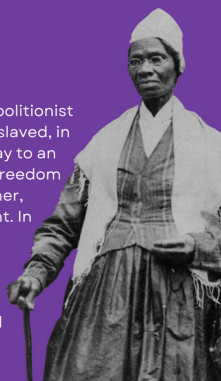


# SOJOURNER TRUTH

1797 - 1883

Sojourner Truth was an American abolitionist and civil rights activist. Formerly enslaved, in 1827, Sojourner managed to run away to an abolitionist family who bought her freedom for \$20. Sojourner became a preacher, speaking on the evils of enslavement. In 1851, Sojourner joined a women's rights tour and whilst at Ohio Women's Rights Convention she delivered her infamous speech, 'Ain't I a Woman?', demanding equal rights for all women.



"That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman? Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman? I could work as much and eat as much as a man - when I could get it - and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman? I have borne thirteen children, and seen most all sold off to slavery, and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman?"

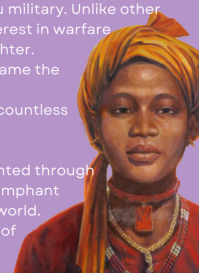
- Sojourner Truth, *Ain't I a Woman?*

# QUEEN AMINA

around 1533 - around 1610

Also known as the warrior queen, Queen Amina was a Hausa woman who ruled during the 16th Century over what we now know as Zaria, Nigeria. Whilst her brother was reigning King of Zazzau, Amina trained ruthlessly to become a warrior, gaining respect from the male-dominated Zazzau military. Unlike other women of her time, Amina took great interest in warfare and became an impressive and skilled fighter. Following her brother's death, Amina became the first queen of her people, and went on to successfully expand her empire and win countless battles and conquests.

Although much of Amina's life is documented through folktales, her legacy as a fearless and triumphant queen lives on in Nigeria and around the world. Amina represents the strength and spirit of womanhood.



# NOOR INAYAT KHAN

1914 - 1944

Khan was a British wartime secret agent of Indian Muslim descent. In late 1942, she was recruited to join the Special Operations Executive as a radio operator, becoming the first female operative to be sent into Nazi-occupied France. In October of 1943, however, she was betrayed. Despite being imprisoned, sent to solitary confinement and subjected to repeated torture, Khan refused to give up any information. The following year she was transferred to a concentration camp where she was shot.

For her defiance and courage, Khan was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1949.



# CLAUDIA JONES

1915 - 1964

Claudia Jones was an activist, journalist and the founder of Notting Hill Carnival! Originally born in Trinidad but later moved with her family to America, Jones had a great interest in Communist politics and fought tirelessly for the emancipation of Black women. However, her outspoken approach posed a threat to the US status quo, and in 1955, she was deported and later offered residency in the UK.

Racial tensions had been growing in the UK throughout the 1950s, with an influx of Caribbean migrants creating resentment amongst the white working-class population. This tension acted as a catalyst for the 1958 Notting Hill Riots, which saw crowds of white youths chasing Caribbean people through the streets of Notting Hill, London. It was this that inspired Jones to hold what we now know as Notting Hill Carnival, as an attempt to forget the horrific events and instead, celebrate Caribbean culture.

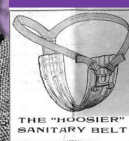


# MARY KENNER

1912 - 2006

Mary Kenner was born into a family of inventors, with her father sparking her interest in discovery and creation. She went on to invent an adjustable sanitary belt with an in-built, moisture-proof napkin pocket - which we now know as the sanitary pad!

Although her patent application was approved in 1956, the first company to show interest immediately rejected her after finding out she was Black. Kenner sadly never made any money from her sanitary belt as other companies also refused to work with her and the patent expired and became public domain, allowing it to be freely commercially manufactured.



# IDA B. WELLS

1862 - 1931

Born into an enslaved family, Ida B. Wells was an American Civil Rights activist, feminist and journalist. Triggered by her own experiences with racism, she began writing about issues of race and politics in the South for Black newsletters and periodicals. In 1892, Wells focused her work on anti-lynching, following the murder of one of her friends by a lynch mob. Wells began an anti-lynching campaign that she later brought to the White House in a call for reform.

Wells also formed several civil rights organisations and played a great role in what we now know as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She was an indomitable figure in the fight for women's suffrage and her dedication to Black women's rights played a crucial role in the passage of the 1913 Illinois Equal Suffrage Act.



# MARY PRINCE

1788 - sometime after 1833

Mary Prince was born in Bermuda to an enslaved African family. When brought to England in 1828, Prince fled her slave owners and was taken in by the Anti-Slavery Society. Though a free woman in Britain, she risked becoming enslaved again if she were to travel back to Bermuda. With help from the Society, she petitioned Parliament for the freedom of herself and all other enslaved people in the Caribbean, thus becoming the first woman in Britain to ever petition Parliament!

She began working for writer and secretary of the Society, Thomas Pringle, recounting the brutality of her enslavement to him. In 1831, her book *The History of Mary Prince* was published, becoming the first book by a Black woman to be published in Britain! To date, hers is the only autobiographical account of a formerly enslaved woman. Its story had a great impact, and six months later Britain saw the total abolishment of slavery.



# WAAD AL-KATEAB

1931 - present

When protests against the Assad regime broke out in Syria in 2011, Al-Kateab taught herself how to film and become a journalist in an attempt to document the horrors around her. During this time, she began reporting for Channel 4, creating a series of reports titled 'Inside Aleppo'. These reports became the most-watched pieces on Channel 4 News, gaining almost half a billion views and 24 awards!

Al-Kateab decided to stay in Aleppo and document her life, which then became the basis for her feature film 'For Sama'. 'For Sama' became the most nominated documentary in the history of the BAFTAs and went on to win Best Documentary! After fleeing Aleppo in 2016, Al-Kateab now resides in London with her husband and their two daughters. She continues to work with Channel 4 and also works on Action for Sama - her campaign which focuses on raising awareness of the suffering in Syria, specifically the continued targeting of Syrian healthcare facilities.



# BENAZIR BHUTTO

1953 - 2007

Benazir Bhutto was the Prime Minister of Pakistan, serving two terms in 1988-90 and 1993-96. Gaining political degrees at both Harvard University and Oxford University, Bhutto took on from her father's leadership of the centre-left political party, Pakistan Peoples Party.

In 1988, Bhutto was elected as Prime Minister, making her one of the youngest chief executives in the world and the first ever female Prime Minister of a Muslim nation! She was an ardent supporter of women's rights, dedicated to undoing the damage of Pakistan's oppressive patriarchal laws. During her governance, Bhutto implemented women's studies centres, Pakistan's first women's bank, and other initiatives to help regain women's autonomy.

In late 2007, she was tragically assassinated at an election rally and to the present day, she stands as Pakistan's only female Prime Minister.

