



W O M A N O F T H E
W E E K

WOMAN OF THE WEEK

Woman of the Week began as a personal project from ESC volunteer, and later International Project Officer, Jade Sullivan. The idea behind Woman of the Week came from Jade's passion of championing women's rights, with a particular focus on women from marginalised communities.

Jade created Woman of the Week in order to celebrate the achievements of women who have been overshadowed in our unequal society.

Over the next pages you'll meet spies, judges, civil rights activists & movement starters – among other incredible women who become part of the campaign in the last year!

Remember every Monday was #WOTW

TARANA BURKE

Tarana Burke founded the Me Too movement, which promotes women to speak out about the injustices and sexual harassment that they have faced from men in positions of power. Originally from New York, Burke has dedicated her life to advancing the rights of black women in the U.S.

In 2019 Burke was awarded the Sydney Peace Prize and currently serves as the Senior Director of Girls for Gender Equity in Brooklyn, New York.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG

The late Ruth Bader Ginsburg is undoubtedly a feminist icon, in 1993 she became the second woman to ever be a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

She gained notoriety for advancing women's equality through the *Moritz v. Commissioner* 1972, when a man was discriminated against due to his role as a care giver, a role reserved for women and married men at the time. Through tactically choosing cases like this, she was able to make sure that it was illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex. She knew that a case like this was a more subtle way at advancing women's right, without much protest, as opposed to overtly working on cases which would often be met with great protest and would not be possible to win given the political atmosphere of the time.

Ginsburg's untimely death will not stop her enduring impact on advancing women's rights in the U.S. To find out more information about Ginsburg's life and career we recommend watching the 2018 film based on her life: *On the Basis of Sex*

NOOR INAYAT KHAN

Noor Inayat Khan was born in Moscow in 1914, her father was Indian and her mother was American. Khan and her family later moved to London and eventually to Paris. Following the Nazi occupation of France, Khan escaped to England. Whilst in England, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF).

In June 1943 she flew to France to become the radio operator for 'Prosper', a resistance network in Paris. Many members of 'Prosper' were arrested by the Gestapo. Instead of leaving her mission behind and returning back to England, Khan decided to stay and continue to send information back to Britain.

In October of the same year Khan was betrayed by a French woman and was arrested by the Gestapo, incredibly she actually escaped the prison but was recaptured hours later. She was tortured in prison but refused to give the Nazis any information, eventually she was sent to Dachau concentration camp and on the 14th September 1944 she was murdered.

In 1949 Khan was awarded the George Cross for courage, an honour usually reserved for men at that time.

CLAUDETTE COLVIN

Claudette Colvin was 15 when she refused to give up her seat on the bus to a white person and was arrested, 9 months before Rosa Parks became infamous for doing the same thing.

The NAACP decided that Rosa Parks would be a better fit for the Civil Rights Movement in the 50s as Colvin was a teenager and pregnant at the time, and could have alienated some supporters.

At court, Colvin powerfully declared herself not-guilty and took a direct stand against segregation laws in the U.S. at the time.

Colvin's incredibly brave actions are relatively unknown even today, she continues to speak out against injustices faced by black Americans. If you're interested in reading more about this incredible woman we would recommend: *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose

ELLEN OCHOA

Ellen Ochoa is an American astronaut & was the first Hispanic woman to finish astronaut training & to travel into space! In 1993 she served as the mission specialist on the STS-56 Mission, when NASA were studying the Earth's interactions with the Sun. In 1999 she was apart of the another NASA project Discovery STS-96 that executed the first docking of the International Space Station!

In 2007, Ochoa became deputy director of the Johnson Space Centre and in just 6 years she was promoted to Director - the second woman to ever hold the position & the first Hispanic person. As Director she oversaw notable explorations, including one that travelled further than any other crewed spacecraft & will eventually allow humans to explore Mars!

In 2018 Ochoa retired from the Johnson Space Station and became Vice Chair of the National Science Board! Ochoa is an inspiration to women all around the world, especially to Hispanic women, and has shown that, no matter who you are, you can achieve all that you aspire to! Today we celebrate Ellen Ochoa and all the incredible things that she has achieved!

EMMANUELLE CHARPENTIER & JENNIFER DOUDNA

This week we are celebrating two incredible women: Emmanuelle Charpentier & Jennifer Doudna, who won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, for their work developing a method for genome editing! With their win, it increases the number of women to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to 7! Their groundbreaking work allows researchers to change the DNA of animals, plants & microorganisms! Researchers are able to edit a gene, without the DNA seeing the change as damage but as a legitimate edit that the cell can replicate!

The new technology has created new cancer therapies & may be able to stop inherited diseases from passing on through generations, a thought that was once inconceivable!

Charpentier stated in response to winning the Nobel Prize: 'My wish is that this will provide a positive message to the young girls who would like to follow the path of science, & to show them that women in science can also have an impact through the research that they are performing.'

MISTY COPELAND

Misty Copeland is an American ballet dancer and in 2015 she became the first African-American female principal dancer with the American Ballet Theatre (ABT). In 1998, she won a scholarship for an intensive summer programme at the San Francisco Ballet School & in 2000 she won a scholarship to the American Ballet Theatre's summer programme! In 2001 she became a member of the corps de ballet, at the ABT, and was the only African-American in the group of 80 people.

