



# Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

## Civic Engagement: Women of Color Activists

Thanks to support from:



Photo courtesy Special Collections, University Library, University of California Santa Cruz.

# One-Day Lesson Goals

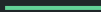
- Students will be introduced to Dolores Huerta's activism and Dolores Huerta Day
- Students will examine the power of civic engagement through Dolores Huerta's activism work
- Students will understand policy context that led to organizing actions and the resulting laws
- Students be introduced to the concept of intersectionality
- Students will identify women of color activists and their contributions throughout civil rights history
- Students will identify local women of color community leaders and devise methods of contributing to their causes

# Introduction to Dolores Huerta

And Dolores Huerta Day  
on April 10th

Are you familiar with Dolores  
Huerta?

Write down anything and everything  
that you know about Dolores Huerta



# Who is Dolores Huerta?

## Brief Background:

- Born in April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico
- Active in numerous school clubs
- Was a majorette
- Dedicated member of the Girl Scouts until the age of 18.
- Continued her education at the University of Pacific's Delta College in Stockton earning a provisional teaching credential.
- While teaching she could no longer bear to see her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet, and thus began her lifelong journey of working to correct economic injustice.
- Dolores left for delano from stockton in 1962
- Mother of 11



Photo credit: Kathy Murphy, used with permission.

# Who is Dolores Huerta?

## What She Saw

- Segregation
- Discrimination
- Poor Social conditions of Farmworkers
- Poor economic conditions of farm workers

## What She Did

- Quit teaching to fight farmworker oppression
- 1955 stockton chapter of Community Service Organization (CSO) with Fred Ross
- 1960 Started Agricultural Workers of America (AWA)
- Voter registration Drives
- Lobbied politicians to allow non-US citizens to receive public assistance, pensions, and Spanish ballots, Spanish driving tests



Photo Credit: Dolores Huerta Foundation, photographer Angela Torres.



Who is Dolores Huerta?

# Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

- April 10th (Dolores Huerta's birthday)
- Established in 2019 in California
- Recognition of lifelong pursuit of justice



About image: used by the State of California to recognize the day. Graphic designer unknown.

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### PROCLAMATION

A living legend, Dolores Clara Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico. Taught by her family the importance of giving back to her community and giving a voice to the voiceless, Huerta has been a tireless advocate for working people of California.

Huerta's lifelong pursuit of justice was sparked in the Central Valley when, teaching the children of farmworkers, she often saw her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet. Finding her passion fighting for the rights of workers and their families, she has never stopped working towards equality. She began her advocacy work by serving as a leader of the Community Service Organization in Stockton and forming the Agricultural Workers Association, where she worked to increase voter registration in her community and advocated for neighborhood improvements.

Through this work, she joined forces with César Chávez to advocate for better conditions for farmworkers and their families. Together with Larry Iliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco and Andy Imutan, they formed the United Farm Workers and took on grape growers who were exploiting the people who toiled in their fields. Huerta was instrumental in the nationwide boycott of grapes that led to the first farmworker union contracts. Her fierce advocacy also helped secure the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, a first-in-the-nation law that extended collective bargaining rights to farmworkers. She remained committed to nonviolent resistance, even after nearly losing her life when she was beaten at a protest in 1988.

It is for these acts of bravery and determination that Huerta became the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 2016.

Huerta continues to be a powerful force for social justice and empowerment for all. Through her leadership of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she continues to build upon her legacy of civic engagement by training the next generation of community organizers and advocating for the working poor, women and children.

Today, Huerta's 89th birthday, we honor her lifelong commitment to justice for all and the many trails she paved for generations of activists. May her rallying cry of "¡sí se puede!" continue to call us to fight for the change our communities need to thrive.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2019, as the first annual "Dolores Huerta Day."

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2019.



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA  
Secretary of State

# What is Civic Engagement?



[Image by Stockcake:](#)

Community Rising Together  
(public domain).

**Civic engagement** means working to make a difference in the civic life of our **communities** and developing the combination of **knowledge, skills, values** and **motivations** to make that difference. It means promoting the **quality of life** in a community, through both **political** and **non-political processes** (Civic Responsibility in Higher Education, Ehrlich, 2000, p.vi).

Operating with unwavering **hope**, we believe in achieving the seemingly unattainable. “**Si se puede**” embodies a **collective awakening to individual and communal power**. Our civic engagement department is dedicated to equipping **grassroots leaders** with the **tools** and **knowledge** essential for guiding their **communities** toward enduring **transformative solutions**. We aim to create a Central Valley of **informed** and **engaged citizens** and **voters** ready to **advocate, educate, vote**, and use our political system to create a more **just** and **equitable** Central Valley (Dolores Huerta Foundation website).



# A Woman's Role...



Photo courtesy © George Ballis,  
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Photo courtesy © Lori de León, used with permission.

