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The History of Black Women in Society

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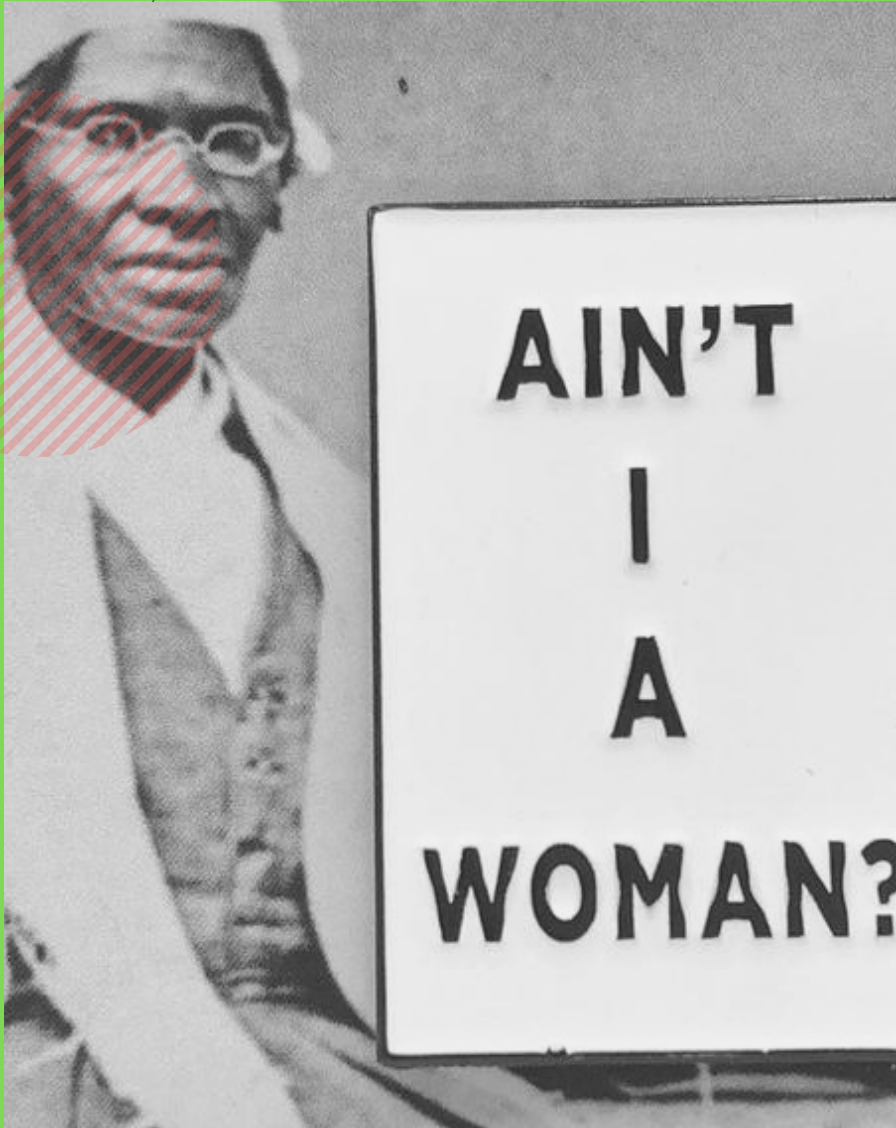
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THE SCOOP

THE NEWSLETTER ABOUT AND FOR THE BLACK WOMAN

January 24

Vol. 1



"Black women can do anything. We've proven that time and time again." -Tarana Burke. Black women have come a long way and we can do anything and indeed have proved that time and time again. Since the beginning of slavery and even today, Black women have fought to be seen, heard, and respected as women. For the longest time, they were seen as property..

