

“It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. And we formed it, not



to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people - women as well as men.”

Susan B. Anthony,
anti-slavery social reformer, women’s rights
activist and co-author of “History of Women’s
Suffrage,” quote from a speech given in 1872

The 15th Amendment was ratified in 1870. Susan B. Anthony noticed that, even with this amendment, the U.S. Constitution didn’t specifically exclude women from voting. As a leader of the National Women’s Suffrage Association she decided to test her rights. With fifteen other Rochester women, she registered and voted in the 1872 presidential election. She was arrested and fined \$100. This quote is from a speech given following her arrest. Anthony never paid the fine.

Can you find modern examples of people willing to risk arrest and imprisonment to either bring awareness of an injustice or to fight for their rights or the rights of others? Compare and contrast this group with the suffragists in the late 1800s.

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