

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

About the Struggle for Women's Rights

In **1848**, leaders of what became the **Women's Rights Movement** invited Americans to attend the **Seneca Falls Convention** to discuss the need for women to have the rights of suffrage (voting), education, and others. They devised a document, modeled after the Declaration of Independence, of resolutions promoting women's civil rights. The "**Declaration of Sentiments**" was written by **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and signed by 100 women and men at the Convention.



Suffrage, or the right to vote, was one motivating factor in the Women's Rights Movement. Others included the right to own land, go to college, and have a career. Many women were also concerned about working conditions and equal pay for those who were able to hold a job.

This Convention was the first in a long series of group efforts to earn women more power and full equality in the growing American society. In 1920, Congress finally passed the **19th Amendment**, which gave adult American women the right to vote. Given the right to vote, American women started to influence governmental policy and establish equality and were no longer completely shut out of the decision-making process.