

# RIGHTFULLY HERS

## The fight to win women the right to vote in the United States was not easily or quickly won.

To win women access to the polls, a diverse group of suffragists—individuals who supported giving voting rights to women—fought for more than 70 years using many different strategies:

- Some focused on amending the U.S. Constitution while others worked to change state election laws.
- Suffragists lobbied privately in their parlors and publicly in the halls of Congress.

- They wrote articles, circulated petitions, gave speeches, organized marches, and were sometimes imprisoned for their protests.

Over time these tactics won support for woman suffrage that led to the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.



Harriet Stanton Blatch speaking on Wall Street, 1910  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress



African American Women's League group, Newport, Rhode Island, ca. 1911  
Courtesy of the Library of Congress

“GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND BY THE PEOPLE IS BUT PARTIALLY REALIZED SO LONG AS WOMAN HAS NO VOTE.”

— Adella Hunt Logan, 1905

## MANY RESISTED OPENING POLLS TO WOMEN. WHY?

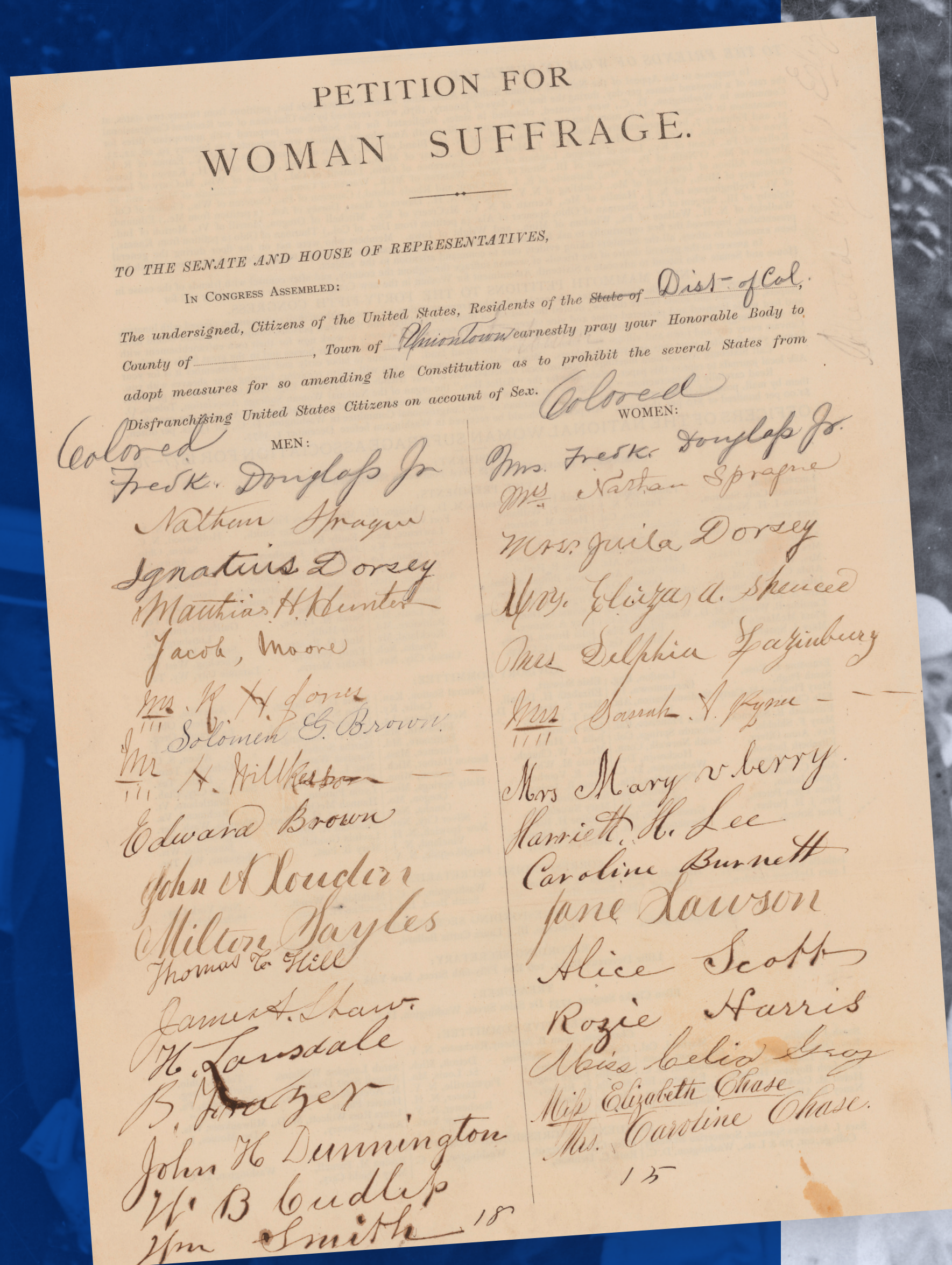
Some men and women argued, among other reasons, that women's involvement in politics would change her role in the family and take power away from men. Others believed the decision of who votes belonged to the states. Like suffragists, anti-suffragists formed organizations to resist a federal woman suffrage amendment. Formed in 1911, the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage had branches in 25 states by 1916.



