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Women as Change Makers

Women of previous eras have been subjugated to abuse, slavery, infanticide, etc. Women activists became change-makers and created a new world. Women liberation is something which has been fought for a very long time and it will continue as long as women are completely free. Women have started playing a greater role in society. We have seen it through various women like Malala Yousafzai, Angela Merkel, etc. These women have created a change for the women and children giving them the hope that they can achieve anything. And help in creating a better world for mankind. Here are some women who set a benchmark in society through centuries.

In the 19th century, many illustrious women like Qiu Jin,

Her struggle for equality erased the abuse of the nation on women. These women set a benchmark for the future generations and they remain as an inspiration to many till this day.

In the 20th century, women stepped into various fields like politics, sports, literature and proved their mettle. Men still believe that a woman would be so emotional that she would start a war. But Margaret Thatcher has already proved that women can hold office. She was dubbed 'The Iron Lady' because for her headstrong politics and leadership skills. Her policies to reverse unemployment and recession made her popular and respected.

"I'm tired of being treated like a second class citizen," Rosa Parks became the



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symbolizes feminism at its best.

The movie *Dangal*, shows the struggle of women wrestlers Geeta and Babita Phogat as the quintessential Haryana women was supposed to stay in the household.

"Creating a free and equal world"

Harriet Tubman, Susan B Anthony gave voices to the oppressed women and children when men didn't take women seriously.

"No man is good enough to govern any woman without her consent" said Susan B Anthony. She along with Elizabeth Cady Stanton fought vigorously for women suffrage. She campaigned for rights of married women in America. She lit the light of life of the women in America.

"Do not tell women are not the stuff of heroes" said Qiu Jin. She is a Chinese feminist and revolutionary disapproved the oppression of women in the template of a 'traditional family.' She bravely left her abusive husband and went to study in Japan. She came back to China and started writing poems inciting anger against the male dominated society. She was executed in her home village but her sacrifice is not forgotten.

Savitribai Phule along with her husband Jyotirao Phule fought for the rights of women in Maharashtra. "Education should give one the ability to choose between right and wrong and between truth and untruth in life." She believed in the power of education and she became India's first woman teacher and headmistress and set up schools for the lower caste women.

face of the civil rights movement when she refused to give her seat to a white passenger in a bus. Her act of courage encouraged many African American men and women to stand up against racism in America.

Simone de Beauvoir became a role model for feminist writers through her outspoken thoughts on women suppression and questioned the patriarchy in France. She initiated feminist movements in France and encouraged women to fight for their rights. At the end of the 20th century, women entered into the public scenario and started excelling men. This century provided the platform for women to fight for their rights when they are oppressed. 21st century women proved to societies that they can work as hard as men and help to change the outlook of women. Women take independent decisions on their own, they avail higher wage rate, good education. but crime rates against women, harassments, disrespect still prevail and the following women strive hard to break the stereotype of women.

In terrorist ridden Pakistan, young Malala Yousafzai advocated the rights of women, even when the local Taliban harassed her, she continued her struggle. When the Taliban shot her, she still continues her struggle her fight for girls' education. She



Their hard work and dedication to wrestling earned them the respect that each woman deserves.

Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook inspires many women and men through her talks and books which talk about the sexism, harassment, treatment of women in the workplace. She has been instrumental in the success of Facebook and has been dubbed as one of the 50 'most powerful women in business'. These women have become changemakers because they felt enough is enough, because of circumstance.

Women are capable of being changemakers, they are no longer the woman taking care of our households, but the mindsets of men still prohibit women from taking the top of professions. It is upto the modern woman to change the patriarchal mindsets of men which will enable an equal free world. ♦