" They were devalued as human beings, not considered women; "In America, no less distinguished and learned a figure than Thomas Jefferson conjectured that black women mated with orangutans." (Higginbotham 1992,) Over many years, we have had to struggle to be seen and heard and to not only be loved but to self love. We are a work in progress but we will prevail as he have before.

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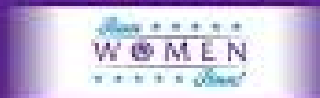
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"Women must become revolutionary. This cannot be evolution but revolution."

- Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman elected to the United States Congress



The Black women of Slavery

by La Toya Love

Slavery was legally institutionalized in Virginia in the late 1600s (Childs 2005). It was not a kind time to black women or men as has been historically documented. Black women were considered "subhuman beasts who were only valued for their labor. They were allowed to be raped and disrespected in any way see fit because they were property, never seen as women, let alone as human beings.

"As slaves, Black women were expected to work alongside Black men, performing an equal share of work. Because they were women, they also were forced to serve as concubines, whores, wet nurses, and breeders. Rape and other forms of violence were part of their day-to-day existence (Bell 1992)."

Black Feminist Movement

by La La Love

As Black women moved away from their roles in slavery, they began to fight very hard for their place at the American table of men to be recognized as women. As the suffrage movement began to make headway in the mid to late 1800s, a freed slave Sojourner Truth asked a question at a women's rights conference in 1851: "Ain't I a woman?" " She was the lone black woman, the only voice for women like herself at the meeting. She was not one of the invited speakers; she came forth of her own volition. Her assertion called for the recognition of dignity, respect, and equal justice for all women. But Sojourner's assertion also revealed the contradictory, unequal status and treatment among White, women, Black women, and Black men (Bell 1992)."

We fought alongside the the feminist and the black man, poorly underrepresented in both our roles as black and as a woman. We were basically invisible, but we were resilient, protesting for our rights to be black and a woman, a fight that still goes on to this day. The feminist movement I speak of is the creation of the National Association for Colored women (1896) , The Alpha Suffrage Association for Black women (1914), and The National Black Feminist Organization (1973) just to name a few.

With the abloishment of slavery in 1865, the black woman was still denigrated, fighting alongside black men to obtain equal rights and get out of the shadow of their time as a mule for the white man. It was still one of the most horrible times in black history, one that we want to forget, but cannot because we are still overlooked and inferior to the white community . The after effects of slavery are still felt amongst all black women. Even though we did not experience it first hand, we are still suffering not being able to utiize the justice system because we are not on equal footing with the white woman. Our mistreatment is due to the stratification of our race as well as our gender and it cannot be undone because the ideologies that surround the black women are so interwoven into the fabric of American society.





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BLACK-WOMEN-WITHOUT-WHOM-WE-MIGHT-NOT.HTML

The Black Woman of Today's Society

by Toya Love

The Black woman of today's society is trying to transcend the stereotypes that have followed her for many years: mammy, matriarch, sexual siren or Jezebel and the welfare mother or queen. These stereotypical images, according to Jennifer Woodward, "serve to support an oppressive patriarchal system that degrades and denigrates them according to race, class, and gender (2005)." We are also trying to get away from controlling images used to subordinate us. We are rejecting negative narratives and breaking down barriers.



We have become first ladies, academy award winners, grammy winners, nobel prize recipients, the list goes on. We are exuding "black girl magic." But more than just exuding magic, Black women, according to Gloria Ladson-Billings; "They are strong. They are smart. They are brave. They are resilient. They are capable. They are so much more than what society claims they are. They are responsible for almost every civil rights movement that tackles racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, and ability discrimination. What makes them more than magic is that they have not allowed all of the things they are up against to deter them from continuing the fight for justice and right (2017)." We continue to move upward and onward with no stopping in sight.

Annotated bibliography:

Anyiwo, Nkemka, L. Monique Ward, Kyla Day Fletcher, and Stephanie Rowley. 2018. "Black Adolescents' Television Usage and Endorsement of Mainstream Gender Roles and the Strong Black Woman Schema." *Journal of Black Psychology* 44 (4): 371–397.

