1. Florence Nwanzuruahu Nkiru Nwapa
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3. Yaa Asantewa
4. Winnie Madikizela-Mandela – South African
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6. Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi
7. Dr Stella Ameyo Adadevoh
8. Susan Ofori-Atta
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10. Taytu Betul – Queen and Empress of Ethiopia
11. Huda Shaarawi
12. Miriam Makeba
13. Queen Anna Nzinga Mbandi – Queen of Ndongo and Matamba
14. Cesaria Evora
15. Hypatia
16. Gisele Rabesahala
17. Bibi Titi Mohammed (Tanzania)
18. Mabel Dove-Danquah
19. Vera Chirwa (Malawi's first female lawyer)
20. Derartu Tulu (Olympics – Ethiopia)
21. Asli Hassan Abade (first female African pilot)
22. Efua Theodora Sutherland
23. Felicia Banjo (Felicia Adetowun Ogunsheye)
24. Alhaja Kudirat Abiola
25. Princess Elizabeth Bagaya
26. Akua Asabea Ayisi
27. Aoua Keita
28. Margaret Ekpo
29. Women soldiers of Dahomey – Military leaders (Benin)
30. Queen Ngalifourou
31. Richardene Kloppers
32. Labotsibeni Mdluli
33. Ntebogang Ratshosa
34. Bertina Lopes
35. Jeanne-Marie Ruth-Rolland
36. Rose Ziba Chibambo
37. Queen Ngalifourou
38. Josephine Bakhita
39. Buchi Emecheta
40. Rose Lokissim

Name	Florence Nwanzuruahu Nkiru Nwapa
Year	13 January 1931 – 16 October 1993
Country	Nigeria
Occupation/Title	Author

Story:

Born in Oguta, Imo State in Nigeria, Florence Nwanzuruahu Nkiru Nwapa was a famous author. People call her the mother of modern African literature. Her first novel was called *Efuru.* It was published in 1966 by Heinemann Educational Books. People praised it all over the world.

Nwapa was admitted to University College, Ibadan in 1953. When she was 26, she travelled to Edinburgh University in Scotland. She completed a diploma in education there. This meant that she became a teacher.

She started writing short stories soon after starting to teach. One of her stories was praised by Chinua Achebe, a famous Nigerian author. Nwapa was only 30 years old when *Efuru* was published and she became the author of the first novel by an African woman published in English in Great Britain.

People also admired Nwapa for her humanitarian efforts. She helped many refugees and orphans created by the Nigerian civil war (1967-1970).

In 1970, she became one of the first female publishers in Africa when she founded Tana Press. She did this because she wanted "*to inform and educate women all over the world, especially Feminists (both with capital F and small f) about the role of women in Nigeria, their economic independence, their relationship with their husbands and children, their traditional beliefs and their status in the community as a whole*."

Nwapa was a distinguished feminist, using her platform as an author to object against Nigerian patriarchy and the oppression of women. Her book *Ogbuefi* (1978) was especially relevant in this regard.

Other novels by Nwapa include *Ida* (1970), *Never Again* (1975), *One is Enough* (1981), and *Women are Different* (1986). Two collections of stories are *This is Lagos* (1971) and *Wives at War* (1980). She also published poetry and children's books.

https://guardian.ng/life/florence-nwapa-the-mother-of-african-literature/

Name	Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti
Year	1900 - 1978
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Activist

Story:

Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti was a courageous anti-colonial activist in Nigeria. She was a feminist and democratic socialist, and she was the first woman to ever drive a car in Nigeria.

Funmilayo was born to Chief Daniel Olumeyuwa Thomas and his wife, Lecretia Phyllis Omoyeni Adesolu in 1900. She would become the first girl to be admitted to Abeokuta Grammar School, the institution she attended for her secondary education. After she was finished her studies there, she travelled to England to continue her education. Later on, she returned to Nigeria and took up a position as a teacher.

She founded the Abeokuta Women's Union (called the Abeokuta Ladies' Club when first established) in 1944. This was an early and impressive accomplishment in the fight for women's rights. The Abeokuta Women's Union was an important women's organization. She also started the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF). These movements and organizations fought for women's rights to education, employment and political participation.

