



Albizu Campos, Labor Rights, Puerto Rico

"Pedro Albizu Campos (September 12, 1891[2] – April 21, 1965) was a Puerto Rican attorney and politician, and the leading figure in the Puerto Rican independence movement. Gifted in languages, he spoke six. He graduated from Harvard Law School with the highest grade point average in his law class, an achievement that earned him the right to give the valedictorian speech at his graduation ceremony. However, animus towards his mixed racial heritage led to his professors delaying two of his final exams in order to keep Albizu Campos from graduating on time.[3] During his time at Harvard University he became involved in the Irish struggle for independence.[4][5]

Albizu Campos was the president and spokesperson of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party from 1930 until his death in 1965. Because of his oratorical skill, he was hailed as El Maestro (The Teacher).[6][7] He was imprisoned twenty-six years for attempting to overthrow the United States government in Puerto Rico.

In 1950, he planned and called for armed uprisings in several cities in Puerto Rico. Afterward he was convicted and imprisoned again. He died in 1965 shortly after his pardon and release from federal prison, some time after suffering a stroke. There is controversy over his medical treatment in prison."



Ana Irma Rivera Lisén, LGBTQ+, Puerto Rico

"Ana Irma Rivera Lassén (San Juan, PR) was the first Black woman and the first lesbian to head the Bar Association of Puerto Rico. Elected in 2012, she was also the third woman to hold the position. In the 1980s, Rivera Lassén sued a judge and won when she was refused entry into court in pants, as opposed to a dress or skirt.

Rivera Lassén's activism career is long and decorated with awards, including the Medalla Senatorial Capetillo-Roqué from the Puerto Rican Senate, which she was awarded in 2003 for her work on behalf of women's rights."



Bryan Stevenson, BLM, US NorthWest

Bryan Stevenson is the founder and executive director of The Equal Justice Initiative, an organization dedicated to fighting injustice in the criminal justice system. EJI seeks to end mass incarceration, excessive punishments, and the profound racial disparities in how justice is deployed in the US. Stevenson is also one of the country's leading opponents of the death penalty, which is overwhelmingly applied to black convicts. The EJI has tried hundreds of capital punishment cases. The EJI has also conducted a painstaking investigation into the history of lynching in the US, and has uncovered more than 800 previously concealed instances of this atrocity. Through his work, Stevenson hopes to bring about a full and honest reckoning with the country's dark history.



Cesar Chavez, Migrant Rights, US SouthWest

Mexican American Cesar Chavez (1927-1993) was a prominent union leader and labor organizer. Hardened by his early experience as a manual laborer, Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association in 1962. His union joined with the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in its first strike against grape growers in California, and the two organizations later merged to become the United Farm Workers. Stressing nonviolent methods, Chavez drew attention for his causes via boycotts, marches and hunger strikes. Despite conflicts with the Teamsters union and legal barriers, he was able to secure raises and improve conditions for farm workers in California, Texas, Arizona and Florida.



Ciara Taylor, Antiwar, US Northeast

Ciara Taylor is a founding member of Dream Defenders, a community organizing collective that fights for social justice and boldly challenges the status quo. During her time at Dream Defenders, Taylor was the political director and then the director of political consciousness. She is well-versed in the structures of power that sustain inequality throughout the country and the world and she works to show regular people how they can make a meaningful differences within their communities. She now works with Code Pink to raise awareness of the many consequences of the US invasion of Iraq and campaign to end war around the world.



Fredrick Douglass, Abolition, US SouthEast

Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave who became a prominent activist, author and public speaker. He became a leader in the abolitionist movement, which sought to end the practice of slavery, before and during the Civil War. After that conflict and the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, he continued to push for equality and human rights until his death in 1895. Douglass' 1845 autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*, described his time as a slave in Maryland. It was one of five autobiographies he penned, along with dozens of noteworthy speeches, despite receiving minimal formal education.



