



**INSPIRING
WOMEN
WHO HAVE CHANGED
THE WORLD**

**IES Valdebernardo
(Madrid)**

This project is focused on a selection of some of the most influential women in the Contemporary Age. Along with them, the main characters of this book are the bilingual 4th ESO students of the IES Valdebernardo. With the support of their English and History teachers, they have researched and analyzed information with the goal of taking on the roles of these powerful ladies who have shown us that nothing is impossible.

Read and listen carefully to these testimonies and share their achievements with others. Take them as examples and starting points for all the girls who are now thinking about their futures, because we all need their dreams to come true.

Elena Moreno, Berta Almudena García y Rubén López

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Amelia Earhart

Carlos Palmeiro and Lucía Pelado



I am Amelia Earhart, I was born in Kansas, United States on July 24th 1898 and disappeared somewhere in the Pacific Ocean on July 2nd 1937.

I was a famous aviator for my flight marks, such as being the first woman in crossing the Atlantic Ocean or the first traveling from North America to Hawaii successfully. I also attempted the first air travel around the world over the equator.

My birth and the origin of modern aviation coincided in time. Aviation received a great boost at the beginning of the 20th century due to the Great War, in which planes began to be used with military purposes on the part of both sides. At the end of this conflict, there were great technological advances related to it and flights of great relevance such as the first transatlantic flight or the first air circumnavigation would be made.

In these same years, movements in defense of women's rights began to emerge, demanding more rights and equality. Specially the

reclamation of universal suffrage, which required all women to vote like men, which in the United States would be achieved in 1920, when I was 22 years old.

Throughout my life I have had a few difficulties. When I was a child, my family suffered several misfortunes: my grandmother died, my father fell into alcoholism and he was fired from his job. This would cause that, together with my mother and my sister, I went to live in another city without

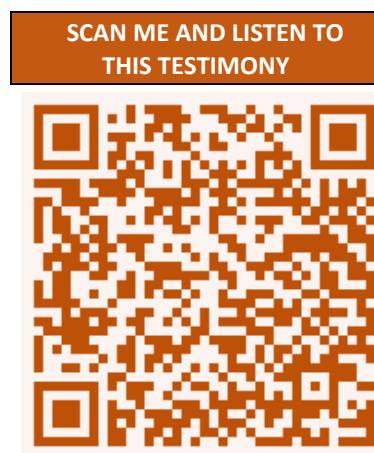
him. Then I also had problems in my early days as an aviator, since many people, especially my instructor Neta Snook, did not give me much credibility as a pilot.

Despite all this, I managed to obtain different achievements. The first was the one I got when I was 30 years old, which was being the first woman to cross the Atlantic by plane. Then in 1934 I made the first successful flight between North America and Hawaii. Also, promote aviation among women and organize air races for women throughout the country and founded the organization Las ninety-nine together with other pilots.

One of the last letters that I sent was to my friend George before disappearing in my attempt at global circumnavigation, I said this: "Please know that I am aware of the dangers, I want to do it because I want to. Women should try to do things like men have done. When they fail their attempts they must be a challenge to others".

By this I mean that you must assume the risks of your actions when you do them with pleasure and that on many occasions, being women, you will have to expose yourself more than men to show that you are capable of fulfilling your wishes.

“Decide whether or not the goal is worth the risks involved. If it is, stop worrying.”



Anne Frank

Paula Carrillo and Miguel Benito

Hello, I am Annelies Marie Frank, better known as Anne Frank, and I am about to tell you the story of my life. I was born on June 12th 1929 in a Jewish family in Frankfurt. I was German, Dutch and I hadn't had a nationality since 1941. When I moved to Amsterdam, I did not know how to speak Dutch, so I attended public school in a Montessori school. I always wanted to be a writer, but my short life did not let me achieve it.

Nevertheless, during the 2 years that I was hidden from the Nazis, I wrote a diary that I received as a birthday present, so my dream came true in a certain way. Me and my family were arrested by the Gestapo in August 1944.

Later, my whole family was transported to concentration camps. In October or November 1944, me and my sister, Margot, were transferred from Auschwitz to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. I died in February or March 1945, aged 15 in Bergen-Belsen due to the typhus epidemic.

My life was marked by the Interwar Period and the Second World War. During this time, Germany had a terrible crisis and became a dictatorship with Adolf Hitler as leader. When he invaded Poland, World War II broke out and Jews and other people, considered undesirable, were imprisoned and murdered in Nazi concentration camps and extermination camps. In May 1940, Germany invaded the Netherlands, and the



occupation government began to persecute Jews through the implementation of restrictive and discriminatory laws; mandatory registration and segregation soon followed.

Women in this age were not in their best time, but, surprisingly, World War II helped them to have more work and obtain the functions that men had at that time. Women took over factory jobs as men were fighting in Europe and Asia. The Second World War also allowed the incorporation of women into the Armed Forces. Besides being nurses, they worked in communications and in the assembly of war machines. Women played roles that were considered only for males, as pilots, spies and laborers and those who stayed in the allied countries went to work and took the jobs left by men.

I experienced several problems throughout my life but, to begin with, I lived in the time of the Second World War, and that in itself was a problem. But to make matters worse, I was of Jewish descent, and that affected me, and my entire family.

During the time I was in hiding, I kept a journal. It was an accurate and well-written record of everything I experienced with my family while we were hiding. I had one wish, and it was to be a writer. It was written in my diary and when my father received it, after I had died, he managed to publish it.

My father took the diary to a historian, who tried to publish it, without success. She then passed it on to her husband, who wrote an article about the book in the Het Parool newspaper. His article attracted the attention of the editors and the Journal was published in the Netherlands in 1947 by the publisher Contact of Amsterdam.

The truth is, my life was very hard, and I would have liked to have lived longer and not have spent two years of my life locked up. So the advice that I give you is that you should live every day as if it were your last one and value everything you have because you don't know when you can lose it.

“I keep my ideals, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO THIS
TESTIMONY



Benazir Bhutto

Carmen Robles and Carlos Adrian Vasile

Hello, I am Benazir Bhutto, a Pakistani woman. I was born in Pakistan the 21st of June of 1953 and I died in Rawalpindi, the 27 of December of 2007. I am a social democratic Pakistani politician who led the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), a center-left political party affiliated with the Socialist International.

To have achieve all this, I had to work very hard because, after the military coup by General Muhammad Zia ul-Haq, my dad Zulfikar Alí Bhutto, the president of the Republic of Pakistan, was removed from office, sentenced to death and executed. All this political situation in which the country was, made that my political ideas weren't "correct" at that time, that I suffered house arrest and that I was forced to leave the country.

My family always remained me that men and women were equal in aptitudes and possibilities but, nevertheless, it wasn't easy to be woman and president at the same time. That is why I have always cared and manifested for women's rights. During election campaigns, my political party expressed concern for the health and social issues of Pakistani women and wanted to abolish the laws that restricted our rights. But, once in power, I never carried out these promises of improving the living conditions of women because of the pressure exerted by opposition parties and the oppression that I received.



As I have said before, I have never had it easy. I was arrested and exiled in 1984 and, two years later, I returned to Pakistan. In 1988 I was elected Prime Minister, but, the opposition of the religious parties, who didn't want a woman to be the head of the Government, ended my mandate. In 1990 I was removed from office and accused of corruption, despotism and political inefficiency. In 1993, after a year deported in Karachi, I was re-elected to be the Prime Minister of Pakistan. But, in the following years, I was sentenced to prison for corruption and I exiled in the United Arab Emirates where I was sentenced for three years. In October 2007, I returned to Pakistan and presented to the candidature of 2008 election. However, two weeks before the election date, a suicidal teenager on a motorcycle killed me during a political meeting on the 27 of December of 2007 by a shot in the head and in the neck.

Anyway, I have never given up. I fought against the Pakistani military regime and became the first female leader in the Muslim world that was elected Prime Minister of the Republic of Pakistan. Also, I have led Pakistan twice because I was re-elected Prime Minister.

All in all, I hope in some years this pressure exerted by the right-wing religious parties will disappear, and that future generations see women as an equal and will not die like the thousands of Muslim women murdered at the hands of those who have power over them.

