

Source: Quotable Women of the Twentieth Century Edited by Tracy Quinn

Quotes are wonderful sources of wisdom and inspiration. They can lift your spirits, calm your nerves or give you pause for reflection. Here are some great quotes. Feel free to use them in your newsletters, agendas and posted at meetings to inspire, to educate or empower! Quotes are also a great way to promote dialog and discussion. Enjoy these quotes on **A**chievement **A**ctivism **U**nited States of America **W**omen

“The next best thing to being clever is being able to quote someone who is.”
Mary Pettibone Poole 1938

Achievement

“One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.”
Helen Keller

“The only way to enjoy anything in this life is to earn it first”
Ginger Rogers

“If you set out to be liked, you would be prepared to compromise on anything at any time, and you would achieve nothing.”
Margaret Thatcher

“I used to want the words, “She tried” on my tombstone. Now I want “She did it.””
Katherine Dunham

“Begin somewhere, you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do.”
Liz Smith

Activism

“Science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all – the apathy of human beings.”
Helen Keller

“Nothing liberates our greatness like the desire to help, the desire to serve.”
Marianne Williamson

“Action is the antidote to despair.”
Joan Baez

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead

“We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.”
Miriam Wright Edelman

“We can do no great things – only small things with great love.”
Mother Teresa

“Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living.”
Mother Jones

United States of America

“With all our shortcomings, the truth about America carries its own force. When young people or, indeed, people of all ages – come to this country and look at it for themselves, they see how democracy functions in daily life; see men and women going about their lives without fear, in fields they have chosen.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

“The big cities of America are becoming Third World countries.”
Nora Ephron

“The right to criticize.
The right to hold unpopular beliefs.
The right to protest.
The right to independent thought.”
Margaret Chase Smith

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”
Emma Lazarus

“I am not belittling the brave pioneer men, but the sunbonnet as well as the sombrero has helped to settle this glorious land of ours.”
Edna Ferber

“What the people want is very simple. They want an America as good as its promise.”
Barbara Jordan

“America, which has the most glorious present still existing the world today, hardly stops to enjoy it, in her insatiable appetite for the future.”
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Women on Women

“Mr. President, I don't know why it took 200 years for one of us to get the job (of ambassador).”
Shirley Temple Black

“In passing, also, I would like to say that the first time Adam had a chance he laid the blame on woman.”
Lady Nancy Astor

“One is not born a woman, one becomes one.”
Simone De Beauvoir

“Women are the only oppressed group in our society that lives in intimate association with their oppressors.”
Evelyn Cunningham

“I have some women friends but I prefer men. Don’t trust women. There is a built-in competition between women.”
Edna O’Brien

“How wrong it is for woman to expect the man to build the world she wants, rather than set out to create it herself.”
Anais Nin

“A woman has to be twice as good as a man to go half as far.”
Fannie Hurst

“I hear singing of the lives of women. The clear mystery, the offering, and pride.”
Muriel Rukeyser

“Women are the only exploited group in history to have been idealized into powerlessness.”
Erica Jong

“Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul.”
Coretta Scott King