Harriet Tubman, Abolition, US SouthEast

Harriet Tubman was an escaped enslaved woman who became a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, leading enslaved people to freedom before the Civil War, all while carrying a bounty on her head. But she was also a nurse, a Union spy and a women’s suffrage supporter. Tubman is one of the most recognized icons in American history and her legacy has inspired countless people from every race and background. On September 17, 1849, Harriet, Ben and Henry escaped their Maryland plantation. The brothers, however, changed their minds and went back. With the help of the Underground Railroad, Harriet persevered and traveled 90 miles north to Pennsylvania and freedom. Tubman found work as a housekeeper in Philadelphia, but she wasn’t satisfied living free on her own—she wanted freedom for her loved ones and friends, too. She soon returned to the south to lead her niece and her niece’s children to Philadelphia via the Underground Railroad.



Joan Baez, Women's Rights, US SouthWest

The 1960s were a turbulent time in American history, and Baez often used her music to express her social and political views. Baez thus became an established, revered folk artist who used her voice for widespread change. She sang “We Shall Overcome” at the March on Washington in 1963 that featured the iconic words and leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A revered anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, “We Shall Overcome” also became a top 40 hit for Baez in the U.K. in 1965. She achieved her first top 10 single in Great Britain later that year with “There But for Fortune,” also finding success with the Dylan-penned tune “It’s All Over Now Baby Blue.” In addition to supporting civil rights as an artist and worker, Baez participated in university free-speech efforts led by students and the antiwar movement, calling for an end to the conflict in Vietnam. Beginning in 1964, she would refuse to pay part of her taxes to protest U.S. military spending for a decade. Baez was also arrested twice in 1967 in Oakland, California, for blocking an armed forces induction center.



José Lopez, Decolonization, US Midwest South

In his role as educator/activist, he has been invited to speak at over 50 colleges and universities in the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Puerto Rico as well as in international forums such as the United Nations Decolonization Committee. For over 40 years, he has been a leading member of the Puerto Rican independence movement and is also the editor of “Puerto Rican Nationalism: A Reader”. Presently, he is active in developing new/praxis/theory in community and social empowerment, particularly in the areas of educational reform through the Community as a Campus Initiative, and addressing health inequities through the building of a holistic community of wellness in Chicago’s Greater Humboldt Park communities. He has served on various Boards including Bethany/ Advocate Fund Board and presently on the Chicago Public Schools Latino Advisory Committee to CEO Barbara Byrd Bennett.



Julia de Burgos, Women's Rights, Puerto Rico

The eldest of thirteen children, poet Julia Constanza Burgos Garcia was born in Carolina, Puerto Rico, and grew up in the barrio of Santa Cruz. She earned a teaching certificate at the University of Puerto Rico, and worked as a teacher at the Barrio Cedro Arriba in Naranjito before moving to New York, where she worked as a journalist, and then Cuba, where she pursued further studies at the University of Havana. Returning to New York after two years in Cuba, de Burgos served as the art and culture editor for the progressive newspaper *Pueblos Hispanos*. Predating the Nuyorican poetry movement, de Burgos' poems engage themes of feminism and social justice. In a 2011 profile of de Burgos for Ms. Magazine's blog, Vanessa Perez Rosario states, "De Burgos was an ambitious and brilliant woman who worked diligently on two fronts—to establish herself as a writer of international acclaim and to eradicate injustice. Her feminist politics and her Afro-Caribbean ideas allow us to read her as a precursor to contemporary U.S. Latina/o writers."



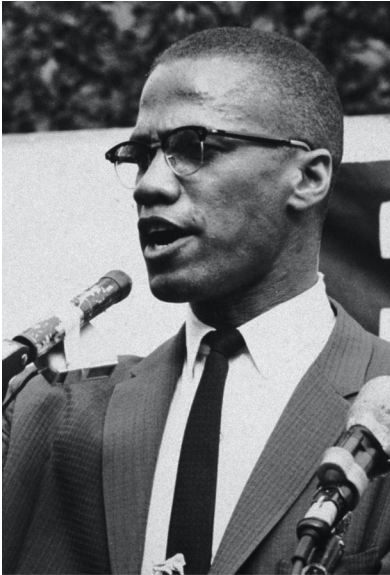
Lateefah Simon, Civil Rights, US NorthWest

