**Why March is National Women’s History Month**

As recently as the 1970s, women’s history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a “Women’s History Week” celebration for 1978. The week March 8th, International Women’s Day, was chosen as the focal point of the observance.

Each year, the dates of National Women’s History Week, (the week of March 8th) changed and every year a new lobbying effort was needed. Yearly, a national effort that included thousands of individuals and hundreds of educational and women’s organizations was spearheaded by the National Women’s History Alliance.

**National Women’s History Month**  
 By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women’s History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rational to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women’s History Month. In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women’s History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

# **2021 Women’s History Theme**

The theme for 2021 National Women’s History Month captures the spirit of these challenging times: **Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced.**

Since most 2020 women’s suffrage centennial celebrations were curtailed, the National Women’s History Alliance is extending the celebration into 2021, and expanding on the [**2020 Theme**](https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/2020-theme/). The National Women’s History Alliance is determined that the important roles of multicultural suffragists and voting rights activists continue to be recognized and honored. We refuse to allow their voices to be silenced, even by a pandemic. These deepen our understanding and shine a brilliant new light on local women’s political involvement, development, and leadership. Despite tremendous opposition, they refused to be silenced.

**Resources**

<https://www.cliohistory.org/click/classroom/lesson-plans>

https://www.cliohistory.org/click/

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

# <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/womens-history-month/womens-history-month-history/>

 New 2021 – CTA – **Women’s Rights Committee (WRC)**

* Members are appointed by CTA President
* Members were referred by CTA Directors (Margie Granado is a member)
* Their responsibility is to identify issues and concerns that impact CTA female members and work with CTA Leadership to address these issues. They advocate on behalf of CTA female members directly to CTA.
* There is currently no flyer or documentation outlining this committee.
* The first member meeting I attended was held in January at the Issues Conference.
* The second meeting was held during the Equity and Human Rights Conference.

1. **Take Over Tuesdays, Women’s History Month’s meetings.**

**SAVE the DATE:** March 9 and March 23, 4 p.m.

**No flyer is available yet**

1. **CTA Women's Rights Committee Feedback Survey**

The Women’s Rights Committee seeks to promote women’s involvement and role in the labor movement, women’s history, and women’s rights.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXFdYosDH-2Aii_jWU1kgUTCP4Fs9ZV3Mdp4eFVcwowMPFow/viewform>

(*This survey is an opportunity to respond to this new committee. You are welcome to respond and for conference click “Equity and Human Rights Conference” or if you have attended one of the other conferences but missed meeting with them click what best describes that conference.)*