In 2007, Copeland became the company's female soloist, she was the third African-American to take the role, with 20 years between her gaining the role and the last African-American female to hold the post! Her story was incredibly inspiring for black women everywhere, in 2009 she appeared in the music video: 'Crimson & Clover' by Prince and performed live with him in 2010!

Copeland is a strong advocate for diversifying ballet, she served on the advisory committee of the ABT's: Project Plié - a programme that offers training & mentorship to dance teachers in racially diverse communities. Copeland's incredible career & activism is undeniable, in the 75 years of the ABT she is the first African-American female principal dancer! Copeland is a true icon & her work to diversify ballet is incredibly important in addressing & defeating racism in the U.S.

THE MIRABAL SISTERS

Patria, Minerva & María Teresa Mirabal were three sisters that lived in the Dominican Republic during the 1950s under the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. The sisters risked their lives to work for the underground resistance that was against the dictator. Trujillo spent 31 years in government using violence to restrain civil liberties and any criticism of his leadership or governance.

The sister's resistance group was named 'the Movement of the Fourteenth of June', after a massacre supposedly ordered by the dictator, and called themselves "Las Mariposas," or "the butterflies," and publicly protested Trujillo. María specifically angered Trujillo when she denied his sexual advances towards her and because of this she was denied a license to become a lawyer.

After being regularly arrested for their resistance work against Trujillo's dictatorship, his government murdered the three sisters on the 25th November 1960. Their murder sparked outrage and Rafael Trujillo was assassinated 6 months later. The Mirabal Sisters and their political activism inspired the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is all-together 16 days, when the UN and NGO's create a global concious of the violence that women face disproportionately to men. The braveness of the Mirabal Sisters is forever remembered as an incredibly important act of deviance against those who seek to hurt women and not give them the same rights as men.

MARY ROBINSON

Mary Robinson, or Máire Mhic Róibín in Irish, was the first female Prime Minister of Ireland and served from 1990-1997. Robinson, after her time as Prime Minister was appointed as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, from 1997-2002. Both as Prime Minister, and as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Robinson prioritised the promotion of human rights and was the first head of state to visit Rwanda after the genocide, in 1994. At the UN, she was the first UNHCHR to visit China and improved the monitoring of human rights in places like Kosovo. In 2001, Robinson served as secretary-general of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in South Africa.

Robinson had an extensive education in law, studying at Trinity College, King's Inns in Dublin and at Harvard University, later being elected as the Chancellor of Trinity College - a position she held from 1998-2019. Once she left the UN, Robinson set up an NGO called: Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, which promoted migration, women's issues and health care, among other important topics! Robinson was also a founding member of the Council of Women World Leaders and has promoted the rights of marginalised people her entire career.

Today we celebrate all the work that Robinson has done to promote and guarantee the rights of millions and inspired an entire generation of women and girls. Robinson is a true icon in Ireland and the rest of the world!

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Eleanor Roosevelt is one of the most enduring feminist icons of the 20th Century, she was First Lady of the United States from 1933-45, and following this became a United Nations diplomat and carried on the humanitarian work that she started before her time as First Lady. During the First World War, Eleanor visited wounded soldiers and worked for the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and in a Red Cross canteen.

During her time as First Lady she created regular White House press conferences for women correspondents, meaning that wire services that had not formerly employed women, were forced to do so in order to have a representative present in case important news broke. Her husband was frequently sick, so Eleanor took over much of his public appearances and tours of the country - something extremely unusual for the time period. Eleanor was also an avid proponent of desegregation and regularly stood up against racial discrimination. In 1939, she resigned her membership of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) because the organisation refused to let Marian Anderson, an African-American opera singer, perform in Constitution Hall. Not only did she symbolically resign, she also re-organised the event to held at the Lincoln Memorial - which was attended by 75,000 people!

In 1945 Eleanor was appointed as a delegate to the United Nations, where she served chairman of the Commission on Human Rights (1946-51) and played a major role in the drafting and adoption of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 1961 President John F. Kennedy appointed her chair of his Commission on the Status of Women, and she continued with that work until shortly before her death.

SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

Simone de Beauvoir was born in Paris in 1908 and went on to become one of the most famous French existentialist philosophers of her generation. Throughout her life, she stood up for the rights of women and argued for society to see women as equal citizens.

Simone de Beauvoir is most well-known for her seminal Feminist work: *The Second Sex*, her book is now known as one of the most important Feminist literature ever published. In her work, de Beauvoir references how women have been treated as second-class citizens throughout history, in comparison to men. She argues that men are always seen as the default, whereas women are seen as 'the Other', inferior in comparison. Although many people today agree with de Beauvoir and her criticism of the patriarchy, when the book was published it was criticised by those who sought to keep society unequal for women. *The Second Sex* was published in 1949, but much of its contents reign true today, with women still being unequal to men in most parts of society - as such, de Beauvoir was ahead of her time.

De Beauvoir stood up for women's rights, in a time period when equality for women was not much of a concept. She was also the first philosopher to make a distinction between sex and gender, something that is only now becoming fully understood today. Simone de Beauvoir bravely stood up for what she believed in, she gave women the tools in arguments to explain the inequality they faced, to those who perpetrated it. Many of her arguments are still used today in order to explain the discrimination women face around the world.