Lateefah Simon is a nationally recognized advocate for civil rights and racial justice in Oakland and the Bay Area. She has been the President of Akonadi Foundation since 2016. That same year—driven by the death of Oscar Grant—she was elected to the Bay Area Rapid Transit Board of Directors; she now serves as President. Lateefah is also a member of California State University's Board of Trustees, and state officials often turn to her for strategic advice on policy matters related to racial justice. Lateefah received the MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award in 2003—making her at the time the youngest woman to receive the award—in recognition of her work as Executive Director of the Young Women's Freedom Center.



Luisa Capetillo, Labor Rights, Puerto Rico

Born in 1879, Luisa Capetillo was an organizer and activist, mostly known for her contributions to the labor and anarchist movements in Puerto Rico. Although she was raised by relatively liberal parents, Capetillo's first encounters with labor unions came when she worked as a book reader at a tobacco company after the Spanish-American War in Puerto Rico. She began writing opinion essays during that time, criticizing the labor conditions tobacco workers were exposed to and advocating for women's rights. "Oh you woman! who is capable and willing to spread the seed of justice; do not hesitate, do not fret, do not run away, go forward!" she wrote in her essay "Mi opinión." By 1905, Capetillo was a leader of the American Federation of Labor and traveled throughout Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, New York City, Florida, and Cuba. She's famously remembered for being one of the first women to use men's clothes publicly in the island. Capetillo died of tuberculosis in 1922.



Malcolm X, Civil Rights, US midwest south

A controversial figure accused of preaching racism and violence, Malcolm X is also a widely celebrated figure within African-American and Muslim American communities for his pursuit of racial justice. He was posthumously honored with Malcolm X Day, on which he is commemorated in various cities across the United States. Hundreds of streets and schools in the U.S. have been renamed in his honor, while the Audubon Ballroom, the site of his assassination, was partly redeveloped in 2005 to accommodate the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.



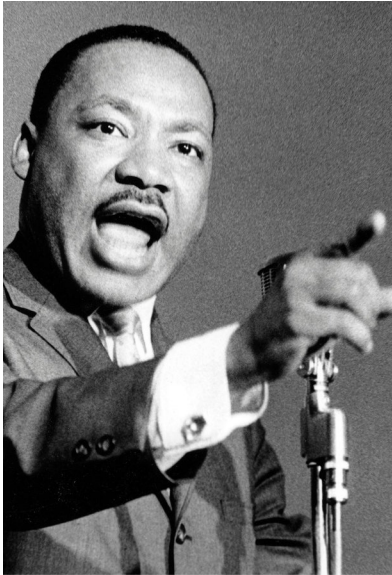
Mariana Bracetti, Decolonization, Puerto Rico

Mariana Bracetti is believed to have been the woman who crafted the first Puerto Rican flag, an earlier version of the one we know today. Bracetti was an independence movement leader in the 1860s and a key protagonist of the Grito de Lares, a failed revolt in the town of Lares that declared the first Puerto Rican republic in 1868. She was arrested and released a few months later, after she was granted amnesty from the Spanish government. Before the Grito de Lares, she was nicknamed "Brazo de oro" because of her sewing abilities and was appointed leader of the Lares Revolutionary Council. Her original Puerto Rican flag – known to many as the Bandera Revolucionaria – belongs to the University of Puerto Rico today.



Marianne Ramírez Aponte, Homelessness, Puerto Rico

After Hurricane Maria, the profile of the homeless has changed. Therefore, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Puerto Rico, directed by Marianne Ramírez Aponte, has been working with La Fondita de Jesús, has reformulated a project to educate about the rights of this population.



