

Discover!

National Museum of American History

Fighting for Our Rights:

A Girls' Guide to Making a Difference

Throughout our history, women have stood up, spoken out, and come together to change the country. You can find the amazing objects that follow—yes, they're the real thing—all over the National Museum of American History.

Postcard > *The National Woman Suffrage Parade, 1913, 1 Center*

In 1913 most women weren't allowed to vote in the United States. Five thousand brave women marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to demand suffrage—the right to vote. Some men in the crowd watching the parade yelled, cursed, jeered, and tried to intimidate them, but the women marched on! **Have you ever marched for something you believe in?**



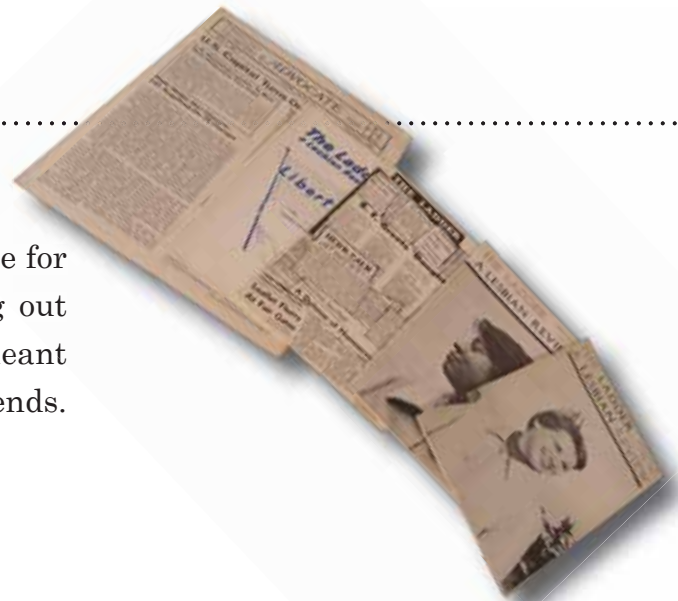
Alice Paul's ERA Bracelet > *American Stories, 2 East*

Alice Paul was one of the organizers of the 1913 suffrage march. She also wrote the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923. Her bracelet has a charm for each state that voted to ratify her amendment. **Is your state on the bracelet? Do you think we need an Equal Rights Amendment?**

The Ladder > *American Stories, 2 East*

When *The Ladder* was first published in 1956, a magazine for lesbians was unheard of. This was a time when coming out of the closet or standing up for the LGBT community meant risking your reputation, your job, even your family and friends.

Have you ever taken a stand for equality?





Silver Presentation Cup > *American Stories, 2 East*

The 19th Amendment finally gave women the right to vote in all elections in 1920. Susan B. Anthony worked tirelessly for more than 50 years to win the vote. She didn't live long enough to see the victory, but she was given this loving cup on her 80th birthday by a suffrage group in Colorado. **What cause might you dedicate your life to?**

Caldwell Parlor > *Within These Walls..., 2 West*

While you might use your family room for hanging out with friends, Lucy Caldwell used hers to hold meetings for women who opposed slavery. In a time when women were not elected to political office, Lucy was one of many women influencing politics by taking a stance on abolition. **Have you ever been a part of a political movement?**



Betty Ford's State Dinner Dress > *The First Ladies, 3 Center*

First Lady Betty Ford was a supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, which called for men and women to be treated the same under the law. Although Congress passed the ERA, not enough states voted to ratify the amendment, so it never became a part of our constitution. **Why do you think the Equal Rights Amendment never passed?**

To learn more about suffrage, please visit these museum websites, keyword "suffrage":

americanhistory.si.edu
historyexplorer.si.edu
npg.si.edu
sewallbelmont.org
dar.org/museum



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