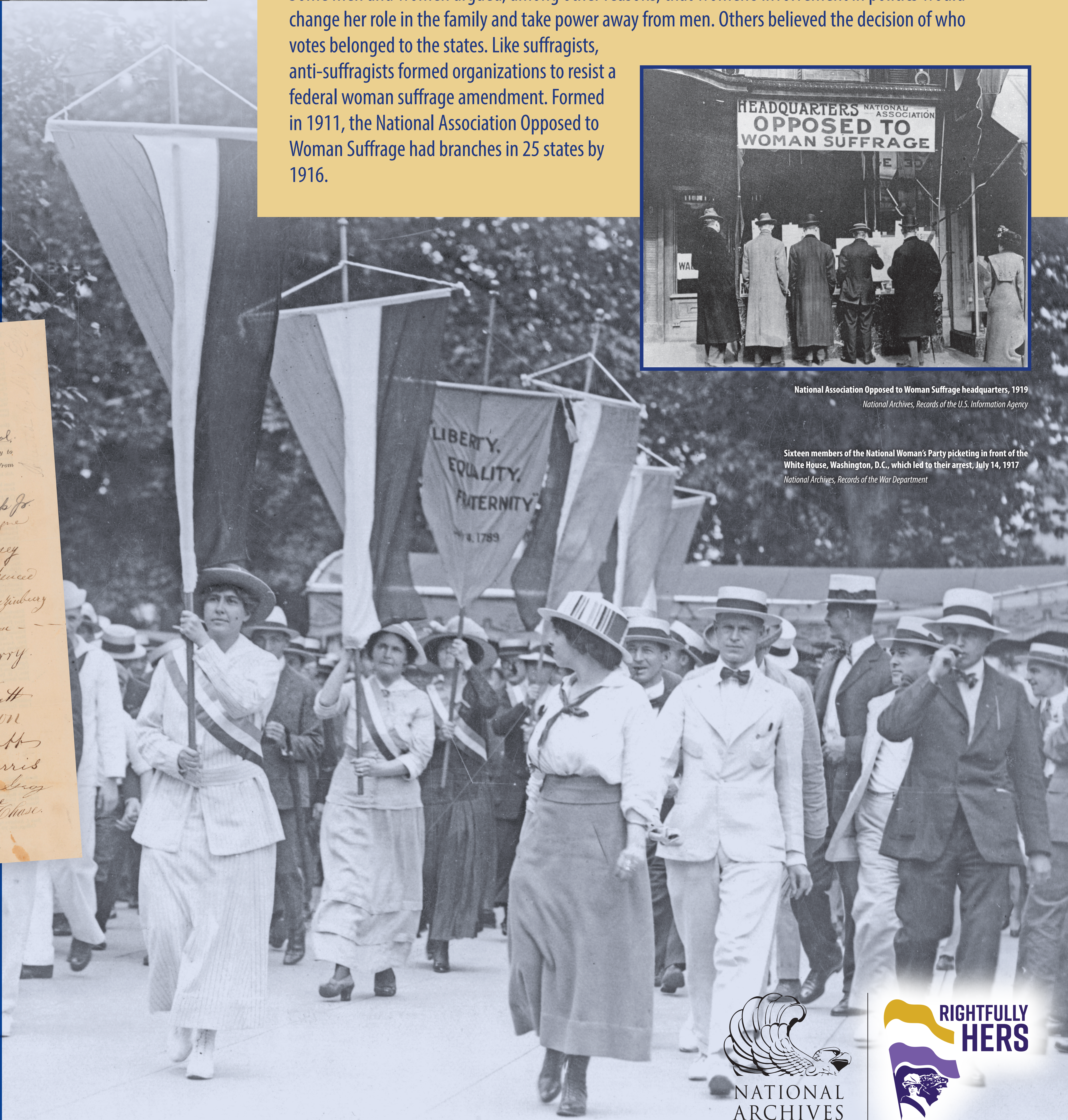
National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage headquarters, 1919  
National Archives, Records of the U.S. Information Agency

## A Struggle within the Struggle

African Americans played an important and active role in the woman suffrage movement. Because of their race, however, black women were not always welcome at white-led suffrage meetings and demonstrations. African American women formed their own clubs to pursue reform issues, including woman suffrage.



Petition for woman suffrage signed by siblings Rosetta Douglass Sprague and Frederick Douglass, Jr., 1877  
National Archives, Records of the U.S. House of Representatives



Sixteen members of the National Woman's Party picketing in front of the White House, Washington, D.C., which led to their arrest, July 14, 1917  
National Archives, Records of the War Department