*“You can imprison someone, but not an idea.
You can exile someone, but not an idea. You can
kill someone, but not an idea.”*

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Camille Claudel

Inés Zarza and Enrique Rodríguez



My name is Camille Anastasia Kendal Maria Nicola Claudel. I was born on December 8th 1864 in Aisne, France and died on October 19th 1943 in Vaucluse, France.

I was a French sculptor known for my figurative works in bronze and marble.

I was born to be a sculptor. From a very young age, I enjoyed modelling clay and I could already see my ability to reflect the faces of my beloved ones in that material. But my family did not like it at all, they only saw me as a future wife (as it was common in those times).

At the age of 17, I was admitted to a Parisian Art Academy and suddenly Auguste Rodin, the legendary sculptor, realized I was really talented, so he entered into my life as an earthquake. Initially he took me as his apprentice, but gradually I became his muse and love. Nevertheless, our relationship was complex because he was married and he did not want to leave his wife. What initially was a mystic union with the greatest artist of my times, became a

toxic relationship. I always worked in my mentor's shadow and though my talent was equivalent to his, nobody recognized it. Moreover, I was a woman, which reduced my opportunities. In fact, women did not have the same rights as men during the first decades of the 20th century and our skills were not recognised. In fact, our work and art pieces were not very valued.

The huge male chauvinism there was when I lived made me the subject of unfortunate comments that questioned my artistic ability and made me the object of criticism for giving the impression I was taking advantage of my closeness to Rodin. Maybe my biggest mistake was to love him with all my soul, but I also hated him for receiving all the public recognition from our common projects, as well as the constant commissions and praise. He always left me behind as his simple student and lover.

This situation made me leave Rodin and become obsessed with him and my work. Some people said I ended up going crazy, but I was deeply depressed. For this reason I was forced to enter a sordid psychiatric hospital with the official diagnosis of "persecution mania and delusions of grandeur." I was there for 30 years till I died with no visitors. I didn't do any piece of work while I stayed there.

Nowadays my figure has been revived and many critics highlight the naturalism of my works, which presented traits of impressionism and symbolism, always looking for emotions. I translated to the marble and bronze an exquisite drama thanks to a perfect mastery of techniques and my enormous sensitivity. My most notable works were Sakuntala, The Waltz and The Mature Age.

Nowadays in the south east of Paris, in the region of Champagne, my masterpieces are exhibited at a museum located over a three- floor house in order to reflect the light in my sculptures and appreciate the details perfectly.

I would like to tell all women that they should not feel inferior to men because we can do the same things as them or even better. I felt angry when people of my time thought that Rodin was better than me just because he was a man. People may not recognise this, but in the end, they will understand it.

“I tolerate my faults but not at all other people's.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Clara Campoamor

Noa Martin and Javier de Miguel

Hello, my name is Clara Campoamor Rodríguez, I was born on February 12th 1888 in Madrid (Spain) and I died in exile on April 30th 1972 in Lausana (Switzerland). I was a Spanish politician and feminist who fought for the achievement of women's rights and suffrage during the drafting of the Spanish constitution of 1931.

I was the daughter of the seamstress María Pilar Rodríguez and the accountant Manuel Campoamor. I had two brothers, although unfortunately only one of them survived and was called Ignacio. After my father's early death, I had to contribute to the family economy, so when I was only

ten years old, I had to leave school and began working. Dressmaker, clerk or telephone operator were some of the professions I performed. In later years, I even carried out new jobs. One of them was the secretary of a newspaper director, Salvador Cánovas Cervantes, in La Tribuna. Thanks to this position, I became interested in politics.

For this reason, I began a bachelor's degree in 1920. Once I finished, I took a law school entrance exam and entered at the Complutense University of Madrid to study Laws. I graduated in 1924. After this, when I was 36 years old I held legal practice.

I collaborated with the Socialist Liberal Group and made famous the motto "Republic! Always a republic!". These years, I gave several conferences at the University, the Women's Association and at the Academy of Jurisprudence. I worked hard and orientated my struggles through the



achievement of eradicating gender discrimination, achieve equality and take care of extramarital children and divorces.

When the Second Republic was implemented on April 14th 1931, I was elected deputy of Madrid constituency by the Radical Party. Here I became famous due to my fight for universal suffrage. I wanted to make it universal for both men and women, granted women this right. Not all the deputies agreed with it, so there were several debates in Cortes. On October 1st 1931, after a debate against Victoria Kent (contrary to the female vote), my proposal was supported and the article 36 of the Constitution was approved (161 votes in favor and 121 against) giving women the right to vote. This right became effective in the 1933 elections, where women could freely choose their representatives.

Returning to the debate in the courts, not all the deputies agreed with me, many of them argued that women were not yet ready to vote, although they deserved that right. The courts assured that women were very influenced by the Church and would vote for the right. In fact, after the elections of 1933 I could not renew my seat in the Congress due to the victory of the right parties.

Moreover, the equality achieved in the Second Republic between men and women did not last long. In July 1936 the Civil War broke out and the rights of citizens, especially those of women, were affected. I fled from Madrid and went into exile to France and although I wanted to return to Spain in the late 1940s, it was impossible due to the false accusation I received, which linked me to Freemasonry. For this reason, I decided to stay in exile.

Before saying goodbye, I would like to say some words. As the fighter I was, I would like to encourage all future generations not to stop fighting for their rights because without struggle there is no reward. Thanks to people like me, today women have more rights. Do not give up and continue fighting so that your future generations will thank you as well. STRUGGLE!

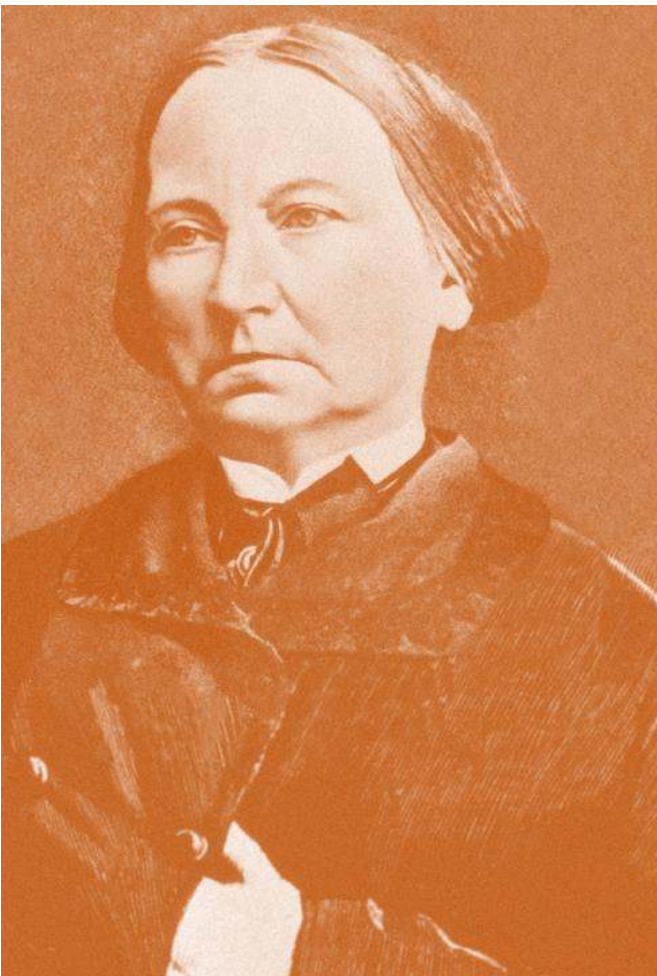
“La mujer no se resigna, se rebela, se revuelve siempre, y cuando todo parece perdido, cree en lo inesperado, cree en el milagro. Digámoslo concretamente: cree en sí misma.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO THIS
TESTIMONY



Concepción Arenal

Alba Casas and Abel Fábula



Hi, my name is Concepción Arenal. I was born on January 31st 1820 in Ferrol (A Coruña, Spain) and died on February 4th 1893 due to a chronic bronchitis in Vigo.

I was a Spanish thinker, journalist, poet and drama author in literary realism. I was considered a pioneer in Spanish feminism.