Eventually, King Alake Ademola of Egbaland wanted to impose taxes on women. Kuti and the AWU protested, using the slogan ‘no taxation without representation’. They were not treated as equal members of society and opposed paying taxes until women were treated more justly. The women protested outside of his house! This was so effective that the king abdicated.

Ransome-Kuti helped in Nigeria's fight for independence. In 1946, she played a significant role in the country's pre-independence constitutional negotiations.

https://www.pulse.ng/bi/lifestyle/a-look-at-the-3-women-who-fought-the-good-fight-for-independence-in-africa/tekmhjb

https://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/funmilayo-ransome-kuti/biography

https://www.legit.ng/1172087-meet-funmilayo-ransome-kuti-woman-drive-a-car-nigeria-photos.html

Name	Yaa Asantewa
Year	Around 1840 - 1921
Country	Ghana
Occupation	Military Leader

Story:
The British would one day call Yaa Asantewa the Joan of Arc of Africa, and there's good reason for that.

Asantewa was an Ashanti queen and military leader. She was born in the Ashanti Confederacy, which is in present-day Ghana. She gained the title of Queen Mother in the 1880s. This made her second in command of the Ashanti empire.

It was her position as Queen Mother that made her responsible for the Golden Stool, a symbol of the Ashanti kingdom. The Ashanti people started to rebel against the presence of the British in their ancestral territories.

After capturing and exiling several community leaders to the Seychelles Islands, they continued in their demand to be given the Golden Stool. Sr. Frederick Mitchell Hodgson, a British representative, at on the Golden Stool. As a result, Yaa Asantewaa led her army into rebellion.

Yaa Asantewa took the role of military leader in her community, in her determination to fulfil her duty of protecting the treasure. The tactic she used to motivate the men of her community to fight is legendary. She said that if they refused to fight, the women would do the job for them. This propelled the men to fight.

Sadly, Yaa Asantewaa was eventually captured and exiled. She died in the Seychelles Islands in 1921.

https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-44772345/yaa-asantewaa-and-the-fight-for-the-golden-stool

https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/yaa-asantewaa-mid-1800s-1921/

https://www.historyofroyalwomen.com/the-royal-women/nana-yaa-asantewaa-the-joan-of-arc-of-africa/

Name	Winnie Madikizela-Mandela
Year	26 September 1936 - 2 April 2018
Country	South Africa
Occupation	Activist

Story:

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was a South African anti-Apartheid activist. She is perhaps best known for her marriage to Nelson Mandela, the most famous anti-Apartheid activist to ever live, but the courageous Winnie had an interest in politics and social justice that long pre-dated any connection to Mandela.

Winnie enrolled at the Jan Hofmeyr School of Social Work in Johannesburg in 1953. Nelson Mandela was the patron of this institution, but her relationship with him would not begin until much later. After graduating as a qualified social worker in 1955, Winnie was hired as a medical social worker at the Baragwanath Hospital. She was the first Black person to ever occupy that position.

Winnie and Nelson married in 1958 in Bizana. As prominent anti-Apartheid activists, the couple were under constant stress and strain from harassment by authorities. They were the subject of constant police raids. Winnie was eventually arrested while protesting. She was denied bail and had to spend two weeks in a squalid prison while pregnant.

In 1961, Nelson was forced into hiding after a raid. He was eventually tracked down and arrested and put into prison for 27 years. The authorities continued to harass Winnie while her husband was in prison. It wasn't until 1990 that Nelson was finally released from prison, after a decades-long campaign by his wife, friends, and allies.

https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/winnie-madikizela-mandela

Name	Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
Year	29 October 1938 - present
Country	Liberia
Occupation	President of Liberia

Story:
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf studied economics in the United States, at institutions such as Harvard University. She returned to her home country and became involved in government. She held the position of Minister of Finance before the 1980 military coup took place.

She later worked for the United Nations, working with its Development Programme (UNDP). She became the first woman to ever lead the United Nations' development program in Africa. When she ran for president of Liberia in 1997, she was defeated. However, she was triumphant in the 2005, only two years after the end of Liberia's civil wars. She became the first woman ever to be elected head of state in an African country. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was re-elected as president in 2011.

