The Honorable Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
U.S. Representative of California (1973–1979)

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

**Women and the Civil Rights Movement**  
Representative Burke remembers women's involvement in the civil rights movement.  
*Interview recorded July 22, 2015*

It was mixed. It was a male movement. There were people in the civil rights movement who were very critical of women who were going places and traveling around. And then, of course, there was a time where there was a great deal of criticism of women from the point of view of, well when there was, Malcolm X was involved. And, they talk about women who had lipstick on and straightened hair. Even though there were times I had straightened hair, there were times I had a big afro. So, but there was considerable discussion of whether or not it was a time for men to evolve. And within African Americans, that was a little bit different than in the greater community. There was a feeling that men had been kept back, that men need to evolve in terms of the political system, and the whole business system, and the civil rights movement.