My father was a soldier who was imprisoned for his liberal ideas and died in jail in 1829, when I was only 9 years old. That year, I moved with my mother and my two sisters to Armano (Cantabria), to my grandmother's house, where I received a strong religious education. Some months later, my sister Luisa passed away and after some years, with the help of my relative Antonio Tenreiro-Montenegro and Caveda (second count of Vigo), I moved to Madrid so as to study at a school for young ladies.

I always obtained very good marks, so when I grew up I was encouraged to keep on with my education, becoming the first woman in Spain to attend University. To do so, I was forced to dress as a man while attending classes.

Later on, in 1848, I graduated in Law School at the Central University (nowadays the Complutense University of Madrid) and married Fernando García Carrasco, with whom I had three children.

My preparation led me to be appointed inspector of women's prisons in 1864, becoming the first woman to receive the title of visitor of women's prisons, where I denounced the situation of women at prisons.

During my birth, the reign of Fernando VII (1814-1833) took place, in which he tried to impose an absolutist government. Nevertheless, there were some liberal attempts to change the Spanish

politics, economy and society. The king died in 1833 and María Christina received the regency until 1840. In addition, the First Carlist War happened and I worked with the Red Cross helping the injured. When I got married in 1848, Narváez dictatorship began and when my husband died in 1857, Alfonso XII was born. In 1871 I was appointed Secretary General of the Red Cross in Madrid. The tram was inaugurated in Madrid and the new king, Amadeo I, arrived in Spain.

At the time, women were considered inferior to men in intelligence and ability. Women could not vote, hold elective public office or attend colleges or universities; these rights were reserved to men. If we wanted divorce, we had to prove physical abuse or adultery. This injustice made me guide most of my efforts to fight for women's rights.

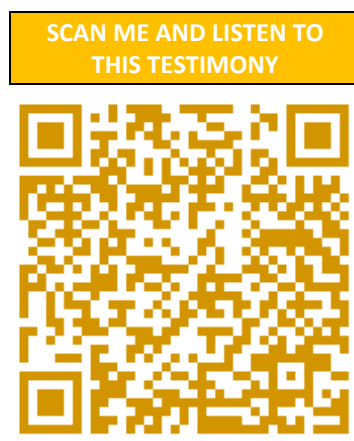
My feminist ideas led me to write "The Woman of the Future", where I criticized the theories that defended the inferiority of women based on biological reasons. I also defended women's free access to any level of education. Also, in other works I exposed the difference in salaries between men and women.

I hated the view of women as wives and mothers. For this reason, I encouraged all women (single, married or widowed) to claim for their rights. Dignity does not depend on gender, and the right to have a job should be the same for every human being. I also collaborated closely in the newspaper Iberia, a liberal and progressive political newspaper.

In addition, I collaborated in the Red Cross and in feminist groups and charitable organizations. In 1860, I published the essay "Charity and Philanthropy", for which I was awarded by the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences. I published the book hiding my true identity using the name of my son. The Academy discovered my falsification, but finally, for the merits of the work, I received the award. Moreover, "My Ode to Slavery" (1866) was awarded by the Abolitionist Society of Madrid and I was named Secretary General of the Red Cross in Madrid.

As you can see, I managed to overcome many obstacles and difficulties in a male-chauvinist society and yet I was also recognized for some of my works. I wish the women to come will make greater achievements and progress in feminism in order to have a better life.

"Open schools and prisons will be closed"



Emilia Pardo Bazán

Olivia Robles and Andrés Rodríguez



Hello, my name is Emilia Pardo Bazán de la Rúa-Figueroa, but you can just call me Emilia Pardo Bazán or Pardo-Bazán, that is how I am known.

I was born on September 16th 1851 in La Coruña, and I died on May 12th 1921 in Madrid.

I was a Spanish noblewoman and novelist, feminist, journalist, poet, translator, editor, professor, lecturer and more things. My passion was always literature and writing, that led me to write my first stories when I was only nine years old.

During my life several important historical events arose in Spain. The Third Carlist War took place when I was 21 years old. Then the First Republic was established in Spain and in 1875 Alfonso XII was appointed king of Spain, so the restoration of the Bourbons took place. There

was also the Regency of María Cristina when he tragically died. Two more important events that took place were the foundation of the CNT (National Confederation of Labour) and internationally, the arrival of the First World War.

In my days, women did not have lots of rights and we received scarcely or none education since we were not allowed to go to university or study secondary school. But I can say that I was privileged. My parents were Earls, so I could receive a good education. In fact, I declined to obey

laws that confined women to studying music and home economics only. My dad was liberal and he favored my literary vocation. He also supported feminism, so I can say I was also privileged in that way because he always transmitted to me the idea that men and women were equal, and that women should have the same rights as men.

Although I can say that I had a good education and not a bad life, I confronted problems all women suffered during that time just because of being a woman. I could not go to university because it was forbidden for women as I said before. Another problem that I had was that my husband did not want me to dedicate myself seriously to literature so I separated from him.

I am proud of what I achieved throughout my life, I presented for first time feminist ideas into the literature of my era, I introduced naturalism to Spain and I was one of the most important female writers in Spain.

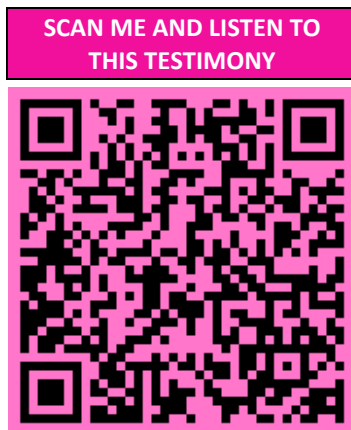
I opposed publicly against the education received by Spanish women, who constantly emphasized ideals such as passivity, loyalty and submission to their husbands. My works: "Los Pazos de Ulloa", "La Tribuna" and "La madre naturaleza" are one of my most recognized works and the ones that have had the most fame. I also was the first woman to preside over the literature section of the Ateneo of Madrid.

I consider myself a powerful woman who did not stop fighting until it was able to do the things I always dreamed to achieve. I was the owner of my fate and that is what really mattered to me.

I would say and request future generations not to stop fighting for equal rights, not to stop believing in an equal world. As you know my views on women's educational rights had a great impact in society, so I hope you share them and continue what I began.

I would like to encourage you to fight for a feminist society where women and men are equal. And I would also ask you to never lose a literary spirit, and never give up as I showed during my life.

"The education of women cannot be called such education, but training, since obedience, passivity and submission are its final goals."



Emmeline Pankhurst

Nuria Yugo, César Moliner and Manish Raj



I, Emmeline Pankhurst, was born in England on 15th July 1858. All my life I had been an activist for women voting rights. I drew my last breath my last breath at the age of 69 on 14th June 1928.

I was a British political activist, and I fought vigorously all my life to achieve the right to vote for women. I will be best remembered for organizing the UK suffragette movement at the early age of 14. Times magazine named me as one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century. I not only influenced UK policies towards women but also left my footprint across the Atlantic in the USA. Women in the USA took inspiration from my movement and fought for their right to equality. I shook society into a new pattern from which there could be no going back. I was widely criticized for my militant tactics, but my work is recognized as a crucial element in achieving women's suffrage all around the world.

To understand my legacy, you have to go back to Europe in the 19th century, where even though the Napoleonic Civil Code was unanimously considered a masterpiece of liberal legislative art

but hardly gave any rights and liberty to women.

The gender order that emerged in the late eighteenth century defined male and female roles by linking them to specific spaces of action. Women were excluded from institutionalized politics, the sciences, and the army, while a family law inscribed within the

civil code made them subordinate to men. The revolutions of the nineteenth century challenged these inequalities. The various demands of women in 1848 – the right to vote, complete university studies, or visiting a café in the evening without male company – demonstrate to what extent they were aware of the inherent contradiction in the bourgeois and liberal conception of liberty and equality.

In collaboration with the Women's Franchise League, we created our own association, men didn't want to take account of our votes, since most of the participants were married and it was supposed that our husbands “voted for us”.

