

GLOSSARY

A

Abolitionist - person who worked for the legal termination of slavery in the United States

Activism – a doctrine or practice of vigorous action to achieve political or social goals

Advocate – a person who speaks or writes in support of a cause

Affirmative Action - an active form of nondiscrimination in employment

American Association of University Women (AAUW) – an organization that looks out for the welfare of college women

American Stock Exchange - the organization that facilitates the buying and selling of a company's publicly held shares

American Woman Suffrage Association (AWSA) – worked for suffrage on a state-by-state basis

Anthropologist – a person who studies humankind – it origins, development, etc.

Apprenticeship – a person who works for another in order to learn a trade

Archives – a place where materials of public or historical importance are stored.

B

Boston Women's Health Collective – an organization that focuses solely on women's health concerns

Boycott – to abstain from dealing with or buying, as a means of protest or coercion

Brown v. Board of Education – litigation that led to integrated classrooms

Burlesque – a stage show featuring bawdy comedy

C

Camp Followers – groups of women who provided domestic services to soldiers during the Civil War/American Revolution

Civic Minded – concerned with the citizenry

Civil Rights – the rights to personal liberty and to legal, economic, and social equality, established by amendments to the U.S. Constitution and by certain Congressional acts.

Class – a group belonging together through common attributes or traits

Comstock Laws - a set of laws that made it illegal to publicly disseminate information deemed obscene

Connecticut Civil Liberties Union (CCLU) branch of an organization formed to protect and advocate for civil rights

Consciousness Raising – a discussion technique used to raise awareness about social issues

Constitutional Amendments

-14th levied a punishment against states that interfered with the voting rights of male citizens

-15th guaranteed the right to vote regardless of race

-19th granted women the right to vote

Corsets – a close fitting stiffened undergarment worn to shape and support the torso

Coverture – term used to describe the ownership of a woman's property by her husband

Culture – the ways of living built up by a human group and transmitted to succeeding generations

D

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) – group of American women formed to implement patriotic goals

Daughters of Liberty – groups of women that worked together to further the Patriot goals of the American Revolution

Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions – a document that specifically names the rights of women, modeled after the Bill of Rights

Discrimination – to make a distinction on the basis of a prejudice

Division of Labor – the separation of responsibilities between women and men based on institutionalized strengths and weaknesses

Domestic Sphere – refers to the area of concern for women, mainly in the home or related to those homemaking skills

Dress Reform – a movement toward improving the practicality of women’s clothing

E

Edenton Tea Party- one of the first collective political actions among women in America

Entrepreneur – a person who organizes and manages an enterprise, usually at considerable risk

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) – organization concerned with workplace discrimination

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) – a proposed amendment to the constitution prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex

Equality – being the same as another in quality, degree, value, number, or quantity

Equity – fair or impartial

F

Family Planning – a system whereby women gain knowledge and use of contraceptives

Feminine Mystique, The – a book, largely concerned with women’s discontent in America, written by Betty Friedan, that helped spark the modern Women’s Movement

Feminism – A philosophy that seeks to enfranchise women in all aspects of a social system

G

Game Preserve – an area set aside for the protection of its animal inhabitants

Gender – the “cultural meaning” (sociological implications) of one’s sex

Godey’s Lady’s Book – a mid-nineteenth century magazine that represented middle class norms for women

Grassroots Campaign – political movement by an ordinary group of citizens

Great Awakening – a movement toward the importance of spiritual life

Griswold v. Connecticut – court case that led to freer access to birth control

H

Herland – a utopian novel by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Hospice Care – humane care of the terminally ill

Hull House – a Chicago settlement house

I

Industrialist – a person who owns or manages an industrial enterprise

International Women’s Day – March 8th, a day set aside to recognize women throughout the world

L

Labor Union – an organization of workers for mutual aid and protection

League of Women Voters – an organization that advocates for women’s active use of the elective franchise

M

Medicine Woman – a healer, especially Native American

Midwife – a person who assists women in childbirth

Ms. Magazine - a 20th century magazine focused on women’s issues

Multiculturalism – a combination of many cultures

N

National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) – suffrage organization that combined the National Woman Suffrage Association and the American Woman Suffrage Association

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) – an organization that works for the civil rights of black Americans

National Association of Colored Women (NACW) – an organization formed to work for the rights of black American women

National Female Anti Slavery Society – group of American women working collectively to end slavery

National Organization for Women (NOW) – an organization dedicated to women’s rights

National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA) – worked for women’s suffrage on a national level

National Woman’s Party (NWP) – group led by Alice Paul that worked for equal rights for women

Naturalist – a person who studies natural history, or adheres to the tenets of naturalism

O

Oppression – the exercise of power or authority in a cruel or unjust way

Oral History – a spoken chronicle of events

Our Bodies Our Selves – a publication by the Boston Women’s Health Collective concerned solely with female health and welfare

P

Patriarchy – an institution or organization in which the males hold power

Pay Equity – fairness in wages paid for work

Philanthropy – altruistic concern for human beings manifested by donations to institutions advancing human welfare

Pioneer – one who is among the earliest in any field of inquiry, enterprise etc.

Planned Parenthood – an organization that advocates for family planning

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women – a commission established to track the progress of women’s enfranchisement in society

Property Rights – the right to own property, one that historically was denied women

Protective Legislation – laws that protect, but may also limit one’s options

Public Sphere – that area of concern that relates to men

R

Reformer – a person devoted to bringing about change esp. in politics/government

Republican Motherhood – held the belief that raising fine sons was a patriotic duty

Roe v. Wade – court case that led to legalized abortion

Rosie the Riveter – government led propaganda campaign to lead women into the workforce during World War I, while men were in military service

S

Sacagawea – A Native American girl credited with successfully guiding the Lewis and Clark expedition

Salem Witch Trials – A 17th century set of Witchcraft accusations that served to control those outside the social norms of the day

Sedition –incitement of discontent or rebellion against a government

Seneca Falls Convention – America’s landmark women’s rights convention

Separate Spheres – distinct separation between public and private domain

Settlement Houses – communities that helped establish people in their lives, esp. women

Stereotype – a preconceived idea

Suffrage Movement – the movement that worked to get women the right to vote

T

Temperance Movement – a movement that worked toward total abstinence from alcohol

Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972 – grants gender equity in educational settings, such as athletics

Triangle Shirtwaist Factory – a garment factory in New York, where a tragic fire led to industrial safety reform

U

Underground Railroad – an informal system of transporting runaway slaves seeking freedom

Utopian Society – a visionary system of political or social perfection

V

Vaudeville – a form of popular entertainment having a program of separate and varied acts

W

Wage Gap – the difference in pay between two groups

Welfare – assistance given to those in need; public relief

Witchcraft – that practice of magic; historically a form of social control

Woman's Bible – written by Susan B. Anthony, an American women's suffrage pioneer

Women's Auxiliary Army Corp (WAAC)– U.S. Army unit created during World War II to enable women to serve in non-combat positions

Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES)– military unit established in 1942 as the U.S. Navy Corp of female members

Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) – a group of women that worked to promote abstinence from alcohol as a patriotic action

Women's Studies – a course of study that incorporates women's lives into the existing body of knowledge

Women v. Connecticut – court case that led to legalized abortion in Connecticut