

SouthernOral HistoryProgram

K-12 Teaching Resource: Centennial of 19th Amendment Southern Oral History Program



**Women at the March on Washington, 1963
Photo Credit: NARA.**

Spring 2019

**Contains Oral History Interview Clips Regarding the Commemoration of the
Centennial of the 19th Amendment**

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[Access to the Interview Clip Playlist - https://tinyurl.com/sohp19voting](https://tinyurl.com/sohp19voting)

These interview clips are also accessible through the *Southern Oral History Program's* Soundcloud account.

General Themes

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Contributors

- **Ames Simmons** (Director of Transgender Policy at *Equality NC*)
- **Bettie Murchison** (President of *NC Black Women's Roundtable*)
- **Velma Hopkins** (Civil Rights Activist and Union Organizer)
- **Josephine Clement** (Civil Rights Activist at *League of Women Voters*)
- **Mandy Carter** (Civil Rights and LGBTQ Rights Activist at *Southerners on New Ground, National Black Justice Coalition*)
- **Gloria De Los Santos** (Durham Director, *Action NC*)
- **Patsy Clarke** (Activist and Founder of *Mothers Against Jesse in Congress*)
- **Margaret Keese-Forrester** (NC Legislator from Guilford County)
- **Carol Teal** (Activist, Former Executive Director of *Lilian's List* of North Carolina)
- **Dr. Jennifer Copeland** (Minister, Executive Director at the *NC Council of Churches*)

- **Dr. Gloria Thomas** (Director of the *Carolina Women's Center*)

VOTER SUPPRESSION

SUGGESTED CLIPS

❑ **Ames Simmons Talks Transgender Voter Suppression (clip no. 1)**

Ames Simmons, Director of Transgender Policy at *Equality NC*, discusses the experiences of oppression that transgender individuals face in the voting polls.

❑ **Bettie Murchison Remembers Polling Discrimination (clip no. 2)**

Bettie Murchison, entrepreneur and activist, discusses the lack of representation at the polls the first time she voted. She describes signing up to work as a polling official and her experiences while working there.

❑ **Velma Hopkins Discusses Poll Tests (clip no. 3)**

Velma Hopkins and Robert Chick, Black poll workers in Winston-Salem in the 1940s, discuss poll tests and the resistance of White officials to Black people being elected to public office. Warning: contains racial slurs.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe voter suppression. How does it relate to women's rights?
2. Why is learning about the history of voter suppression important and how does it connect to educating others on voting rights today?
3. Why is the act of voting important? Why do people view it as such a celebratory moment?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- "America's Unfair Voting Laws," *The Economist*, 2018.

<https://www.economist.com/democracy-in-america/2018/09/19/americas-unfair-voting-laws>

- "78,000 Transgender Citizens Could be Prevented from Voting in November," Rachel Dowd, *The Williams Institute*, 2018.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/trans-voting-id-laws-press-release/>

INTERSECTIONALITY

SUGGESTED CLIPS

❑ **Ames Simmons Discusses Intersectionality (clip no. 4)**

Ames Simmons, Director of Transgender Policy at *Equality NC*, discusses the ties between feminism and the transgender and non-binary liberation movement.

❑ **Bettie Murchison on Representation in Feminist Movements (clip no. 5)**

In this clip, Bettie Murchison was asked if her connection to the women's movement has changed overtime. She discusses the lack of representation for Black women in the movement, explains the importance of bridging gaps and educating others, and states that her connection to the movement has changed and grown overtime.

❑ **Josephine Clement Discusses Her Involvement in the Women's Movement (clip no. 6)**

Josephine Clement, activist located in Durham, discusses segregation and the role of the women's movement in fighting for equal rights for all. She discusses her role as a Black woman in both fighting for women's rights and for civil rights.

❑ **Mandy Carter Talks Sexism in Civil Rights Movements (clip no. 7)**

Mandy Carter, a civil rights activist located in Durham, discusses the male dominance of civil rights history and the importance of rediscovering the contributions of women civil rights activists.

❑ **Mandy Carter Discusses Intersectionality of Identities (clip no. 8)**

Mandy Carter discusses the importance of bringing all her identities, not just her identity as a woman, into her activism. Mentioned in the clip are NOW (*National Organization for Women*) and the *Lavender Menace* (a group of feminists who fought for lesbian representation in NOW in 1970).