Women still face discrimination that de Beauvoir talks about in 1949, as such it is clear that much more needs to be done to ensure that we live in an equal society for all.

KAMALA HARRIS

Kamala Devi Harris was born on the 20th October 1964 and this month will make history by becoming the first female, first black and first South Asian Vice President. Her election to the Office of the Vice President will set a precedent for generations to come, Harris has stated 'While I may be the first woman in this office, I will not be the last.'

Harris graduated from Howard University and the University of California, specifically the Hastings College of the Law. In 2003 she was elected district attorney of San Francisco and in 2010 she was elected Attorney General of California and re-elected in 2014. Since 2017 she has served as the Junior Senator for California, she became the second African American woman and first South Asian American to serve in the U.S. Senate.

As senator Kamala Harris advocated for health care reform, pushed for a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, including the DREAM Act and has supported a ban on assault weapons. Harris has already achieved so much during her life time, breaking many barriers for women, African and South Asian Americans. We look forward to seeing what she achieves as Vice President and how her role will inspire young girls into politics!

MARY SEACOLE

Mary Seacole was born in Kingston, Jamaica in 1805. Her father was a Scottish soldier and her mother was a practitioner of traditional Jamaican medicine who had a boarding house where she cared for invalid soldiers and their wives - Mary would learn about medicine from her mother and soon gain notoriety for being a skilled nurse and doctor.

Mary wanted to help wounded soldiers in the Crimean War, a war that she found out about from her travels to London. Before this, she became widely praised for her ability to treat Cholera in Panama and later in Jamaica for helping with the Yellow Fever epidemic in 1853. She was well-respected in Jamaica and had more than enough experience to help in the Crimean War, however she was turned away by everyone she offered help to. This was almost certainly due to racial prejudices that those in the UK held at the time, as she was black. With the help of a distant relative, Mary Seacole was eventually able to arrive in Crimea and set up the British Hotel in the summer of 1855, soon the entire British Army knew of 'Mother Seacole's'. Despite her incredible medical abilities, some army doctors believed that she was not a real medical practitioner, showing very clearly that they had racial prejudices.

Mary was awarded a Crimean medal, but was left financially devastated by the war. Much of the reports from the Crimean War focused on Florence Nightingale, a white nurse. Only recently has Mary Seacole been truly appreciated for the incredible nurse and person that she was. Mary Seacole put her life on the line in order to ensure that others could live, and was guided by her passion to help people. Today we remember the incredible achievements of Mary Seacole.

S A V I T R I B A I P H U L E

Savitribai Phule is remembered as India's first Feminist, born on the 3rd January 1831 Phule grew up in an India that was ruled by the British Raj, where women's rights were unheard of and never discussed. Phule was sent and granted permission by her husband to study and passed her education with flying colours, despite being married at the age of 9.

In 1848 Phule and her husband set up India's first school for girls in Vishrambag Wada, Pune. Initially only 9 girls enrolled, all from different social castes - however, later on the number rose to 25. Savitribai became headmistress and taught at the same time with her aunt and a woman she was educated with during her time at school.

Phule and her husband's dedication to women's education made them highly unpopular with conservatives in India. Rumours were made up that Savitribai husband would die because all of the food he ate 'turned into worms.' Every day that Savitribai travelled to the school she was met with abuse, both verbal and physical - groups of conservative men would follow her and throw 'rotten eggs, cow dung, tomatoes and stones' at her. At one point in time she felt like she could not carry on, but her husband convinced her to stay strong and gave her 2 sarees, one to wear on the way to school (that would be ruined) and one to wear when she got in.

The abuse she received every-day eventually stopped after a man told her to stop educating women or she would face 'a heavy price'. Phule and her husband continued to rebel against unjust rules against women and those of a lower caste. Phule is remembered as India's first female teacher and as the mother of Feminism in India.

F E D E L M U N D O

Born on the 27th November 1911, Fe del Mundo would go on to become the first woman accepted into Harvard Medical School, over a decade before they officially agreed to accept women. Fe del Mundo was inspired by her late sister Elisa, who wanted more than anything to become a doctor, to honour her sister she set out to achieve that same goal.

Fe began her studies at the University of the Philippines at the age of 15 and graduated as a valedictorian and granted a full scholarship by the President of the Philippines to study at any school she wanted! She chose Harvard and they accepted her by mistake, assuming that she was a male, as they had little interactions with those from foreign countries. Despite being the only women at Harvard Medical School and being placed into an all-male dorm, Fe excelled and went on to achieve a Master's at Boston University!

She returned back to the Philippines in 1941 due to the war against Japan, during the war Fe and other non-Japanese were sent to internment camps and it was here that she came up with the idea of creating a children's home, outside the main camp. At the beginning of the camp she had hundreds of children at the home and 25 staff members! After the war she became the first woman to head a government general hospital. She eventually sold all that she had to set up a 100 hundred bed Children's Medical Centre in 1957 and later set up the Institute of Maternal and Child Health – which is still recognised today as a world leader in paediatric care. She very clearly honoured her late sister and saved thousands of lives.

FATA ORLOVIĆ

Fata Orlović is a Bosniak woman, born on the 6th August 1942, who has been in a legal battle with the authorities of the Republika Srpska since she returned to her hometown of Konjević Polje, five years after the end of the Bosnian War.