Our association was considered radical since we also supported access to divorce and inheritance for women. The most conservative males named us “the association of the splinters”, and insisted on the idea of our association being a threat to civilization, ridiculing us and making us split a year later.

In case you want me to state my achievement, I can say only one thing, equal rights to everyone regardless of their gender. This idea led to voting rights for women in 1918.

If there is something to be learnt, is that we should not take anything for granted and to make society better and equitable, we need to understand each other better and stand up and fight for all the downtrodden people in society.

“We are here, not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Indira Gandhi

Daniela Barahona and Alejandro López

My name is Indira Priyadarshini Gandhi I was born in Nueva Delhi, India on November 19th 1917 and I died on October 31st 1984. I was the first woman to achieve the Prime Minister position in India, between 1966 to 1977 and 1980 until my death.

I lived in a convulsive historic period marked by the pacific revolutionary movement led by Mahatma Gandhi (*who doesn't have any relation with me*), which resulted in the independence of India in 1947. My father, Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the first prime minister of India (1947-64) introduced me to politics when I was very little, lending me the possibility of starting my own political career. I became part of the Indian National Congress (Gandhi's and my father's political party) achieving the position of *prime minister* (1966-1977) due to the death of my predecessor, the



people in high positions and leaders of the different parties decided the need of a passive ruler, they would soon realize that I wasn't passive at all.

During my whole life I have been promoting the idea of all being equal and not treating women as an economic source of income. When I started my political life I participated in a lot of women organisations, wishing to lead all the people in my beloved India to an egalitarian society as Joan

of Arc did in France. Also, I was involved in the promotion of the *Congress Parties Women's Section* because I thought that I had the duty to create a better country.

My mother and little brother died when I was very young and my father was so involved in politics during his 17 years of candidacy that he didn't have time to spend with me. I also felt that I didn't have the ability to combine my personal life with my political career and being treated by the whole society like if I wasn't capable of achieving my objectives.

Among my most outstanding achievements is the process of facilitating the Green Revolution that consisted of improving the rural conditions of India with new methods because it was the main source of income for the country. I also helped in the signing of the Shimla Agreement (1972) that stated the recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan; this marked the end of the Indo-Pakistan War. Moreover, I conceived the creation of a nuclear bomb nicknamed the "*Smiling Buddha*" to show the power of the Indian Nation; it was the first confirmed nuclear weapon detonated outside a country of the *United Nations Security Council*. During my period in the government we sent the first Indian into space in collaboration with the Soviet Union. Among my most rejected actions is Operation Blue Star which was one of the most prominent operations of the Indian army, it consisted of the capture of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala leader of the Sikhs. This operation finally ended with my death at the hands of my two Sikh bodyguards. I was also declared woman of the millenium by Times Magazine.

What I wish for the next generations is a state of equality between men and women reached in society, increasing the number of powerful women in the world. Also, the universal peace and the evolution of humanity respecting each other as if we were the "same Nation".

“The power to question is the basis of all human progress.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO THIS TESTIMONY



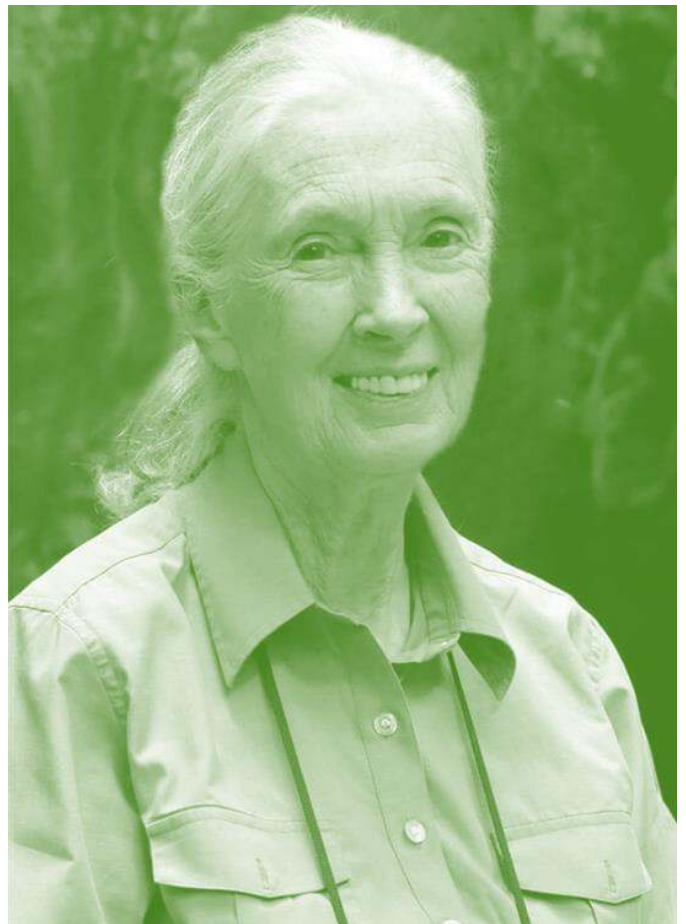
Jane Goodall

Mónica Ortiz and Mario Rojas

My name is Valerie Jane Morris-Goodall and I was born on April 3rd 1934, in Hampstead, London. I am an anthropologist and primatologist, known for my 60-year study of chimpanzees since I went to Tanzania in 1960. I am the founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots and Shoots programme. During my whole life I have worked on conservation and animal welfare issues. And I am also a member of the World Future Council and named a United Messenger of Peace and part of the board of the Nonhuman Rights Project.

New technologies did not exist when I was little, so I spent my free time interacting with animals in nature, taking notes on their behaviours, and I wanted to go to Africa to learn more, but I could not because of the Second World War. As I was very young, I do not remember well all the details of this war, but I remember stories of people who had been killed and later I realized the existence of concentration camps. I wanted to go to the coast but it was not possible because of the wires that surrounded it. Going to the city was not possible either because of potential bombings by the Germans. It was not until I grew up that I realized the existence of the whole Holocaust.

The situation of women changed a lot from my childhood to my adult life. When I was a child the women's main role in society was to take care of the family. Women were expected to be caring mothers, hard-working housekeepers and obedient wives; less than 2% could go to university. Being a woman was difficult because we had less opportunities, society underestimated us, but I managed to show my potential and to find several jobs. Initially, I left school when I was 18 and I worked as a secretary and as a film production assistant until I gained passage to Africa. There I worked with the paleontologist and anthropologist Louis Leakey. When I came to Cambridge in



1962 to explain my discoveries, I was not well received by academics. Finally, they recognized me with a PhD.

As regards the participation of women in political decisions, women were allowed to vote long after men and we had not the same liberties, in movement, for example. In 1960 I was able to go to study the primates at the Gombe Stream National Park (Kenya) but the chief mayor asked as a condition that my mother accompanied me.

I had a lot of problems and failed many times in my research. The primates did not allow themselves to be observed since we were many humans around them. I had a hard time convincing them to let me approach the group myself. Furthermore, both my mother and I caught malaria.

During my life I have received many recognition and awards, related to my studies and initiatives, such as the Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement or the Bambi Award. Moreover, I have been married twice. My first husband was a Dutch nobleman, wildlife photographer, and I had a son with him. We finally divorced after ten years of marriage. My second husband, called Dereck Bryceson, died from cancer.

I became a vegetarian after reading about intensive farming, not knowing what the animals actually went through. Since then, when I look at a piece of meat, I can only see fear, pain and death. I encourage people to become vegetarian because of ethical, environmental and health reasons.

I am fighting for animal rights to be internationally recognized because I love them and they do not have the laws and rights they need. The fines for those who harm them should be harder.

I want you, the future generation, to look after our planet. Each one of us has an impact on the planet every day and we can choose to make a positive impact on it or at least reduce the negative impact. Currently my program called "Roots and Shoots" is aimed at young people who are dedicated to protecting the population of chimpanzees and the environment. All of us can move towards a sustainable planet.

*“Every individual matters.
Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference.”*

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Katharine Graham

Esther Olivares and Pablo Vallauré



Hi, I'm Katharine Graham and I am about to tell you the story of my life. More specifically, I want to share with you everything I had to overcome to make my dreams come true. Hopefully, if you are listening to this tape, it means that society has changed a little bit.