Johnson Sirleaf's accomplishments as president are well-known and have been recognized all over the world. She decreed that all Liberian children had the right to free universal elementary education. Additionally, she fought tirelessly for women's rights and ensured the completion of pivotally important infrastructure projects for the improvement of the country.

In 2007, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was awarded an American award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was recognized for her courage and dedication to the improvement of people's lives. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2011/johnson_sirleaf/facts/
https://www.achievement.org/achiever/ellen-johnson-sirleaf/

Name	Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi
Year	10 November 1910 - 14 September 1971
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Physician

Story:
Born in Lagos to parents David and Rufina Akerele, Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi was Nigeria's first female physician. She attended St. Mary's Catholic School and worked incredibly hard. Later, she attended the University of Dublin, Cafreys College for her medical education. There, she graduated with a medal in medicine and first-class honours.

She became the first West African woman to ever earn a license of Royal Surgeon in Dublin. After she came back to Nigeria, she practiced as a gynaecologist. She gained membership in the Royal College of Physicians (United Kingdom) and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology. She was also made a Diplomate of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Her dedication and expertise gained her recognition and respect. Abimbola Awoliyi eventually became a Medical Director at the Massey Street Hospital Lagos. She stayed in that position for nine years. She was appointed as a senior specialist gynaecologist and obstetrician by Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health in 1962.

Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi became the president of the National Council of Women's Societies of Nigeria in 1964 and held this position until her death. She also won many awards. Abimbola Awoliyi was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) and an Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) (Nigerian National Honour). Other awards included the Iya Abiye of Lagos and Iyalaje of Oyo Empire.

Elizabeth's son, Tunji Awoliyi, became an author. He dedicated his novel *Return to Life* to her.

https://upclosed.com/people/elizabeth-abimbola-awoliyi/
https://dykpage.wordpress.com/2011/04/24/meet-nigerias-first-three-female-medical-doctors/
https://womenafrica.com/elizabeth-abimbola-awoliyi-is-the-first-nigerian-woman-to-become-a-physician/

Name	Dr. Stella Ameyo Adadevoh
Year	October 1956 - 19 August 2014
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Physician

Story:

Dr. Stella Ameyo Adadevoh was the doctor who contained the deadly Ebola virus, stopping it from spreading outside of Nigeria. She treated Patrick Sawyer, the first patient in Nigeria diagnosed with Ebola in 2014. Dr. Ameyo Adadevoh prevented Patrick from leaving Nigeria, even though his employer wanted him to fly to a conference.

In doing this, she was instrumental in preventing the spread of the disease. It's terrifying to imagine what would have happened if the man had been allowed to leave. He could have spread the disease to other people on the plane and people at the conference, and then those people would have unknowingly spread it to others.

It's because of Dr. Ameyo Adadevoh's heroic and determined action that Ebola was contained and Nigeria was eventually declared free of the disease. While eight people died during the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria, there would have been many more fatalities without Dr. Ameyo Adadevoh's quick thinking and medical expertise.

Dr. Ameyo Adadevoh died of the Ebola virus in August of 2014. She lost her life as a result of her selfless dedication to fighting the disease. Her son misses her. He has established a health trust fund in her name, to benefit healthcare in Nigeria.

https://www.cnn.com/2016/09/15/africa/93-days-nigerian-film-ebola-heroes/index.html
https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/womens-blog/2014/oct/20/dr-stella-ameyo-adadevoh-ebola-doctor-nigeria-hero
https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2014/12/31/374024919/a-son-is-lost-without-his-mother-so-is-a-country

Name	Susan Ofori-Atta
Year	1917 - 1985
Country	Ghana
Occupation	Physician

Story:
Susan Oforo-Atta was a brave and intelligent woman who became the first female doctor on Africa's gold coast. In fact, she was the third woman in West Africa to become a doctor.

Susan was born in 1917 in Kyebi, Ghana. Her father was the paramount chief of Akyem Abakwa, Nana Sir Ofori Atta I. Her mother was Nana Akosua Duodo. It was Susan's father who saw her potential as a doctor and sent her to Edinburgh University's medical school in Scotland. She earned he medical degree there, becoming a doctor in 1947.

