

Equity Heroes: Women's History Month

The Illinois State Board of Education spotlights female equity heroes who advocated for human, civil, and women's rights in various ways. ISBE highlights eight female figures, though there are countless women who have made positive impacts on equity.

— Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist, is the youngest Nobel Prize laureate and advocates for equitable female education.



"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

— Yuri Kochiyama

Yuri Kochiyama, a Japanese American political activist, dedicated her life to the social justice and human rights movements.



"I don't think there will ever be a time when people will stop wanting to bring about change."

— Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

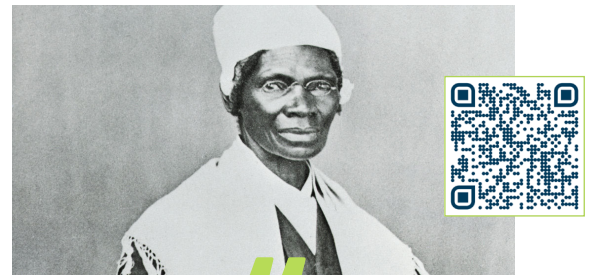
Justice Ginsburg, associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, advocated for gender equality for nearly 30 years.



"You can disagree without being disagreeable."

— Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth, a former slave, became an advocate for abolition and civil and women's rights in the 19th century.



"The truth is powerful and will prevail."



— **Marsha P. Johnson**

Marsha P. Johnson, an LGBT activist, participated in the 1969 Stonewall riots that inspired the gay rights movement.



“How many years has it taken people to realize that we are all brothers and sisters and human beings in the human race?”

— **Justice Sonia Sotomayor**

Justice Sotomayor, associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, was the first female Latina of Puerto Rican descent to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.



“Until we get equality in education, we won’t have an equal society.”

— **Vice President Kamala Harris**

Vice President Harris, a career public servant, is the first female and multi-cultural vice president of the United States.



“I may be the first woman to hold this office, but I won’t be the last.”

— **Amanda Gorman**

Amanda Gorman, the nation’s first National Youth Poet laureate, recited an original poem at the Presidential Inauguration in 2021.



“For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

How can you support Women’s History Month?

- Support women’s nonprofit organizations.
- Shop at women-owned businesses.
- Write a note to a woman who inspires you.
- Purchase from women artists and authors.
- Advocate for women and girls in STEM.

If you have a suggestion for an Equity Hero theme, please email equity@isbe.net.

Photo Credit:

Malala Yousafzai: Biography
Yuri Kochiyama: Wikipedia

Marsha P. Johnson: Tatler
Sonia Sotomayor: Wikipedia

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Wikipedia
Sojourner Truth: The New York Times

Kamala Harris: USNews
Amanda Gorman: Variety