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define “intersectionality?”
2. Are there any links between the movements for racial, gender and sexual equity?
3. Identify some key instances where different social justice movements have marginalized particular members within that movement.
 - a. What are the underlying issues causing these tensions within movements?
 - b. How does intersectionality play into mitigating these tensions and rendering movements more cohesive?
4. With reference to clip 7, what does Mandy Carter mean by “herstory?” What is different about “herstory?”

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *The Urgency of Intersectionality* by Kimberlé Crenshaw
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=akOe5-UsQ2o>
- Laverne Cox Talks about Intersectionality at Harvard
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY3F1pIxHMA>
- “Why Our Feminism Must Be Intersectional (and 3 Ways to Practice It),” Jarune Uwujaren and Jamie Utt, *Everydayfeminism*, 2015.
<https://everydayfeminism.com/2015/01/why-our-feminism-must-be-intersectional/>

ACTIVISM IN VOTING

SUGGESTED CLIPS:

❑ **Gloria De Los Santos Talks Local Politics (clip no. 9)**

Gloria De Los Santos, Director for *Action NC* located in Durham, discusses the importance of local activists and women who are speaking out for their rights. De Los Santos explains the role of *Action NC* to ensure that these voices are heard.

❑ **Patsy Clarke Discusses MAJIC (clip no. 10)**

Patsy Clarke, the founder of *Mothers Against Jesse in Congress*, discusses how she became involved in politics following the death of her son from AIDS.

❑ **Margaret Keese-Forrester Discusses NC General Assembly (clip no. 11)**

Margaret Keese-Forrester, member of the Republican Party and first woman elected to the General Assembly for Guilford County, discusses her experiences as one of the very few women working in politics during the 1970s and 80s.

❑ **Carol Teal (Lillian's List) - Women Candidates (clip no. 12)**

Carol Teal, the former Executive Director of *Lillian's List* of North Carolina, discusses how the group finds women candidates.

❑ **Ames Simmons on Transgender Candidates and Policy Outcomes (clip no. 13)**

Ames Simmons, Director of Transgender Policy at *Equality NC*, discusses the increase in transgender candidates for public office and recent election outcomes.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to these activists, why is it important for women to engage in politics?
2. Do you have to be a politician to be involved in politics? Why or why not?
3. What challenges do female politicians face in all phases of political life, from campaigning to their work in office?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- “The Women Running in the Midterms During the Trump Era,” Margaret Talbot, *New Yorker*, 2018.

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/2018-midterm-elections-women-candidates-trump>

- “A New Class of Voting Activists Picks Up the Mantle in Mississippi,” Audra D.S. Bauch, *The New York Times*, 2018.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/25/us/freedom-summer-mississippi-votes.html>

Voting in Memory

SUGGESTED CLIPS:

❑ Mandy Carter Discusses Memory of Civil Rights (clip no. 14)

Mandy Carter, a civil rights activist located in Durham, discusses why it's important to remember the struggle for civil rights that came before us.

❑ Dr. Jennifer Copeland Discusses the Importance of the Centennial (clip no. 15)

Dr. Jennifer Copeland, Methodist minister and the Director of the *NC Council of Churches*, talks about how anniversaries allow people to celebrate and reflect on progress that still needs to be made.

❑ Dr. Gloria Thomas Discusses Memory and Voting (clip no. 16)

Dr. Gloria Thomas, Director of the *Carolina Women's Center*, discusses the use and usefulness of oral history in commemoration efforts of the 19th Amendment.

❑ Dr. Gloria Thomas Talks ERA Through the Generations (clip no. 17)

Dr. Gloria Thomas, Director of the *Carolina Women's Center*, discusses the Equal Rights Amendment and how different generations have different understandings of the Equal Rights Amendment. Dr. Thomas corrected herself after the interview that the ERA pertains to sex, not gender, discrimination.

❑ Gloria De Los Santos and Learning Women's History (clip no. 18)

Gloria De Los Santos, Director for *Action NC* located in Durham, discusses learning about women's history and the significance of elevating the voices of women, specifically women of color, whose stories are not always told.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do these different activists believe it is important to preserve the memory of the past?
2. What happens if we forget the memory of previous generations?
3. How can oral history prevent this loss of memory?
4. Why is the centennial important to women today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *The Myth of Seneca Falls: Memory and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 1848-1898*, Lisa Tetrault, 2014.
- *For Freedom's Sake: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*, Chana Kai Lee, 2000.

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This is part of a continuing oral history project of the *Southern Oral History Program* covering the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.