I was born on June 16th 1917 in New York, USA. I was born into a wealthy family composed by my father Eugene Meyer, my mother Agnes E. Meyer, and my sister, Florence Meyer. My vocation began when my father bought a newspaper called The Washington Post on a sale in 1933, which was on the brink of bankruptcy. This newspaper was published in Washington, so we moved there.

The contact with this newspaper since my childhood obsessed me and made me take the degree of Journalism in 1934 at the Chicago University. I graduated in 1938 and after a short period in San Francisco, I returned to Washington and joined The Washington Post.

Then I fell in love with Philip Graham, a lawyer who graduated from Harvard, and one year later I married him. We had a daughter called Lally Graham and a son called Donald E. Graham.

After two years working in The Washington Post, my father transferred 70% of my income to my husband. The reason my father gave me was: *"No man should be in a position to work for his wife"*. Later I had to retire to take care of my children, so my husband took over the company. After a while, my husband suffered a chronic depression in the late 50s and he finally killed himself in 1963 at his cottage. This tragedy marked my life and made me realize I needed to take the lead of my family, so I returned to the newspaper and achieved the charge of director. This made me one of the most powerful women in the USA and the first female publisher of a major American newspaper.

This made me popular, because around the 1950s we, women, still did not have the right to work in workshops or industries if we were married. They could not even sign an employment contract, get a driver license, request a passport and open a bank account without the authorization of our husband.

I was the face of a change and I supported women's protests, such as the sexist discrimination some journalists denounced against *The Newsweek* in 1970.

During my middle year, *The Newsweek* and *The Washington Post* published the so-called *Pentagon papers* in 1971, which obtained information regarding a secret study of the war against Vietnam that was elaborated by the government. Moreover, I also supported the journalists Carl Barnstain and Bob Woodward in this investigation regarding the Watergate case. Here we made public the break-in of republican spies in the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Washington, D.C. (Watergate Office Building). Although President Nixon denounced our newspaper, the Supreme Court dropped the charges forcing Nixon to resign in August 1974.

These professional achievements and many more details regarding my private life appeared explained in depth in my memoir, "Personal History", which made me win the Pulitzer Prize in 1998.

I would like to finish this tape leaving a message to future generations. I hope you have understood my life and the outcome that women can also change History. I encourage future female generations to be yourself and fight for your dreams until you have made them true.

Thank you very much for listening, Katharine.

“Once, power was considered a masculine attribute. Nevertheless, power has no gender.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Marie Curie

Alicia Rica and Théo Puche

7th November 1867

I am Bronisława Boguska, I live in Warsaw. Today I have had a daughter, Maria Salomea Sklodowska. She's an angel, direct descendant of God. This diary is the first gift Maria has received.

1878

Dear diary, my name is Maria. This is the first time I write in my diary because my mother forced me to write on it.

Today I am very sad. My granny died a few days ago. She was the best person in the world! I am going to miss her a lot.

1880

This morning my mother took me to the supermarket, but the whole city is occupied by Russian troops, so we had to go to a local market nearby because last week, one of the Russian soldiers kicked one of our neighbours, Janina. She was very scared and had serious injuries. So mum didn't want me to see things like that.

1882

Yesterday I went to the University of Warsaw, to see if they had accepted me for studying in it. They rejected me! MISERABLE! Just because I am a woman, I don't understand it. It isn't fair, I have better marks than almost every boy my age!

Later that same year:



Some months later, after they rejected me from the university, I looked for other options and I found an institution called the “Floating University” in which they admitted women. The only disadvantage is that... Well it is clandestine. It is called “Floating” because the classes are given in different places for the Russians not to catch us.

1890

These last few years I’ve been working as a teacher for children of Warsaw. I was paid for it, but very little. I am saving the money for future plans I have in mind.

Later that same year:

Last week my older sister, Bronya, asked me for some money to pay for her medicine studies in Paris, France. At that moment we made an agreement that consisted of paying each other’s studies. The rich people call this the “Ladies Pact”.

1891

This week my sister announced to me that she had earned enough money for me to go and study with her at the University of Paris. I’m so happy! I think I am going to attend physics, chemistry and mathematics degrees.

1894

This afternoon, while I was walking around the university, I met a very kind and clever guy. His name is Pierre, Pierre Curie. We had been talking and he solved a doubt I had about physics. Did you know he is a physics teacher and he is doing an investigation on radioactivity?

26th July 1895

Today has been a fantastic day! Pierre and I got married. Finally!

This morning I woke up early. I went to my sister’s house, and we went together to the florist to see if everything was going as planned. We both got prepared because in a few hours the ceremony was going to start.

12th September 1897

This morning I woke up with a painful ache in the belly, the baby has been kicking me all night long. Pierre told me not to stress out because of the pain. The midwife was coming. When she arrived, she prepared all the instruments and proceeded to the birth of our baby.

(AAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!!)

(push, push)

She is a girl- the matron said.

Then she asked what name I was going to give her. Pierre and I decided to call her Irère Joliot-Curie.

1898

These last years, Pierre and I have been working together on radioactivity applications in diverse minerals and metals. After a long time studying some rocks, we discovered a new element. We called it "polonium" in honour of my birth country.

Later that same year we discovered another element. We named it "Radium".

1903

Pierre and I have been working with Henri Becquerel, physicist, about radioactivity. Some scientists told us we did a very good job, so some months later we were given the Physics Nobel Prize. The prize was given to the three of us, but this society doesn't accept a woman to win the prize so I had to receive it under my husband. That was frustrating! The society is so sexist; they even didn't let the women vote.

6th December 1904

After nine horrible months, Ève finally came to life. She has her father's eyes.

19th April 1906

This morning while I was reading a policeman knocked on the door, I was surprised. Pierre had gone to work as usual, but the policeman told me he had been run over by a cart pulled by horses. He told me that Pierre had died instantly because he suffered very serious injuries. I was shocked! I couldn't believe it.

13th May 1906

This afternoon, Irène brought me a letter from the university where Pierre worked. The letter said that, because of the unfortunate death of Pierre, there was a vacancy as a Physics teacher and they offered me the job. I accepted immediately. It was the first time this university is going to have a woman as a teacher. I am very proud!

1911

Today I won the Chemistry Nobel Prize by myself because of the discovery of two new elements: polonium and radium., I didn't have to share it with anyone! I am very proud of myself! I am the first person to win two Nobel Prizes in different categories. (Wooooohhooooo!)

Later that same year:

These last months I have been seeing a very kind guy, his name is Paul Langevin. He is very romantic although he is married. What a thrill!

Paul and I exchanged letters very often, but the last ones I sent him didn't arrive. I think someone has stolen them.

Some weeks later:

I am devastated! The press has just published an article about my romance with Paul Langevin. They even started a campaign to discredit me.

After that event I received a personal letter from Albert Einstein, a German physicist. In the letter he supported me and told me to ignore all the people that tried to discredit me. He also said that he was very happy because he met me in Brussels.

1914

The war has started; the German troops have invaded France. With my older daughter, we have decided to help the injured soldiers. We created a special mobile unit with cars equipped with X-Rays.

1921

Today I am preparing my luggage because I am travelling to the USA. I have a great idea in mind: to raise some funds to buy radium and also to establish a radium research institute in Warsaw. I am so excited! I hope I will reach the amount of money necessary for it!