## **Dolores Huerta: 58 Sexist Comments in the United Farm Workers Meeting**



# Some of her recognitions and where she is at now

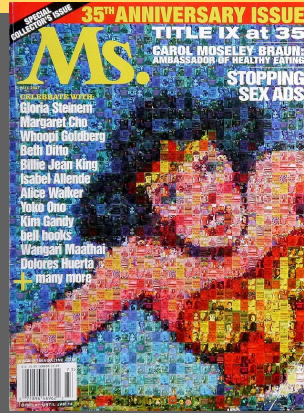
Right: Ms. Magazine cover, Fall 2007.  
Source: Liberty Media for Women LLC,  
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- 4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN CALIFORNIA
- 1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS
- 1 HIGH SCHOOL IN PUEBLO, COLORADO
- INDUCTED INTO THE CALIFORNIA HALL OF FAME IN MARCH OF 2013
- IN 2012 PRESIDENT OBAMA BESTOWED DOLORES WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

Right: President Barack Obama talks to attendees during the Presidential Medal of Freedom ceremony, held on Tuesday, May 29, 2012, at the White House in Washington. Photo Credit: (NASA/Bill Ingalls)



Above Source: Rafa213, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons



## RECEIVED NUMEROUS AWARDS

- THE ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HUMANS RIGHTS AWARD
- MS. MAGAZINE'S ONE OF THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT WOMEN OF 1997
- LADIES HOME JOURNAL'S 100 MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN OF THE 20TH CENTURY
- THE PUFFIN FOUNDATION'S AWARD FOR CREATIVE CITIZENSHIP \$100,000
- LABOR LEADER AWARD 1984,
- THE KERN COUNTY WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE
- THE OHTLI AWARD FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT
- THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION – JAMES SMITHSON AWARD,
- 9 HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.



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# Women of Color Activists



Rosa Parks

Credit: USIA / National Archives and Records Administration Records of the U.S. Information Agency Record Group 306, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

Shirley Chisholm

Credit: Adam Cuerden, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Angela Davis

Credit: Oregon State University, [CC BY-SA 2.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons.



# Women of the Black Panther Party



Source: Rainalee111, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

# Discussion Question

How do you think the experiences of women and women of color differ from men or white women in activist movements?



# The Urgency of Intersectionality: Kimberlé Crenshaw



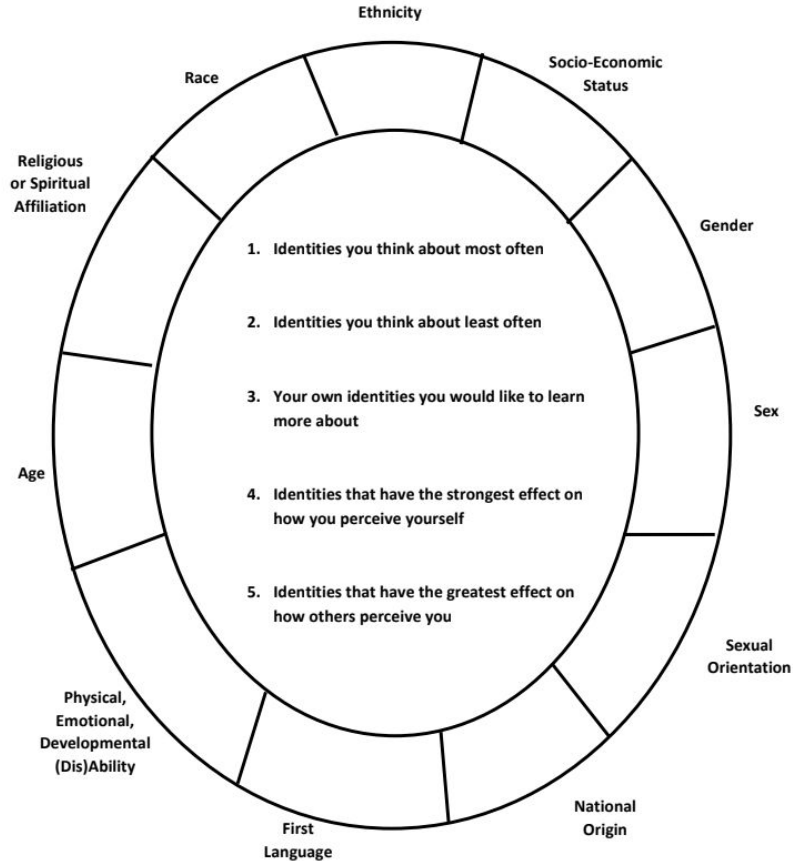
# Who am I? Activity

- Pass out notecards
- On one side, write down words that they would use to describe themselves
- On the other side, write down words that others might use to describe them
- Reflect on the differences between these two sides and what is lost when you only use words that others would use
- Discuss as a class



# Social Identity Wheel

- Review social identity handout
- Fill in the wheel and then write answers to each question
- Pair/share and then with the whole class as comfortable



# Community Engagement: ¡Sí Se Puede!

## How can you be involved??

- Research women of color activist issues and consider ways to participate
  - Boycotting
  - Protesting
  - Calling/writing letters of support to elected officials
  - More!



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