food banks are experiencing shortages.
- Women of color are also overrepresented in some of the industries experiencing the biggest job losses due to COVID-19, such as child care and hospitality



2020

Despite its challenges, 2020 also saw some celebratory moments for womxn in politics.

- New Zealand sees its most diverse cabinet with the appointment of Jacinda Ardern in October 2020. The cabinet includes many firsts such as Priyanca Radhakrishnan who became the first Indian-origin Minister in New Zealand and Nanaia Mahuta of Maori ethnicity who became the first indigenous female foreign minister of the country.
- A record number of Native American women were elected to United States Congress in November with New Mexico Reps. Deb Haaland and Yvette Herrell, as well as Kansas Rep. Sharice Davids
- Sarah McBride has won her Delaware state Senate race, becoming the first and only openly transgender state senator in the U.S. and the country's highest-ranking transgender official.



2020

Kamala Harris is elected to be female Vice President in the United States of America. Celebrating many firsts, Harris also represents the first Black and South Asian official to hold the VP title. Kamala, who was recently named as the Time Person of the Year along with Joe Biden, said,

“I may be the first, but I will not be the last. It’s on those of us leading the way to leave the door more open than it was when we walked in.”



2020

The Economy

Women accounted for 100% of the 140,000 jobs shed by the U.S. economy in December 2020. Individual men also lost work in December, but as a group, American men gained 16,000 jobs while American women lost 156,000.

Unsurprisingly, this burden is not being borne equally among women. White women, like men, gained jobs in December; meanwhile, 154,000 Black women left the labor force that month.

A household survey in Mumbai, India found that while three-quarters of men said their jobs had been adversely affected by the crisis, the proportion among women was 89%. And whereas most men have now either returned to old jobs or found new ones, joblessness among women appears to have lingered... in 2019 some 9.7% of adult women in Indian cities considered themselves part of the labour force. That number dropped to 7.4% during the lockdown last spring, but disturbingly seems to have sunk still lower by November, to just 6.9%.

2020

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