

# National Woman's Party

from 1912 to 1920



**November 15, 1913**

First issue of *The Suffragist* appears.

**December 1912**

Alice Paul is appointed chairman of the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) Congressional Committee at the NAWSA convention.

**April 1913**

The Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage (CU) is founded by Alice Paul.

**August 29-30, 1914**

National Advisory Council convenes and decides that the CU should send two organizers to every suffrage state to mobilize women voters to oppose any congressional candidate from the Democratic Party, which had blocked passage of the federal suffrage amendment.



**December 5, 1916**

NWP members hide banner under cloak, position themselves in first row of balcony during President Wilson's annual address to Congress and unfurl banner reading: "Mr. President, What Will You Do For Woman Suffrage?"

**November 5, 1917**

Alice Paul and Rose Winslow begin hunger strike and, one week later, are subject to force-feeding three times a day for next three weeks.



**September 30, 1918**

President Wilson addresses Senate asking for passage of federal woman suffrage amendment as war measure.

**January 1, 1919**

Watch fire demonstrations begin when NWP members light a fire in urn placed in front of White House and burn copies of President Wilson's speeches in the fire.

**August 26, 1920**

Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signs 19th Amendment into law.

1912

**March 3, 1913**

Massive national suffrage parade, organized by the Congressional Committee and local suffrage groups, held in Washington, D.C., the day before President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration.

1914



**June 5-7, 1916**

National Woman's Party (NWP) officially formed at convention of women voters organized by CU at Chicago's Blackstone Theatre. The goal of "world's first women's political party" is remaining independent of existing political parties and campaigning on a platform of one plank—immediate passage of federal woman suffrage amendment.

1916

**January 10, 1917**

Silent picketing of the White House begins as twelve women march from Cameron House headquarters carrying tricolor purple, white, and gold banners, as well as banners with messages.

1918

**November 15, 1917**

Known as the "Night of Terror," pickets arrested on November 10th are transferred to Occoquan Workhouse, where Superintendent Raymond Whittaker watches guards burst into holding area and drag, carry, push, and beat women into their cells.



**June 22, 1917**

Lucy Burns and Katherine Morey become first women arrested while picketing White House; never brought to trial.

1920

**May-June 1919**

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate pass the federal suffrage amendment (19th Amendment), initiating the campaign to obtain ratification by 36 state legislatures—required three-fourths majority at that time.

**February 15-19, 1921**

At the NWP Convention in Washington, D.C., members commence a campaign to attain equal rights for women in the United States and worldwide.

**December 1923**

Equal Rights Amendment introduced in Congress by Sen. Charles Curtis (KS) and Rep. Daniel Anthony (KS).

**February 1926**

NWP begins its Women for Congress campaign again with a cross-country automobile tour to raise money and encourage NWP members to campaign for women candidates.



**October 1929**

The NWP moves to new headquarters at 144 B Street, NE (later Constitution Avenue, NE). The house is named Alva Belmont House and later changed to the Sewall-Belmont House to reflect structure's earlier history.

**March 3, 1931**

With NWP support, Congress passes revisions to the 1922 Cable Act, expanding women's naturalization and citizenship rights.

**July 26, 1937**

NWP attains repeal of Section 213 of the Legislative Appropriations Act of 1932 (Economy Act), which had prohibited spouses of federal employees from also working for the federal government.



**March 22, 1972**

U.S. Senate approves ERA, sending it to states, and twenty states ratify before year ends.



**1997**

NWP ceases lobbying activities and becomes a 501(c) 3, a non-profit, educational organization.

**1920**

**September 1924**

Women for Congress campaign launched in Pennsylvania where five women run for political office. None of the candidates win.

**November 1934**

Biennial NWP convention in New York reflects growing intra-party conflict, calls for organizational reform and broadening of NWP issues beyond ERA.

**July 20, 1923**

NWP celebrates 75th anniversary of first equal rights convention, and Alice Paul presents draft of federal equal rights amendment—also known as Lucretia Mott amendment—for delegates' approval.

**1940**

**May 1938**

Fair Labor Standards Act passes, establishing a forty hour work week and minimum wage for workers regardless of their sex, signaling the end of protective labor legislation, whose supporters oppose the ERA.

**1960**

**1964**

NWP campaigns successfully for inclusion of Title VII within Civil Rights Act.



**1980**

**June 30, 1982**

Time limit expires for ratification of ERA by thirty-eight states.

**September 22, 1922**

After lobbying by the NWP and other groups, the Married Women's Act, also known as the Cable Act, passes Congress. It prevents American women from losing their citizenship upon marrying a foreign national.

**1977**

Woman's Party Corporation established by NWP as 501(c) organization, able to collect tax deductible contributions to finance Party's educational activities, including maintaining the party's headquarters.



# National Woman's Party

## International Activities

1921

At the NWP Convention in Washington, D.C., members commence a campaign to attain equal rights for women in the United States and worldwide.

1929

The Puerto Rican legislature passes a law granting women the right to vote subject to literacy testing. Universal suffrage for Puerto Rico granted in 1935.



1930

First conference of the Inter-American Commission of Women held in Havana, Cuba. Alice Paul proposes international adoption of the Equal Nationality Treaty.

1941

Equal Rights International merges with the World Woman's Party to become the "World Woman's Party for Equal Rights."



1945

NWP and WWP successfully lobby the United Nations for inclusion of gender equality language into the UN Charter.

1948

UN General Assembly approves the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an international bill of rights, guaranteeing equal rights for women and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex.

1921

1925

Alice Paul and Alva Belmont organize the NWP International Advisory Committee, initially with representatives from eleven European nations.



1926

NWP officials help draft a bill extending suffrage to Puerto Rican women.

1931

With NWP support, Congress passes revisions to the 1922 Cable Act, expanding women's naturalization and citizenship rights.

1934

Equal Nationality Treaty, drafted by Alice Paul, signed into law by President Roosevelt.



1938

NWP establishes the World Woman's Party (WWP), headquartered at the Villa Bartholoni in Geneva, Switzerland.

1940



1939-1941

WWP Geneva headquarters maintained as a gathering place and safe haven for European women leaders forced to flee their own countries during World War II.

1953

1946

Creation of a permanent UN Commission on the Status of Women dedicated to ensuring women's equality and promoting women's rights.

Post 1953

International influence of WWP and NWP wanes and funds dwindle. The WWP disbands and the NWP focuses almost exclusively on the ERA.