

Module 04: How Did Abolitionism Lead to the Struggle for Women's Rights?

Evidence

Political Action

Political Consciousness

The documents that follow highlight two important ways in which involvement in the anti-slavery cause changed women's understanding of their own place within American society. The first section, Political Action, explores how women made inroads into what was commonly considered a "no-woman's land:" the male and masculine sphere of politics. Documents in the second section, Political Consciousness, provide evidence of how the act of entering the public sphere to protest the oppression experienced by enslaved blacks led white activist women to question their own subordinate status.

As you read the documents, pay careful attention to the language the writers used, how they justified their involvement in what many of their fellow citizens considered "unladylike" activities, and how their consciousness about their position as women in American society changed over time.

Political Action

A [1. "Duty of Females"](#)
The Liberator, 5
May 1832

A [2. One Woman's
Anti-Slavery
Activities](#)
Excerpts from
Mary Avery
White's diary
entries, 1836-
1839

A [3. The First New
England Anti-Slavery
Society](#)
The Liberator, 14
July 1832

A [4. Weymouth and
Braintree Female
Anti-Slavery Society](#)
The Liberator, 20
October 1848

A [5. Women's Petition
to Congress](#)
1834

A [6. Anti-Slavery Fair](#)
Massachusetts
Anti-Slavery
Society, 1840s

A [7. Anti-Slavery
Bazaar](#)
The Liberator, 15
December 1848

A [8. "Lend Us Your
Aid"](#)
The Liberator, 15
December 1848

Political Consciousness

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| A | <u>9. "Am I not a Woman and a Sister?"</u>
<i>The Liberator</i> , 17
March 1832 | A | <u>10. Letters From Angelina Grimké to Jane Smith</u>
January -
February 1837 |
| A | <u>11. Letters From Angelina Grimké to Jane Smith</u>
May 1837 | A | <u>12. Sarah Grimké's Reflections on "The Pastoral Letter..."</u>
July 1837 |
| A | <u>13. Letter from Sarah Grimké to Angelina Grimké</u>
September 1837 | A | <u>14. Women's Experiences at the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London, England, June 1840</u>
<i>History of Woman Suffrage</i> , 1881 |
| A | <u>15. Letter From Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Elizabeth J. Neall</u>
1841 | A | <u>16. "The Rights of Woman"</u>
<i>The Liberator</i> , 9
February 1849 |