4th July 1934

I spent the last three weeks in bed because I have a very serious illness. Doctors say that I have very little time to live. Because of this reason I want to write a message for future generations: *“Even if they tell you that because you are a woman you can’t do something, show them that they are wrong. Also do not respond under the authority of a man”.*

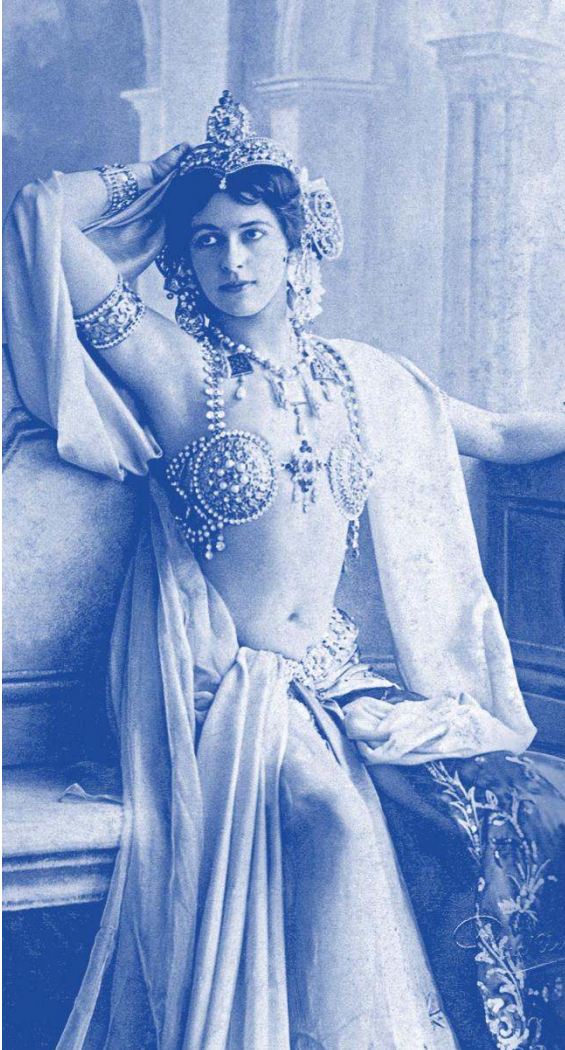
(AAARGHH!) / (“We need a doctor now, she is dying!”)

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”



Mata-Hari

Carmen Pont and Beltrán Martínez



Hello, my name is Margaretha Geertruida Zelle, better known as Mata-Hari. I was born in Leeuwarden on August 7th 1876, and I died on October 15th 1917, near Paris, shot by French authorities. I was the oldest of four siblings, my father was Adam Zelle and my mother was Antje van der Meulen, whose family was part of the Dutch bourgeoisie.

My father and mother got divorced, and shortly after, my mom died. I was one of the most famous spies of all time. At the age of 18, I answered an ad of the military captain, Rudolf McLeod, because he was searching for a wife. When I got married I was transferred with my husband, 20 years older than me, to Java (Indonesia). It was in that country, where the Holland colony captivated me with the oriental culture and I learned the dances that would later make me famous. The death of our son undermined my marriage. MacLeod started drinking and I took refuge in Indonesian culture to ease our pain.

At the beginning of the 20th century, women were not considered citizens - that is, holders of political rights - in almost any country in the world. The National Constitution of the Netherlands, sanctioned in 1853, granted the right to political participation - to vote - only to male citizens.

One of the problems that I experienced in my life was, as I said, the death of my son, Norman-John. At first it was believed that he had died of complications from the treatment of syphilis transmitted by his father, but later it was discovered that both children (Norman-John and Louise Jeanne) were poisoned in revenge against Rudolph for his mistreatment of a native servant. Miraculously Louise Jeanne was saved. This was a very bad stage of my life and my marriage, apart from being mistreated by him. After we got divorced, my former husband refused to pay support for our daughter (Louise Jeanne born in 1898) I ended up prostituting myself to survive, but I lost custody. I tried to get her back, but it was impossible.

At the end of 1904, I returned to Paris as an exotic dancer, starring in striptease shows. People loved me, they fought to get seats in the front rows in my erotic and exotic dance shows. I danced the sacred dances that I had learned with my people since childhood.

During the war, I was involved in a relationship with a Russian pilot serving with the French Army, Captain Vadim Maslov, 23 years old, he was the love of my life. In the summer of 1916, Maslov was shot down and seriously injured, so I asked permission to visit him in the field hospital. I was greeted by agents of the Deuxième Bureau (French Army Information Service) who told me that I would only be allowed to see Maslov if I agreed to spy for France. In late 1916, I traveled to Madrid, where I met the German military attaché and I offered to share French secrets with Germany in exchange for money. In January 1917, the German military broadcast radio messages to Berlin describing the useful activities of a German spy with the code name H-21, whose biography matched mine really closely. The Deuxième Bureau intercepted the messages and, therefore, the information they contained identified H-21 as Mata Hari. The messages were encrypted with a code that German intelligence knew that French had already broken, suggesting that the messages were aimed at exposing me to be arrested by the French.

On February 13th 1917, I was arrested in my room at the Hotel Elysée Palace in Paris. I was judged on July 24, accused of spying and consequently made responsible for the death of at least 50,000 soldiers. Although French and British intelligence suspected that I was spying, neither of them could present definitive evidence against me, but I admitted under questioning that I took money to work as a German spy. Sadly, I was executed by a firing squad of 12 French soldiers just before dawn on October 15, 1917 at the age of 41.

I had a very hard life. I hope that in future generations there will be gender equality, women will not be treated as objects and men will not mistreat us. Hopefully all women who know about me will agree with what I say, will start changing their present and future, and will raise their voices for women like me who are no longer here.

“The dance is a poem of which each movement is a word.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Rosa Luxemburg

Aroa Murcia and Daniel Sardina



My name is Rosa Luxemburg. I was born on March 5th 1871 in Zamość, southwestern Poland and died on January 15th 1919 in Berlin, capital of the Weimar Republic.

I was born in a Jewish family and early, when I was 5 years old, I was affected by a permanent limp. My female condition, heritage and disability made my life harsh.

During my 47 years in the world, society underwent a great transformation and most main powers in the world experienced rivalries due to industrialization and colonialism. The result of all accumulated tensions led to the origin of the Great War in 1914.

The situation of common people was not good in Europe at this time, due to social exclusion policies, unemployment and poverty, but this was even more serious in the case of women. Carrying twice as much work (factory and home duties) made our life unbearable. In fact, as working hours in the manufacturing system increased, only single women were able to work.

People felt that the role of women in society was being a housewife, wife and mother. Therefore, working in a factory was poorly seen because it was understood as a challenge for man. In the United States, the suffragist movement, a vindication of political and legislative equality for women, was born. Some advance on women's rights also took place in the UK. Some women joined 'campaigns against vice' to eliminate laws regulating prostitution that they described as degrading and attacking their privacy. In Britain, the National Ladies' Association was founded to vindicate state laws regulating prostitution.

As a consequence, things began to change and women never shut up again. Look at me, I managed to raise my voice in politics, to study despite the prejudices that permeated women then and the anti-Semitic discrimination that existed in Europe. I did a PhD and I learned to speak several languages.

At the age of 17 I attended a women's high school and I was a member of the leftist Polish 'Proletariat' Party since 1886. In 1887 I was forced to flee to Switzerland for political reasons and there I attended the University of Zurich, along with other socialist figures. There I studied, philosophy, history, politics, economics and mathematics. In 1893 I collaborated in the founding of the socialist newspaper, "The cause of the workers" and I participated in the founding of the Social Democratic Party of the Kingdom of Poland.

In 1898, I married Gustav Lubeck and obtained German citizenship. I collaborated with the leftist wing of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) and became one of the party's spokesmen. Between 1904 and 1907 I was imprisoned three times for political reasons, but I maintained political activity.

As we glimpsed the possibility of war, German militarism and leftism were strongly attacked; I tried to take my party in the opposite direction, towards peace. All European labor parties should come together to avoid war, but we failed. In 1914 the Great War began.

The party declared a truce with the government and I participated in the creation of the international group that later became the "Spartacist League". We opposed the "ceasefire" between the SPD and the government, we were trying to hold a general strike. For this reason, I was arrested and sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

When I went out of jail in 1917, I helped to create a communist paper, "The Red Flag". In fact, the Spartacist League, together with other socialist and communist groups created the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) in 1919, while the war ended and the Weimar Republic was founded.

In January 1919 I was captured in Berlin by the "Rifle Division of the Cavalry Guards" of the Freikorps and I was tortured. Private Runge smashed my skull and face into butt; another soldier shot me in the back of the head. They tied my corpse to some stone sacks so that it did not float and threw it into one of the canals of the River Spree.