During the Bosnian War, Fata's husband was killed, along with other family members. Fata and her sons became refugees and returned to their hometown in 2000, to see it ethnically cleansed.

The legal battle has gone on for over 20 years, and was caused because after the war her house was destroyed and a church was put in her back garden. Over the 2 decades that she fought to get the church removed, Orlović faced threats, lawsuits and attacks. Only in 2019 did the European Court of Human Rights finally rule that the church must be removed.

Fata's perseverance is truly inspirational and shows just how important it is to stand up for what you believe in and what is rightfully yours. The US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina nominated Fata for the international "Woman of Courage" award, given to women who fight for their rights in a nonviolent way.

HEDWIG DOHM

Marianne Adelaide Hedwig Dohm, born on the 20th September 1831, was a German feminist and author - she was one of the first feminist thinkers to see gender roles as a result of socialisation and not biology. Hedwig's inferior position as girl became abundantly clear during her childhood, when her parents changed her birth year so that she would spend longer at home looking after her younger siblings. Her parents also stated that her brothers may finish their education, but that she would not have this same opportunity.

Once she became married to an intellectual, she was able to start her career writing and published her first political work, *Was die Pastoren von den Frauen denken* (What the Clergy Thinks About Women), in response to conservative men who argued that women having access to higher education would harm women physically and mentally. Hedwig argued that the so-called 'natural laws' that restricted women to roles as mothers were constructed by men to suppress female potential and serve men's interests.

Perhaps Hedwig's most powerful quote is that 'Human rights have no gender', in the late 1800s these kind of arguments for women were relatively unheard of, which makes her work even more seminal.

At the age of 70 she released *Die Antifeministen* (The Antifeminists) and provided her readers with the types of men who were opponents to women's rights. She argued that these men were unqualified to pass judgement on the 'true nature' of women and questioned what 'true nature' even was.

SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE

Sirimavo Ratwatte Dias Bandaranaike, born 17th April 1916, was Sri Lanka's first female Prime Minister and the world's first female Prime Minister! Sirimavo became interested in social welfare when she married her husband, who was Prime Minister up until his assassination in 1956. After his death, she was elected as leader of the Sri Lankan Freedom Party and became Prime Minister in 1960!

She followed a programme of socialist economic policies, neutrality in international relations and the active encouragement of the Buddhist religion and of the Sinhalese language and culture. Her government nationalized various economic enterprises and enforced a law making Sinhalese the sole official language. In her second term, her government further restricted free enterprise, nationalized industries, carried out land reforms, and promulgated a new constitution that created an executive presidency and made Ceylon into a republic named Sri Lanka.

Her election to Prime Minister led to the right-wing parties of Sri Lanka attacking her ability to lead, they believed that no woman was capable of leading a country, let alone a political party. But unaffected, Sirimavo believed it was her duty to lead Sri Lanka at such an important time in its history. The 1960s were not an equal time for women, her election as Prime Minister set a precedent and proved that women were just as capable as men in running a country. Even in 2021, there is only 21 countries with a female head of state, clearly showing that we still are yet to live in an equal world.

P O L I C A R P A S A L A V A R R I E T A

Policarpa Salavarrieta, also known as 'La Pola' was born in 1795 to a Colombian family in Gadaus, and later moved to Bogotá. During the early 1800s there was a smallpox epidemic which claimed the lives of both of her parents and her two brothers and she eventually moved with her sister and the rest of the siblings to live with her grandmother.

La Pola's sister had a godmother who was actively fighting against Spanish colonizers in Colombia. La Pola was given an education, even though this was not the norm for girls at the time, she was allowed to teach in public schools and eventually became a seamstress. La Pola became political when living with her grandmother and she was advised to become a seamstress for Spanish royals, which she did. She was able to infiltrate their space and gain valuable information from conversations that she overheard - including, the number of Spanish soldiers in Colombia and what weapons they would be using.

Eventually, La Pola's assumed lover was caught for spying and the documents he had incriminated La Pola too. On the 10th November 1817 La Pola was sentenced to death by shooting for espionage and betraying Spanish control and on the 14th November she was executed. Before her death she shouted to the crowd that watched: 'Although I am a woman and young, I have more than enough courage to suffer this death and a thousand more.'

After her death, La Pola became a martyr and helped ignite the fire of independence - in 1910 she became the first Latina commemorated on a postage stamp.

SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm born in 1924, was the first African American woman in the U.S. Congress when she was elected in 1968 and the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for president of the U.S., from one of the two major political parties, in 1972!

In 1951, Shirley graduated with a Master's Degree in early childhood education, from Columbia University and by 1960 she was a consultant to the New York City Division of Day Care! Shirley joined her local chapters of the League of Women Voters, the Urban League, the NAACP and the Democratic Party club in Brooklyn.

In 1964, Shirley became the second African American in the New York State Legislature and in 1968 she won her seat in Congress in her NYC district! She gained the nickname 'Fighting Shirley' as she introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation, championing racial and gender equality, supporting the poor and ending the Vietnam War. She was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and in 1977 became the first Black woman and second woman ever, to serve on the House Rules Committee. In 1972, Shirley attempted to become a Democratic Party presidential nominee - however, she faced a wealth of racial and gender discrimination. She was blocked from participating in televised primary debates, after she took legal action she was allowed to make one speech. Students, women and minorities followed the 'Chisholm Trail' and she entered 12 primaries and garnered 152 of the delegates votes! In 1983 Shirley retired from Congress and taught at Mount Holyoke College, co-founding the National Political Congress of Black Women.