Martin Luther King, Civil Rights, US SouthEast

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father has served from then until the present, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as co-pastor. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters



Mayra Santos Febres, Women's Rights, Puerto Rico

Santos-febres is also known as a book critic, and on a regularly reviews books on Univision television. She believes it's good to learn as many techniques in creative writing so as a writer you have the flexibility to work with anything. Her most recent award has been from Guggenheim Fellowship and long-listed for IMPAC Dublin Literary award. Writing is a belief to her and it's who she is, in her academic work as a teacher she specializes in African, Caribbean and feminist literature. Santos-Febres currently lives in Puerto Rico and works at the University of Puerto Rico as a Professor of literature where she teaches creative writing.



Michelle Alexander, Civil Rights, US Northeast

Michelle Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, legal scholar and author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* — the bestselling book that helped to transform the national debate on racial and criminal justice in the United States. Since *The New Jim Crow* was first published in 2010, it has spent nearly 250 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list and has been cited in judicial decisions and adopted in campus-wide and community-wide reads, and has inspired a generation of racial justice activists motivated by Alexander's unforgettable argument that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." The book has won numerous awards, including the 2011 NAACP Image Award for best nonfiction. Alexander has been featured in national radio and television media outlets, including MSNBC, NPR, CNN, Bill Moyers Journal, *The Colbert Show*, *Real Time with Bill Maher*, *Tavis Smiley*, *Democracy Now!*, and C-SPAN.



Nikole Hannah-Jones, Civil Rights, US Northeast

Nikole Sheri Hannah-Jones (born April 9, 1976)[1][2] is an American investigative journalist known for her coverage of civil rights in the United States. In April 2015, she became a staff writer for The New York Times. In 2017 she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship and in 2020 she won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. The 1619 Project - In 2019, Hannah-Jones launched a project to re-examine the legacy of slavery in the United States, timed for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia.[30] Hannah-Jones produced a series of articles for a special issue of The New York Times Magazine titled The 1619 Project.[31] The ongoing initiative began August 14, 2019 and "aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of black Americans at the very center of our national narrative." [32] The project featured essays by a combination of staff writers and academics including Princeton historian Kevin M. Kruse, Harvard-trained lawyer Bryan Stevenson, Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond, and SUNY historian Anne Bailey. In the opening essay, Hannah-Jones wrote "No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the years of slavery that followed." The project also included poems, short fiction, and a photo essay. Originally conceived of as a special issue, it was soon turned into a full-fledged project, including a special broadsheet section in the newspaper, live events, and a multi-episode podcast series.



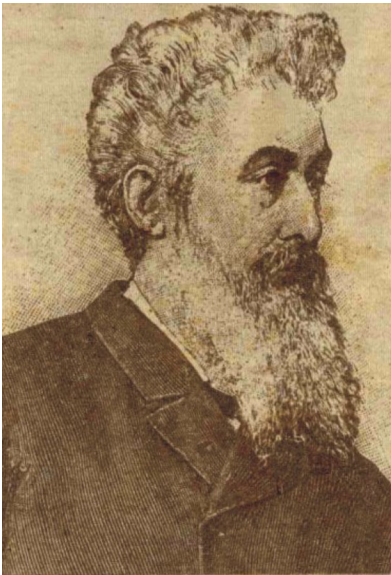
Nydia Velázquez, Women's Rights, US Northeast

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez is currently serving her fourteenth term as Representative for New York's 7th Congressional District. In the 116th Congress, she is the Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, a senior member of the Financial Services Committee and a member of the House Committee on Natural Resources. She has made history several times during her tenure in Congress. In 1992, she was the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In February 1998, she was named Ranking Democratic Member of the House Small Business Committee, making her the first Hispanic woman to serve as Ranking Member of a full House committee. Most recently, in 2006, she was named Chairwoman of the House Small Business Committee, making her the first Latina to chair a full Congressional committee.



Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, LGBTQ+, US Northeast

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan (born May 3, 1987 in Intibucá, Honduras) is an American transgender rights activist and the first openly transgender person to work as a White House staffer. She was also the first openly transgender legislative staffer to work in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. She served as director of external relations at the National Center for Transgender Equality, based in Washington, DC. She is a longtime advocate and public policy specialist on matters concerning human rights, gender, and LGBT people.