This article was really enlightening about the role of the strong black woman in the media and what effect it has on black adolescents who view these women on television. What I got out of this resource is that it allowed me to understand the role of the strong black woman, and how this is associated with how black youth view themselves and how they are seen on television.

Bell, Ella Louise. 1992. "Myths, Stereotypes, and Realities of Black Women: A Personal Reflection." *The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science* 28 (3): 363–376.

This article talked about Sojourner Truth and the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill sexual harassment trial. What I got out of this reading was it really touched on the history of how our claims of sexual violence were never taken seriously because of the stereotypes of us being very sexual going as far back as slavery.

Childs, Erica Chito. 2005. "Looking behind the Stereotypes of the 'Angry Black Woman' an Exploration of Black Women's Responses to Interracial Relationships." *Gender & Society* 19 (4): 544–561.

This article was interesting because it talked about the different feelings toward black men dating white women and black women dating white men. What I got out of this is that black women do not feel very loved and respected by black men, and that interracial dating/relationships are a very social issue in black communities.

Gary, Danyelle. 2018. "She's a Queen and a Boss: Examining the Representation of Empire's Cookie Lyon from a Black Feminist Perspective." PhD Thesis, Valdosta State University.

This was a thesis which was very well written and relatable because I watch Empire. What I got from this was insight to the different roles that Cookie Lyon portrays and how they either go against stereotypes or further expand on them with how the show is written and the character situations.

Higginbotham, Evelyn Brooks. 1992. "African-American Women's History and the Metalanguage of Race." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 17 (2): 251–274.

This article talks about how race is defined and how that social construct defined Jim Crow laws and how that shaped media representations and stereotypes of the broken Black family. What I got from this article is that we have been stereotyped and misrepresented simply for the color of our skin and the one-sided thinking of society when it comes to different races and genders.

Jones, Jacqueline. 1982. "' My Mother Was Much of a Woman': Black Women, Work, and the Family under Slavery." *Feminist Studies* 8 (2): 235–269.

This article talked about Black women and their roles in slavery and the family. What I got from this article slaves were property and not seen as actual people. Laws were put in place to keep slaves in a place of subordination and keep the master in complete control.

Ladson-Billings, Gloria J. 2017. "Black Girls Are More than Magic." *Occasional Paper Series* 2017 (38): 12.

This article talks about how the phrase "Black Girl Magic" is just describing the everyday fight that black women in entertainment go through to be excellent. What I learned is that the real success for Black women is being able to provide for their families and still maintain their dignity in a society that doesn't respect them.

Schug, Joanna, Nicholas P. Alt, Philip S. Lu, Monika Gosin, and Jennifer L. Fay. 2017. "Gendered Race in Mass Media: Invisibility of Asian Men and Black Women in Popular Magazines." *Psychology of Popular Media Culture* 6 (3): 222.

This article talked about how Asian men and Black women are underrepresented in magazines. What I learned from this article is that the media prefers to look at Black men and Asian women when it comes to entertainment. Gender and race acceptance are huge in keeping these two groups invisible in magazines.

Simms, Rupe. 2001. "Controlling Images and the Gender Construction of Enslaved African Women." *Gender & Society* 15 (6): 879–897.

This article talked about how controlling images subordinate Black women. What I learned from this article is that mammy, jezebel and mule became stereotypes for female slaves, further keeping them at the bottom of the social stratification of society.

Woodard, Jennifer Bailey, and Teresa Mastin. 2005. "Black Womanhood: Essence and Its Treatment of Stereotypical Images of Black Women." *Journal of Black Studies* 36 (2): 264–281.

This article talks about Essence magazine and how it is instrumental in portraying black women to the masses, and how in some cases it shows stereotypical images of Black women. What I learned from the article is Essence magazine likes the image of the matriarch and the sexual siren stereotypes.