She famously stated: "I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change."

EILEEN FLYNN

Eileen Flynn was born in 1989/1990 and is an Irish Independent politician who is the first Irish Traveller to be elected as a Senator to the Irish Seanad, a role she has held since June 2020. She has spent her time as a Senator pushing the Irish Government to commit to meet the needs of the Irish Traveller community, which has a suicide rate 6 times higher than the rest of the Irish population.

Eileen has promised to break barriers and help marginalised communities.

During her childhood Eileen, and her family, faced discrimination because they were Travellers - she recalls being watched in shops, being refused entry to shows and always feeling like an outsider.

She also speaks about the difficulties that Travellers face, when other communities do not, especially during colder months when Traveller communities face a rise in heart attacks, flu and hypothermia due to a lack of heat and running water. Eileen is also open about her own mental health issues, which she believes stem from her mother passing away when Eileen was just 10 years old and her experience growing up as a Traveller in Ireland.

Eileen studied at Trinity College Dublin, as part of an access course, and later became an activist and community worker for Travellers, working with the Irish Traveller Movement, the National Traveller Women's Forum and Ballyfermont Traveller Action Programme. She has also campaigned for issues including - affordable housing, marriage equality, abortion rights and anti-racism.

Eileen was nominated to the Irish Seanad by the Taoiseach (the Prime Minister of Ireland) and her nomination hopefully marks a positive step towards a more representative political situation in Ireland. During her first 3 days in the Seanad a male senator called her a 'token' nomination and Eileen fought back, rightly stating that she earned her position through activism and her abilities!

G Ü L S Ü M K A V

Gülsüm Kav, born 1971, is a Turkish Doctor, Feminist, activist and writer and one of the founders of 'We Will Stop Femicide Platform' an organisation that raises awareness of gender-based violence in Turkey and campaign for victims of femicide. Femicide is defined as 'the intentional killing of women or girls because they are female' and is a sex-based hate crime.

Gülsüm has stated that she focused her activism on Femicide, following a 2004 case when Güldünya Tören gave birth after being raped and her brothers tried to kill her on multiple occasions, and later murdered her in what is considered an 'honour killing'. It was following this case that she attended her first protest against Femicide, and her activism grew on from then.

In 2014 Gülsüm was elected to the Executive Board of the United June Movement, which is a political coalition that brings together left-wing political organisations, independents and a number of left-wing NGOs in Turkey and defines itself as 'anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-fascist and anti-reactionary political alliance.' Gülsüm has also worked in the Human Rights Commission in Ankara and a number of medical boards. In 2017 Gülsüm co-founded the Women's Assembly, a grassroots movement to fight for women's rights in Turkey!

She has appeared in multiple media outlets discussing violence against women in Turkey and is a writer for a number of Turkish organisations and in 2020 she was included in the BBC's annual 100 Women list, which celebrates the achievements of women in the 21st Century!

Today we celebrate Gülsüm Kav, and other women like her, who are standing up for what is right, even when it is difficult and dangerous to do so.

SANNA MARIN

Sanna Mirella Marin is the 46th Prime Minister of Finland, Finland's youngest-ever prime minister and the youngest female state leader in the world. Sanna has made history by leading a coalition headed entirely by women!

Sanna Marin gained popularity whilst she was the head of the Tampere City Council (2013-17) when Youtube videos of her debates and meeting went viral and drew in national attention. In 2015, Sanna was elected to Parliament and was re-elected in 2019 and served as the Minister of Transport. Sanna focuses her policies on climate change, equality and social welfare and stated 'I want to build a society where every child can become anything and every person can live and grow in dignity.'

In December 2019 Sanna Marin was nominated by the Social Democratic Party to become Prime Minister of Finland and leader of the party! Sanna was on the BBC's 100 Women and also was selected by Forbes to be 85th on the list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women. In 2020, she also became a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, and was selected by Time Magazine in their Time100 Next issue, which showcases the most influential leaders around the world!

She is Finland's third female Prime Minister and is an inspiration to young girls all around the world, she sets an example and shows that we are on the right track to gender equality, although far more must be done.

CHRISTINA ADANE

Christina Adane, originally from Ethiopia is a 17 year old Intersectional Campaigner in the UK and was recently named among the 100 Most Influential Women of 2020 by the BBC!

Christina has been recognised for her work in the UK to fight injustices within the UK food system, especially for young children in schools. She created a petition calling for free school meals to be extended over the school holidays, to ensure that children were being fed properly and that they had enough energy for the day. The petition received over 430,000 signatures and was picked up by national media outlets, MPs and celebrities.

Christina is also a Youth Board leader for Bite Back 2030, a youth led organisation dedicated to putting young people's health at the forefront of the British food system. Bite Back have successfully lobbied the British Government to have tougher new measures on when and how junk food can be advertised, through their 9pm TV Watershed campaign.

Christina Adane has already achieved so much at 17, so we are sure that we will see her and her activism in the future!

AMELIA EARHART

Amelia Earhart was an American aviator who set multiple flying records and championed the advancement of women in aviation. Amelia became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean and the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland!