To you, who are reading this, I would like to tell you this, "Freedom is the realm of those who think differently and those who are not afraid to express their ideas. Nobody will ever be able to shut you up, and if they try, it is out of fear, which means that you're doing the right thing."

*“Those who do not move,
do not notice their chains.”*

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Rosa Park

Claudia Dablanca, Tamer El Nagare and Daniel Fernández



My name is Rosa Parks, I was born on 4th February 1913 and died on October 24th 2005. I have seen a lot of famous figures who have been making autobiographies about their lives. I thought it would be a great idea to talk about mine.

I was the daughter of a carpenter and a teacher from the state of Alabama, USA. As you may have noticed, my family was not from such a high class and because of that I had to fight everything I wanted in my life. I started sewing when I was six years old and during my childhood I studied in two different places. I had to quit because my mother and grandmother became ill and I had to take care of them.

Throughout my life the United States experienced street protests, demonstrations, rioting, civil unrest, anti-war protests and a cultural revolution. African American youth protested following victories in the courts regarding civil rights with

street protests. Also, there was an increase in the number of young people who began to revolt against the social norms. There was huge inequality between men and women during my life, protests began, and a new movement was created, Women's Liberation Movement, it grew in size and power, gained much media attention, and, by 1968, replaced the Civil Rights Movement as the U.S main social revolution.

I had several problems, and some of them inspired the Montgomery bus boycott. I was returning home from a hard day of work in the Montgomery Fair department by bus. There weren't many black people because they tried to avoid public transport, they didn't like to be denigrated and be seated at the back, as dictated by the law. At one point on our route a white man didn't have a place to sit down on the front because it was full of people so the driver forced my row to stand up, everybody did it except me. People said I didn't stand up because I was tired but it wasn't because of working but for giving up. After this, two police officers arrested me. After my arrest, I became an icon of the Civil Rights Movement, I received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award and, thanks to me, the law changed into a more equal way and everyone could sit in the place they wanted. I also finished a big part of the racism in the United States in terms of rights and I obtained the name of "The First Lady of Civil Rights".

As you can see, although racism was still far away from being over in my country, I started with little and ended up pushing large improvements, and in order to do that you don't need to be important or have great influence. You only need a great initiative and try to influence as many people as you can.

“I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free... so other people would be also free.”

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Sally Ride

Lucía Arcos and Sergio Azcona



My name is Sally Kristen Ride but most people call me Sally Ride. I was born in California on May 26th, 1951 and I died on July 23th 2012 from pancreatic cancer in California.

I grew up in Los Angeles and then, I initially became a professional tennis player in my country. Nonetheless, later I focused on being an astronaut and astrophysicist. I was lucky and I prospered in this dream becoming the first American woman to reach outer space and the third one in the world, after Valentina Tereshkova and Svetlana Savits.

Thanks to this I opened new possibilities to women, which during my times were not commonly accepted in most technical and scientific professions. Moreover, I was a homosexual woman (an aspect of my life that was not revealed until my death), what did not make my life easier. In fact, the movements for the rights of homosexual, bisexual and transgender people were not so advanced then, so I was force to hide this if I wanted to be launched to outer space in the future.

Within my working life, I was selected for the NASA space programme (“NASA Astronaut Group 8”) in 1978. That made me the happiest woman in the world, because my dream had become true. I was part of the team that made a metal robot arm. This was bent in the shape of a seven, signifying the mission number.

In 1983 I finally became the first American woman to reach outer space as an astronaut on the space shuttle called “Space Shuttle Challenger”. It was an amazing experience, which meant not only a lot for me but also for all my fellow colleagues and even American girls.

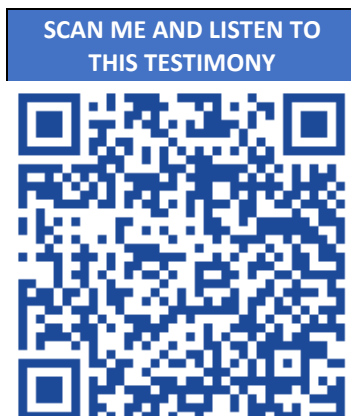
Later I was assigned the position of Special Assistant to the Administrator for strategic planning at NASA headquarters. Later in 1987 I retired from NASA and joined Stanford University as a researcher for two years. There I got a double major in physics and English. My career also made me join the university of California in San Diego as a physics teacher, and I ran the ISS EarthKAM, a NASA programme, in 1996.

I also wrote seven books directed to children, with the goal of encouraging them to study science. I finally worked with the internet company “space.com”, and after NASA, I became the director of the California Space Institute at the University of California, San Diego, as well as a teacher of physics in 1989. I was elected to be part of the US National Women’s Hall of Fame and the Astronaut Hall of Fame. In 2001.

I even started my own company known as Sally Ride Science to create some programmes, education and products to help inspire girls and young women to pursue their interests in science and math. I wanted all scientific girls' dreams to become true.

As you can see, my dreams came true. For this reason, I would like to encourage all women whose dreams are to travel to outer space or to become someone recognized in the scientific world, to continue fighting and working, because that is, from my point of view, one of the most satisfying things you, little girl, can do in life. So go and fight for what you want.

*“All adventures, especially into new territory,
are scary.”*



Simone de Beauvoir

Alexandru T. Mitrán and Cristina Rubio



I am Simone de Beauvoir, and I was born in Paris in 1908, the place where I later died in 1986. Sometimes life is not the sweetest of rides, and some people have it easier than others. For example, when I was born, women were considered inferior and did not have much of a say, but when I died, women were able to vote and express freely their opinions.

My life was not the best one someone could imagine, because although I was born in a quite wealthy family, later on the economic crisis after the First World War forced my grandfather to declare the bankruptcy of his bank. This dishonour brought us worse life conditions compared to before.

I was a very smart girl, always the top student in every class. My childhood and teen years were full of amazing friends I cheered and loved, but I was rebellious as I declared myself atheist because as I claimed many times “religion is just a way to subjugate humanity”.

As bright as I was, I could not escape the many facts that made me as a woman inferior in those times. Something in particular I could not forget was how often my father reminded me that he wanted a boy, and how my family was depending on me and my

sister’s studies to live on just because “We were women”.

After graduating in 1929 with a degree in philosophy I decided what my future would be... I would be a teacher and writer who would change the world for the better showing the struggles of women in our society.

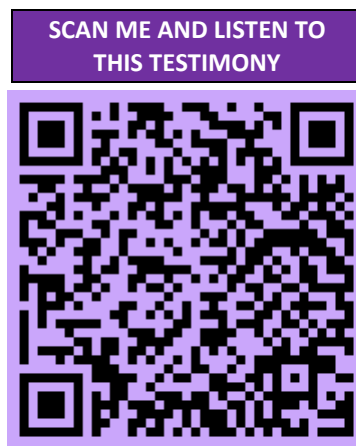
During my years as a teacher in the Rouen secondary school, I experienced many wonderful things, such as finding my husband and lifelong partner, Jean Paul Sartre, or how I called him, “the small Bost”. Nevertheless, we had an open marriage and because of my relationships with students, I got my license taken away.

I always had a perspective where my ideas were quite similar to those of the left-wing associations, and I was not shy about it. In fact, I met multiple Communist figures such as Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Mao Zedong and multiple more people.

In 1949, among all the books I published, I finished my most important work, “The Second gender”, a book where I explained how the concept of “Woman” is just the product of what men think a “Woman” means. I am very proud to say that it was the base of the feminist movement and many of its ideals, directly and indirectly. In fact, it proclaimed and encouraged the creation of the Women’s liberation movement and it pushed towards the legalization of abortion in France. It was so polemic that even the Vatican put it in the Index of prohibited books.

After losing my husband and reaching 78 years, I died on April 14th 1986. The cause was pneumonia. Fortunately I did not die alone because my adopted daughter was by my side all the time. Moreover, I reunited to “the small Bost” because I got buried alongside him, in the Montparnasse Cemetery in Paris.

“One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman”



Susan B. Anthony

Victoria Muñoz and Sergio Murcia

Would you imagine being constantly underrated and having almost no opportunities? This was the situation of women throughout the second half of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, including me.

