

WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD



MARSHA P. JOHNSON

"No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us."

Marsha P. (Pay No Mind) Johnson was an American gay liberation activist, drag artist and performer. She was a major figure in the Stonewall Uprising of 1969, a protest that was pivotal in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights in America and that inspired protests worldwide. She fought hard for the rights of black trans women until she went missing in 1992, and was later found deceased, likely the result of an anti-trans hate crime. Her legacy lives on through the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, the MPJ State Park in Brooklyn, NY, and in the hearts and minds of the LGBTQ+ community. Without Johnson's actions, the queer community might still be fighting for basic rights today.



MARSHA

RUTH B. GINSBURG

"Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

Ruth Bader Ginsberg (RBG) was a jurist and lawyer who served as a justice on the United States Supreme Court. When Ginsberg entered the law profession as a woman and mother in 1960, there were only a small percentage of female lawyers in the country and only two female federal judges. RBG promoted gender equality at the legal level, teaching seminars, working with the American Civil Liberties Union to draft briefs in federal cases, and co-authoring a law-school casebook on gender discrimination. In 1980, she was appointed to the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. Ginsburg was vocal about cases like *Roe v. Wade*, but still maintained strong professional relationships with her conservative counterparts. In 1993, Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court. She played an important role in cases concerning Women's rights and the Affordable Care Act, among others, and became known for her strong dissents against the majority in favor of equality. She stayed on the Supreme Court until her death in 2020, and remains highly revered for her contributions.



RUTH

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful."

Malala Yousafzai is a Pakistani activist for women's education and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize recipient in history. She grew up in a small village in Pakistan just as the religious extremist group known as the Taliban came to power. The Taliban banned music and television, enforced extreme punishments, and decided girls could no longer attend school. At only eleven years old Malala spoke out against these injustices. She also wrote a blog for the BBC about her personal experience with the Taliban's growing power over her people. The Taliban retaliated by attempting to assassinate Yousafzai while she was on a school bus. She survived and after several operations, moved to the UK and continued the fight for access to education for young women. She created The Malala Fund to raise money so every girl can choose her own future, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work. You can donate to The Malala Project at www.malala.org.



MALALA

FRIDA KAHLO

"At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can."

Frida Kahlo was a world renowned Mexican painter known for her soulful self portraits, unrelenting spirit, and rejection of classic beauty standards. After a near fatal bus accident, Kahlo was bed bound and decided to paint self portraits to pass the time. Her surrealist paintings depicted her likeness, her inner life, and sometimes social commentary. Few women in this time were brave enough to paint their honest mental state and take a stand through art like Frida. As her career grew her physical state deteriorated, and she couldn't even attend her first solo exhibition in Mexico. She passed away just one week after her 47th birthday. After her death, Kahlo's fame continued to grow and her art was well received in major cities across the globe. The feminist movement adopted her as an icon who embraced her cultural identity through fashion and rejected conventional beauty standards through her famous unibrow and wispy mustache. Kahlo's work was raw and unapologetic, which paved the way for other female artists to push the boundaries as well.



FRIDA

MAYA ANGELOU

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoir writer, and civil rights activist. Born in St. Louis in 1928, she wrote three books of essays, many books of poetry, and seven autobiographies, as well as many plays, TV shows, and movies. She received a plethora of awards and over 50 honorary degrees for her vast body of work. Angelou even recited her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at the first inauguration of Bill Clinton. In addition, Angelou played a large role in the Civil Rights Movement, working with Malcom X and Martin Luther King Jr. She was highly respected for speaking out for the rights of women and people of color. Her books are now taught in schools and universities across the world, as her work challenges the typical structure of autobiographies and expands the genre. Her writings made huge cultural contributions to society and the fight for gender and race equality, especially given the obstacles she faced working as a black female writer in the 20th century. The wise words of Maya Angelou remain timeless and still guide us today.



MAYA

MOTHER TERESA



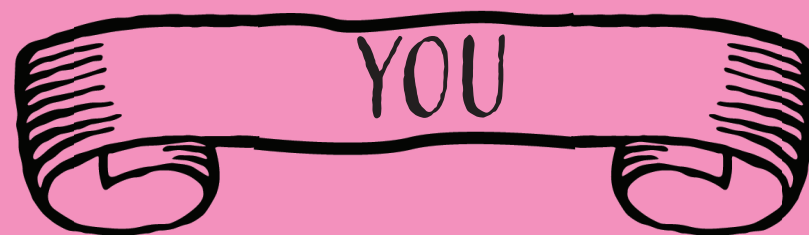
TERESA

"Not all of us can do great things.
But we can do small things with
great love."

Mother Teresa, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhi, was a Roman Catholic nun and missionary known for her global humanitarian work. Teresa always felt the call of God, so at the age of eighteen she joined a community of nuns. While teaching at schools as a nun she realized her true calling was to help those suffering and in poverty outside the covenant walls. She started her own organization, "The Missionaries of Charity," which sought to help those who couldn't help themselves. Workers in this growing organization traveled to the poorest corners of the world and built safe houses for people who were sick or homeless. Mother Teresa was honored for her humanitarian work with many awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize. Her giving spirit serves as an inspiration today to selflessly help those in need and lead with kindness.

"I ALWAYS BELIEVED
THAT ONE WOMAN'S
SUCCESS CAN ONLY HELP
ANOTHER WOMAN'S
SUCCESS."
-GLORIA VANDERBILT

Hopefully reading about the incredible lives and contributions of these six women has been an inspiration. Each of them worked hard to pave the way so that girls in the future could have the space and opportunities to grow to their full potential. We owe it to Marsha, Ruth, Malala, Frida, Maya, and Teresa to do the same for the next generation of strong females. Who is the seventh inspirational woman in this Zine? Well, it's you. It's every woman. We all have the power to effect real change and leave the world better than we found it.



"THERE IS NO LIMIT TO
WHAT WE AS WOMEN
CAN ACCOMPLISH."

-MICHELLE OBAMA

SAMANTHA ZUCKER