Amelia Earhart was born in Kansas, America in 1897, and she defied gender roles at the time by playing basketball, taking part on auto repair course and college briefly. During World War I, Amelia served as a Red Cross nurse's aid in Canada, whilst in Canada she spent her time watching pilots at a local airfield while in Toronto and this inspired her future career!

In 1922, Amelia became the first woman to fly solo above 14,000 feet and in 1932, she came the second person and first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. When she arrived back home, the United States Congress awarded her the Distinguished Flying Cross. The award is a military decoration awarded for 'heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight', Amelia was the first woman to receive this award.

In 1937, Amelia set out to fly around the world to become the first pilot to ever circumnavigate the globe. Sadly, Amelia and her co-pilot went missing and were never seen again - with most assuming that they crashed into the ocean.

EMILY DAVISON

Emily Wilding Davison was born in 1872 in Kent and was a British Suffragette and eventual martyr for the Suffragette movement which eventually got British women the right to vote.

She attended the Royal Holloway College and St. Hugh's Hall, Oxford University and in 1895 took first class honours in English. At the time Oxford did not give women degrees, unlike their male counterparts - following this, she taught at Oxford and eventually got a degree from the University of London.

In 1906 she joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), the militant wing of the British woman suffrage movement, meaning that they were willing to use violence for women to have rights, especially the right to vote. In March, July, September and October 1909 Emily was arrested - twice for 'obstruction' and twice for 'stone throwing.' During her time in prison she adopted the new Suffragette policy of hunger strike - this led to either early release or force-feeding, the latter of which gained criticism from the British public.

In 1910 she was arrested for breaking windows in the House of Commons and during her prison-time she decided that the women's suffrage movement needed a martyr and attempted to throw herself from a staircase. However, she is most well known for her martyrdom in June 1913 when she was hit and killed by King George's horse at the Epsom Derby, following her death little changed politically but thousands marched for her funeral procession and she is still seen as one of the founders of the British women's suffrage movement. There is debate to whether she intended to die at the Epsom Derby but most assume that it was deliberate and that she died for a cause that she believed so strongly in.

P R I N C E S S D I A N A

Diana, Princess of Wales or Diana Frances Spencer was born on the 1st July 1961 in Norfolk, England and would go on to become one of the world's most well known Princess' of all time. From the years 1981-96 Diana was married to Prince Charles and was mother to Prince William (the 2nd in line to the British throne) and Prince Harry.

Princess Diana was a hit with the British Media and became an icon of 'grace, elegance, and glamour. Exuding natural charm and charisma', she utilised her fame to aid a number of charitable causes - including for AIDS patients. Princess Diana was the first public figure to shake the hand of an AIDS patient in 1987 and opened the UK's first HIV/AIDS unit at London's Middlesex Hospital. Her work helped to destigmatise myths around HIV and AIDS, including that physical touch could transmit the disease.

Princess Diana also worked with a number of other charitable causes including the banning of landmines, the arts and children's issues and her work garnered her the nickname 'The People's Princess', in reference to her working more with the public than any other British Royal had ever done before.

In 1997 Princess Diana was killed in a Paris tunnel following a car crash, along with her boyfriend at the time Dodi Fayed and the outpour of public grief was something rarely seen, the people of the UK had made a genuine connection to Princess Diana and saw her as more than just a Royal, but someone that they could relate to.

Princess Diana has forever been immortalised by her work in the charity sector and the connection that she made to the British public. Her approval ratings both whilst she was alive and after her death are some of the highest ever in the British Royal Family.

G E R T R U D E E D E R L E

Gertrude Caroline Ederle was born 23rd October 1905 in New York and was world-renown for being the first woman to ever swim, in 1925, the English Channel and was one of the best known American sports personages of the 1920s!

Gertrude started swimming early on in her life and between 1921-1925 she held 29 national and world amateur swimming records! In 1922 she broke 7 records in one afternoon at Brighton Beach, New York! At the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris she was apart of the American team that won the gold medal in the 4 x 100-metre freestyle relay.

In 1925 Gertrude first attempted to swim the English Channel, but was unsuccessful. She returned the next year to try again and faced a wealth of backlash from people who believed a woman could not accomplish the swim. Gertrude proved her disbelievers wrong and swam the 35 miles in 14 hours, 31 minutes - which actually beat the men's world record by 1 hour 59 minutes! Not only did she complete the swim, but she also proved that a woman could swim faster than a male swimmer!

MARYAM MIRZAKHANI

Maryam Mirzakhani was born 3rd May 1977 in Tehrān, Iran and was an Iranian mathematician, in 2014 she became the first woman and the first Iranian to be awarded a Fields Medal, she was recognised 'her outstanding contributions to the dynamics and geometry of Riemann surfaces and their moduli spaces.' The Fields Medal is the most prestigious award in mathematics and is often equated in stature to the Nobel Prize!

Whilst Maryam was a teenager she won gold medals in both the 1994 and 1995 International Mathematical Olympiads for high-school students and had a perfect score in 1995! In 1999 she gained a B.Sc. degree in Mathematics from Sharif University of Technology in Tehrān, five years later she gained a Ph.D. from Harvard University!

In 2008 she became a professor at Stanford University at the age of 31 and continued to be a professor there until her death 9 years later, following a long battle with cancer.

Maryam has helped to inspire young girls to pursue careers in the mathematics field, which is usually dominated by men, and set a precedent that you can achieve whatever you put your mind to.