My name is Susan Brownell Anthony and I was born on February 15th 1820 in Massachusetts, United States. At that time, women were mainly in charge of the housework and raising children, while men occupied important positions and controlled business and trade.

Women were not part of the public life, as we were not able to vote. Furthermore, black women were many times enslaved and were considered property, so they could be sold and even raped.

During my lifetime I have been one of the first feminists and suffragettes, as well as a writer and a human rights defender and I have also played an important role in the fight for women's voting rights in addition to collecting anti-slavery petitions, to achieve social and racial equality.

It all started at an early age, when I had to work as a teacher and I realized the difference in salary between men and women, since they were paid five times more, which encouraged me to fight against this injustice and demand improvements.



Afterwards, I joined an anti-slavery organization due its similarities with the status of women. Moreover, I questioned the superior position of white men in society, creating an Equal Rights Association, which allowed me to travel across the country talking about gender equality, and helped a lot to black women because it initially guaranteed voting rights regardless of skin color. However, it ended only benefiting black men, so I left to focus on the women's movement.

Therefore, I published a magazine called *The Revolution*, which became my way of promoting this movement, with a famous motto: *“A true republic, men with rights, no more; women with rights, no less”*. My objective was to support the voting rights of women and black people, but also including equal pay, divorce rights, and the Church's position on women's rights.

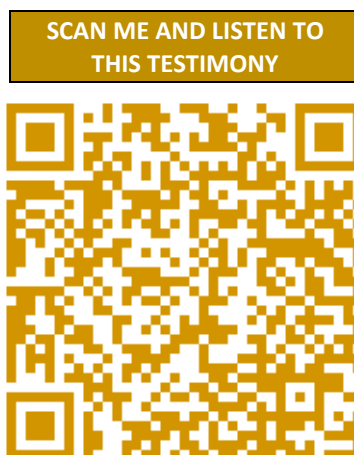
After a few years, I co-founded the *National Woman Suffrage Association*, but by encouraging them to take men's positions, I caused disagreements within the movement and I was fired.

At the time of the 1872 American presidential election, we still did not have the right to vote in the country, but before it took place, some women and I requested to be registered as voters, which led to me being accused of illegal voting. I was arrested and received a criminal trial, but eventually I was pardoned by the President Ulysses S. Grant, after being jailed for refusing to pay the fines imposed by the court.

Finally, after participating in the publication of the six volumes of the book "History of Woman Suffrage", I died in New York on 13th March, 1906.

My advice for future generations would be not to give up, and keep fighting for equality and to achieve a society without gender roles, where women of all races have the same rights and are able to vote as well as to take important decisions, which starts from a good education that would help to stop the discrimination that we suffer throughout our lives, for the fact of being women.

“Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less.”



Vigdís

Finnbogadóttir

Lucía Gil and Héctor Cristóbal



Hello, my name is Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, I was born on April 15th 1930 in Reykjavik, Iceland. Nowadays I am 90 years old. I was the first woman in the world to be democratically elected as president. I was initially elected in 1980 and I ruled for 16 years because I was reelected three times, until 1996.

I was the first daughter of an engineer and a president of the Nursing Association. I studied French and French literature in Paris between the years 1949 and 1953 and then History of the Theater at Copenhagen University. In 1972 after a disappointment with justice for trying to adopt a child being a single woman I adopted Astridur, becoming the first single woman adopting a child.

When I was young, the situation of women in Iceland wasn't the best although it was better than in other Western countries. In fact, while in other countries having a female president was unthinkable, in Iceland it happened with me as the president. I wouldn't have been the president if the day 24 of October (1975) hadn't taken place. Instead of going to the office or doing housework there was an event known as "Women's Day Off" related to the Icelandic women's movement this is linked to the Icelandic women's movement which changed the perception of the people in the country and we started the feminist struggle.

Going back to the year 1972, when I adopted Astridur, I had several problems with Icelandic justice system because a single woman adopting a child was frowned upon in society, so I had to fight a lot against justice in order to obtain my child. Despite the fact that many people did not trust a woman governing Iceland I kept going.

During my terms, I achieved equality between men and women. I carried out reforms such as forcing companies to equal pay and labor equality (male and female) and promoting the conciliation of men for respecting the women rights and supporting them. I also took part and developed the “Women’s Day Off” with another bunch of Icelandic women.

I want to say a very important thing to everyone that is reading this. It is important to consolidate all the advances that women like me have made in nowadays society and also continue fighting in order to obtain equal rights for both genders (female and male). If there is something you think is wrong or it is not fair, your obligation as a human being is to fight and change it.

I hope I have made you aware of the huge importance of this topic.

Goodbye,

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir

*"I think, if the world can be saved,
it will be by women"*

SCAN ME AND LISTEN TO
THIS TESTIMONY



Virginia Woolf

Brisa Barragán and Rubén de Miguel



Hi! I am Adeline Virginia Stephen Woolf, I was an English writer, who was born in the United Kingdom, London, on January 25th 1882 and died on March 28th 1941.

I was a writer of novels, short stories and more literary works. Thanks to this, I was considered one of the most outstanding avant-garde Anglo-Saxon modernists of the twentieth century and international feminism. I was also the pioneer in reflection on the condition of women, women's identity and women's relationships with art and literature.

About my personal life, my father was Sir Leslie Stephen, who was a distinguished critic and historian, I was also home-schooled in English classes and Victorian literature from 1897 to 1901. I studied in the Ladies' Department of King's College, London, where I started studying Classic and History. I grew up surrounded by literates, artists and intellectuals. When my father passed away in 1905, I went to live with my sister when I was 23. In 1912 I met my future husband, Leonard Woolf, thanks to the founding of the publishing house "Hogarth Press" in 1917.

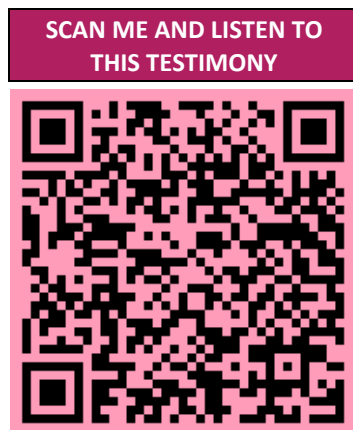
First of all, because of the death of my parents, I suffered several attacks of depression and for this reason I became admitted in a psychiatric hospital. Having suffered sexual abuse with my sister Vanessa by my half-brothers George and Gerald Duckworth, I suffered a state of bipolarity due to the sexual abuse that marked my life deeply. Because of my bipolar personality disorder, I was admitted to a nursing home, which today is more known as a psychiatric facility. Toward the early 1940s, I also suffered an outburst due to the second world war, it was horrible since they destroyed my house in London, apart, my last book did not have too much merit, I no longer wanted to work

on it. After the problems I have experienced during my life at 59, I was unable to cope with my desperation, I even began to hear voices and fall into another episode of depression, a mental illness. On March 28th, 1941, I came to the conclusion that I wanted to end my life. I took the idea on a book of my life "End of trip" and as the protagonist did, I used a few affectionate words to my husband and sister, after finishing these letters, I put on my coat and filled my pockets with stones, entered the river Ouse and let the current take me. Three weeks later, my body was found and my husband decided to incinerate my remains and scatter my ashes in the garden of our house.

I managed to write 8 novels and more than thirty books from other genres, I used to be the woman who loved to write women's writings and historical contexts. I continued to be one of the most influential writers of literature, apart from being the author who revolutionized the narrative the most in the 20th century and who most defended women's rights through my texts. I wondered why not invent a new type of work in which women will think, write, ultimately make it free. My existence has been affected by the events of the time and that is how I wanted to capture it in my work. The depression caused by the impact of the war has been reflected in my literature, in the internal division that I have suffered and that I have written chronologically.

A message to the future generations is that you never have to stop believing in your dreams because of many problems you have, it can be your escape from these problems and you can draw inspiration for plots from your life. Don't let sexual predators ruin your life as it ruined mine and try to get on with your life, be strong and brave.

*“If you do not tell the truth about yourself
you cannot tell it about other people.”*



“My mother had a saying: Kamala, you may be the first to do many things, but make sure you're not the last.”

Kamala Harris

First female vice president in U.S. history