Ramón Emeterio Betances, Decolonization, Puerto Rico

Ramón Emeterio Betances y Alacán [note 1] (April 8, 1827 – September 16, 1898) was a Puerto Rican independence advocate and medical doctor. He was the primary instigator of the Grito de Lares revolution and is considered to be the father of the Puerto Rican independence movement. Since the Grito galvanized a burgeoning nationalist movement among Puerto Ricans, Betances is also considered "El Padre de la Patria" (Father of the [Puerto Rican] Nation). Because of his charitable deeds for people in need, he also became known as "El Padre de los Pobres" ("The Father of the Poor"). Betances was also a medical doctor and surgeon in Puerto Rico, and one of its first social hygienists. He had established a successful surgery and ophthalmology practice. Betances was also an abolitionist, diplomat, public health administrator, poet, and novelist. He served as representative and contact for Cuba and the Dominican Republic in Paris, France. An adherent of Freemasonry, his political and social activism was deeply influenced by the group's philosophical beliefs.



Samuel Sinyangwe, Anti-Police Brutality, US Northeast

Samuel Sinyangwe (born May 12, 1990)[1] is an American policy analyst and racial justice activist. Sinyangwe is a member of the Movement for Black Lives and a co-founder of We the Protestors, a group of digital tools that include Mapping Police Violence, a database of police killings in the United States, and Campaign Zero, a policy platform to end police violence. Sinyangwe is a co-host of the Pod Save the People podcast, where he discusses the week's news with a panel of other activists.



Sandra Cisneros, Migrant Rights, US SouthWest

"Sandra Cisneros (born December 20, 1954) is a Chicana writer. She is best known for her first novel *The House on Mango Street* (1983) and her subsequent short story collection *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1991). Her work experiments with literary forms and investigates emerging subject positions, which Cisneros herself attributes to growing up in a context of cultural hybridity and economic inequality that endowed her with unique stories to tell.[1] She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, was awarded one of 25 new Ford Foundation Art of Change fellowships in 2017, and is regarded as a key figure in Chicana literature.[2]



Shirley Chisholm, Civil Rights, US Northeast

Shirley Anita Chisholm (née St. Hill; November 30, 1924 – January 1, 2005) was an American politician, educator, and author.[1] In 1968, she became the first African-American woman elected to the United States Congress,[2] representing New York's 12th congressional district for seven terms from 1969 to 1983. In the 1972 United States presidential election, she became the first African-American candidate for a major party's nomination for President of the United States, and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. In 2015, Chisholm was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.



Sylvia Mendez, Labor Rights, US SouthWest

Sylvia Mendez (born June 7, 1936) is an American civil rights activist of Mexican-Puerto Rican heritage. At age eight, she played an instrumental role in the Mendez v. Westminster case, the landmark desegregation case of 1946. The case successfully ended de jure segregation in California[1] and paved the way for integration and the American civil rights movement.[2] Mendez grew up during a time when most southern and southwestern schools were segregated. In the case of California, Hispanics were not allowed to attend schools that were designated for "Whites" only and were sent to the so-called "Mexican schools." Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites" only school, an event which prompted her parents to take action and together organized various sectors of the Hispanic community who filed a lawsuit in the local federal court. The success of their action, of which Sylvia was the principal catalyst, would eventually bring to an end the era of segregated education.[3] She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian honor, on February 15, 2011.



Marsha P. Johnson, LGBTQ+, US Northeast

"Marsha P. Johnson was an activist, self-identified drag queen, performer, and survivor. She was a prominent figure in the Stonewall uprising of 1969. Marsha went by "Black Marsha" before settling on Marsha P. Johnson. The "P" stood for "Pay It No Mind," which is what Marsha would say in response to questions about her gender. It is the consideration of who "Black Marsha" was that inspired The Marsha P. Johnson Institute.

So much of our understanding of Marsha came from the accounts of people who did not look like or come from the same place as her. As transness is now more accessible to the world, introducing the Institute to BLACK trans people who are resisting, grappling with survival, and looking for community has become a clear need."