NADIA NADIM

Nadia Nadim was born 2nd January 1988 in Herat, Afghanistan where she lived with her family in the early years of her life. When she was young her and her family were forced to flee Afghanistan, after her father was executed by the Taliban. Her family planned to escape to London, but they soon found themselves in Denmark instead.

Once Nadia and her family arrived in Denmark she began playing football and made her debut for the Danish national team in 2009, since then she has represented the country she now calls home 73 times! Not only does Nadia play for the Denmark national football team and Paris Saint-Germain, she is also a medical student at Aarhus University and will become Dr Nadia Nadim. She also speaks 9 languages fluently!

Nadia also works to give back to those who are currently seeking refugee and was named UNESCO Champion for Girls' and Women's Education in 2019. She also regularly stands up against racism in football, something that she faces both now and when she first moved to Denmark.

Nadia Nadim is a true icon to women and girls everywhere and shows that even in the worst times of your life, that things can get better and you can achieve your hopes and dreams.

MARY KENNER

Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner was an African-American Inventor, born 17th May 1912 in North Carolina. During her lifetime she invented a number of products that we still use today, she also has the most patents of any African American woman ever!

Mary began inventing at the young age of six - creating a self-oiling door hinge, she was likely inspired by her father who was also an Inventor and her grandfather who invented a number of inventions including a stretcher with wheels for ambulances.

Mary's first patent was in 1957 for a sanitary belt, she initially invented it in the 1920s but could not afford the patent. From the 20s onwards she continued to improve her earlier attempts at the sanitary belt and she was successful! In 1957, the Sonn-Nap-Pack Company heard that she was inventing this and contacted her to market the invention - however, when they found out that she was Black, they declined.

Mary continued to invent new things and her final patent was granted in 1982. She was never formally recognised for her inventions and her advancements in sanitary products, but without her sanitary belt it is possible that the products that we use to today could have never come about. Mary's inventions were likely discriminated against due to her being African-American, but the fact that she carried on inventing shows her perseverance to creating things and improving the world.

SHANI DHANDA

Shani Dhanda is an award-winning disability specialist and is listed as one of the UK's most influential disabled people. Shani is a social entrepreneur, a business and culture change agent and disability equality advocate.

Shani created the UK's first official discount card for disabled people - The Diversability Card, she created the card to help reduce the financial pressures that people with disabilities have. Shani also works to combat prejudice and stereotypes surrounding disabled people and founded the Asian Disability Network that provides support and education to the Asian community about disabilities.

She has also worked to fight against racism and celebrate diversity, through founding the UK's first Asian Woman Festival to celebrate the female Asian identity. She also worked with Virgin Media to ensure that their disabled customers and employees are treated fairly and have an excellent experience with company.

Shani's career initially started with over 100 job applications rejected, but this changed when she stopped disclosing her disability - Shani has Brittle Bone disease - which affects every 1 out of 15,000 people in the UK. Despite all of the obstacles that Shani has faced, her committed perservance to making the world a better place is incredibly inspiring and has improved the lives of those with disabilities!

ZLATA FILIPOVIĆ

Zlata Filipović is a Bosnian diarist born on 3rd December 1980 in Sarajevo (then Yugoslavia, today's Bosnia and Herzegovina.) Zlata was 10 when she was gifted a diary and from 1991 - 1993 she wrote about her experiences as a child in Sarajevo during the Bosnian War (1992-95) and the Siege of Sarajevo.

In 1992, 45 pages of Zlata's diary, which she called 'Mimmy', were published and was titled '*Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo.*' Her diary chronicled her daily life and the impact that the war had on Sarajevo. In 1993, Zlata and her family escaped to Paris, with the help of the UN, where they stayed for a year. In the same year, Zlata met Janine di Giovanni, a reporter, described Zlata as 'the Anne Frank of Sarajevo.'

In 1994, The New York Times Review of Books praised the 'pure innocence and desperation' of Zlata's Diary and characterised her as an 'every girl', a term used to describe an ordinary and humble character that audiences connect well with.

Afterwards, she attended St Andrew's College, Dublin and graduated from Oxford University with a BA in Human Sciences. She has lived in Dublin since 1995, where she studied at Trinity College Dublin!

YUSRA MARDINI

Yusra Mardini, born 5th March 1998, is a Syrian Swimmer who currently lives in Hamburg, Germany. Yusra is a member of the Refugee Olympic Team - a team created by the IOC that is made up of a number of people from a number of countries that are legally recognised refugees. The team was created in an effort to make more people understand that refugees are human and show the plight that they face.

Yusra grew up in Damascus and trained with the Syrian Olympic Team and represented Syria in the World Swimming Championships in 2012. In 2015, Yusra and her sister fled Syria following their home being destroyed in the Syrian Civil War. They reached Turkey and were attempting to cross the ocean into Greece, however the motor stopped working on their boat meaning that Yusra and her sister had to tread water for 3 hours until the motor worked again!

Eventually, Yusra made the treacherous walk from Lesbos to Germany - where her and her family live now as refugees. She continued to train as a swimmer in Germany and was selected in 2016 to be apart of the Refugee Olympic Team. In 2017, Yusra was appointed a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, the youngest Ambassador for the UNHCR!

