

Early Efforts

In 1788, the US Constitution was ratified and required states to write their own election laws. The states that previously allowed women the right to vote immediately revoked that right except for New Jersey. In 1807, New Jersey restricted voting to only white males.

July 1848-Seneca Falls Convention



The first women's rights convention was organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Martha Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and Jane Hunt.

One of the major influences on the Convention organizers was the status of women in the League of Five Nations or Haudenosaunee Confederacy - a group of 5 Indian tribes in what is now New York. Founded in 1450, women were equal in all rights including selecting the chief, deciding when to go to war and controlling land.

The *Declaration of Sentiments* was adopted during the Convention, which included resolutions demanding equal rights for women in many areas. The most controversial topic was giving women the right to vote. Sixty eight women and thirty two men signed the document out of the three hundred attending the Convention.

After the release of the Declaration, the idea of voting rights for women was mocked in the press. One editorial called the Convention, "the most shocking and unnatural incident ever recorded in the history of womanity."

Womens Rights Convention

A convention to discuss the social civil and religious condition and rights of Women, will be held in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Seneca Falls N.Y. on Wednesday and Thursday the 19th and 20th of July current commencing at 10 o'clock A.M. During the first day, the meeting will be exclusively of Women, which all are earnestly invited to attend. The public generally are invited to be present on the second day, when Lucretia Mott of Philadelphia and others both ladies and gentlemen, will address the Convention.

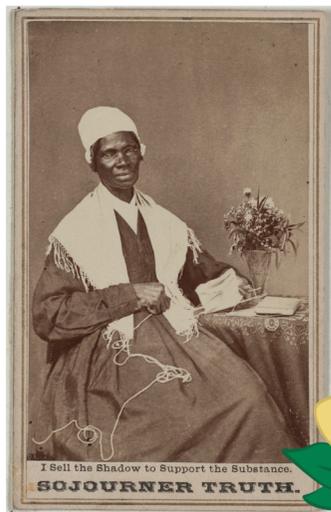
Many of the Suffragists were active in the movement to end slavery. In addition, many African American women and men also supported the suffrage movement. Frederick Douglass, formerly enslaved who became famous for his anti-slavery writings, also signed the Declaration of Sentiments at the Seneca Falls Convention.

1849-Harriet Tubman

1851-Sojourner Truth



She escaped enslavement, became active in the underground railroad and advocated for women's suffrage.



She defended women's rights and "negroes' rights" at a women's convention in Akron, Ohio.

