

CLAUDETTE COLVIN:

The Invisibility of Black Women in the Civil Rights Movement

- 9 months before Rosa Parks, Claudette refused to give up her seat on a full bus.
- Mistreated by officers, she pled not-guilty in court, challenging Jim Crow laws & risking her life
- Her actions were legal, but she was deemed guilty & put on probation
- Shunned by the White and Black community

“Let Rosa be the one. White people aren’t going to bother Rosa - her skin is lighter...they like her.”

- Colvin’s Mother

Colvin’s Flaws:

- Pregnant out of wedlock
- Age 15
- Lacked maturity, sensibility & restraint; too poor
- Not perfect enough to spark sympathy among Whites

WHY IS ROSA PARKS THE ONLY FEMALE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WE REMEMBER?

Media Coverage

- In an era consumed by White people’s opinions, Black perspectives not valued

Gender Dynamics

- Women participated more, Men got more credit + higher roles
- Triple Constraint: Sexism, Racism, Classism
- Sexual harassments

Examples:

- The March: Women not permitted to march alongside men
- Men took credit for Rosa’s actions & told her to sit down

FEMINISM



PAULI MURRAY

- One of the first to criticize leaders of The Movement for “overt sexism”
- Founded the National Organization for Women in 1966

NOW



TARANA BURKE

- #metoo, Feminism
- Welcomes young people with stories, imperfections
- Testimonies of hurt=valued