Yusra advocates for refugees globally through sharing her story and has become an influential voice for displaced people around the world! Yusra's story can be found in her memoir - 'Butterfly: From Refugee to Olympian - My Story of Rescue, Hope and Triumph', which is being adapted into a film!

VESNA BUGARSKI

Vesna Bugarski, born 2nd May 1930 was a Bosnian architect, and she was Bosnia and Herzegovina's first ever female architect!

Vesna was born in Sarajevo and later moved to Belgrade where she was the only woman to study architecture, she would go on to graduate in Sarajevo in 1964 once a department of architecture opened.

Her first job was with Prosperitet - a planning and design firm in Sarajevo, she later moved to Denmark for several years and specialised in interior design, she continued this passion when she moved back to Sarajevo and began weaving tapestries and designing interiors for offices and apartments.

In August 1992, during the Bosnian War, she was killed by a grenade whilst she was walking home from a market. Much of her work in Sarajevo was destroyed by the warfare. Vesna has been honoured by Remembering Srebrenica:

'On #IWD2020 we honour Vesna Bugarski, the first female Bosnian architect, a woman full of talent who made immense progress for all Bosnian women.'

MARIJA BURSAĆ

Marija Bursać, born on the 2nd August 1920 was a member of the Yugoslav Partisans during the Second World War in Yugoslavia and was the first woman proclaimed a People's Hero of Yugoslavia!

Marija was born to a Bosnian Serb farming family in Kamenica and eventually the Axis powers invaded Yugoslavia and created the Independent State of Croatia in 1941, from the start Marija supported the Partisan resistance movement that was led by the Communist Party of Yugoslavia. Marija, and other women in her village, collected supplies for the Partisan war effort. In the same year, Marija became a member of the League of Communist Youth of Yugoslavia. The following year, she was appointed political commissioner of a company of the 1st Krajina Agriculture Shock Brigade, which harvested crops in the Sanica River valley.

In 1943 she officially became a Partisan, with the 10th Krajina Brigade where she was a nurse. In September 1943, Marija was injured in her leg whilst throwing hand grenades during an attack on a German base and eventually died from her injuries.

Following her death she was proclaimed a People's Hero of Yugoslavia, following the war - schools, streets and organisations were named in her memory!

UBAH ALI

Ubah Ali is a social activist and Feminist from Somaliland, who campaigns against FGM (female genital mutilation). Last year, Ubah was listed by the BBC as one of the world's most influential 100 women!

At the age of 18 Ubah created an organisation called Rajo: Hope for Somaliland Community, with the aim of providing educational opportunities for orphans and underprivileged children from Somaliland. Ubah was inspired to create the organisation following her work at Hargeisa Orphanage Centre, between 2012 and 2015, where she tutored students.

In 2018, Ubah founded Solace for Somaliland Girls Foundation, which aims to end the practice of FGM through education and awareness campaigns. The group was the first anti-FGM group ever in Somaliland.

ELIZABETH ANIONWU

Dame Elizabeth Nineka Anionwu, born on the 2nd July 1947, is a British nurse, lecturer, health care administrator and Emeritus Professor of Nursing at the University of West London.

In 1979, Elizabeth became the UK's first sickle-cell and thalassemia nurse specialist and helped to establish Brent Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Counselling Centre. In 1998, Elizabeth created the Mary Seacole Centre for Nursing Practice at the University of West London. Elizabeth has a PhD and was appointed a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing.

She retired in 2007, and in 2016 she published her memoirs, *Mixed Blessings* from a Cambridge Union. In 2003 she became a Trustee and subsequently Vice-Chairperson of the Mary Seacole Memorial Statue Appeal. Following the unveiling of the statue at St Thomas' Hospital in June 2016 she was appointed a Life Patron of the Mary Seacole Trust.

FATIMA MANJI

Fatima Manji, born 1985, is an English television journalist and newsreader, currently working for Channel 4 News. In March 2016, Fatima became Britain's first hijab-wearing TV newsreader!

Fatima began her career as a trainee at the BBC, reporting for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire. During her time at the BBC she investigated and reported on a number of topics including hate crime against migrants, the pressure on housing services and Sarajevo, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She joined Channel 4 in 2014 and became a newsreader 2 years later. Channel 4 was commended for hiring Fatima as a newsreader as, at the time, only 0.4% of British journalists were Muslim. In 2015, Fatima was a finalist for the Royal Television Society's Young Journalist of the Year award, she was also a finalist in the Broadcast category of the Words by women Awards for female journalists and in 2016 she was named the Media Personality of the Year at the Asian Media Awards.

Although a large portion of people celebrate the strides that Fatima is making for Muslim women in the UK, Fatima has had to face unwarranted criticism from some right-wing media outlets for wearing her hijab after a terror attack in France. Obviously Fatima's choice to wear a hijab has nothing to do with a terror attack, the fact that right-wing media outlets tried to allude to this does suggest something about the UK and its problem of Islamophobia.

FINAL NOTES

Since October 2020, we have travelled to 20 countries, 5 continents, and discovered the achievements of over 40 incredible women!

'Woman of the Week has become my favourite part of the week, every Monday I look forward to sharing the inspiring women that I have researched from around the world. By sharing the stories of women who have been overlooked by history, we are able to ensure that women are given credit for our incredible achievements, and ultimately this can only help to improve to gender equality cause.'

Jade Sullivan

