

Muriel Morisey

Senior Legislative Assistant, Representative Shirley Chisholm of New York

Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress

Representative Chisholm and the Women's Rights Movement

Muriel Morisey discusses Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's involvement in women's rights organizations.

Interview recorded April 19, 2017

But she was very much part of the, the, the women's rights efforts that included Bella Abzug and, and Pat Schroeder and the other, you know, the other women in Congress. But I, but I think she was very clear that as a black woman, and the first black woman in the U.S. Congress—she was in a very special position to recognize and bring attention to black women, and highlight the efforts of other black women in leadership roles, and give them visibility by, you know, attaching her name to an organization as a cofounder. Then the organization has a sort of stature that it might not otherwise, even if everybody—even if every founding member of a group was—had a well-developed history and expertise in something, you get Shirley Chisholm co-founder, and it's different.