In 1960, Susan qualified and started practicing as a paediatrician. Later on, she gained the position of medical officer at Marie Louise hospital. After that, she started working at University of Ghana's medical school. She was one of the doctors who founded this school's paediatric department. Later, she began a private medical practice especially for both children and women. This was at her own clinic, the Accra Clinic.

Susan Ofori-Atta did a lot of important research on the topic of child malnutrition. She also won an award from the Red Cross, a famous humanitarian organization. Susan died in 1985, in the United Kingdom. There's no question that she lived an incredible life that we'll all remember.

https://www.modernghana.com/news/917857/susan-ofori-atta-ghanas-first-female-physician.html

Name	Wangari Maathai
Year	1940 - 2011
Country	Kenya
Occupation	Author, Scientist, and Activist

Story:
A scientist and author, Wangari Maathi was born in Nyeri, Kenya in 1940. She was a woman destined for great things, and her hard work and determination ensured the fulfilment of her dreams.

Maathai earned a degree in Biological Sciences in the United States in 1964. In 1966, she earned a Master of Science degree. She did her doctoral studies in Germany and the University of Nairobi in Kenya. She earned her PhD in 1971 at the University of Nairobi. In doing this, Maathai was the first woman to ever earn a doctorate degree in East and Central Africa.

In 2004, Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. She was noted for her contribution to "sustainable development, democracy and peace." Maathai is the author of four books: *The Green Belt Movement*, *Unbowed: A Memoir*, *The Challenge for Africa*, and *Replenishing the Earth*. She published numerous articles and delivered many speeches, too.

There is an institute named after Wangari Maathai. It is called The Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies. Maathai's legacy in environmental studies and activism is strong.

https://www.greenbeltmovement.org/wangari-maathai

Name	Taytu Betul
Year	c. 1851 - 1918
Country	Ethiopia
Occupation	Queen and Empress of Ethiopia

Story:
Taytu Betul was a courageous and strong Ethiopian queen and empress. She was renowned for her intelligence and ability to lead. Taytu defied negative ideas about women and their capacity for leadership, and she always showed a spirited sense of independence and fortitude. She proved that not only can women lead, they can lead well and steer their countries to victory.

She was first married to Menelik (King of Shoa. Later, she married Negus Negast ("king of kings"). Taytu Betul was a proud Ethiopian, and she strongly resisted European imperialism. Betul had impressive skills in diplomacy. She rejected any idea of negotiations that could lead to a loss of territory for Ethiopia. Taytu wanted Ethiopia to belong to Ethiopians and Ethiopians alone, and she was willing to fight for her country's future.

Taytu Betul demonstrated her remarkable skill in military planning when she came up with the tactic that allowed for the victory of the Ethiopians at Makalle. The Ethiopian victory at Adwa was also a result of her input and presence.

Not only that, Betul was the founder of the city of Addis Adaba. Addis Adaba is still the capital city of Ethiopia today.

https://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/taytu-betul/biography

Name	Huda Shaarawai
Year	1879 - 1949
Country	Egypt
Occupation	Activist

Story:
Born in Egypt, Huda Shaarawai devoted her life to fighting for the rights of women and the independence of her country from the British.

Shaarawai spoke multiple languages and was recognized for her intellect and high level of education. She founded a philanthropic society, the first one ever run by Egyptian women, in 1908. This organization provided services to poor children and women. She knew that showing women could run a project such as this would help to disprove the traditional idea that women could not do things on their own.

Soon after this, in 1910, she established a school for girls. Instead of taking a traditional approach and only teaching practical skills, she gave the students an academic education. This was yet another strong sign of Shaarawai's devoted feminism. She also provided special lectures for women on a wide variety of topics, encouraging them to become involved in the larger world.

In 1919, Shaarawai helped with the struggle for Egyptian independence by putting together an anti-British demonstration of women. Four years after this, she established the Egyptian Feminist Union. This organization fought for women's education and suffrage.

The event for which Shaarawai is best known today is when she took off the veil covering her face in public, after getting off a train in Cairo. While people were initially shocked, people soon started to applause in encouragement. Other women took off their veils, too.

https://amazingwomeninhistory.com/huda-shaarawi-egyptian-feminist/

Name	Miriam Makeba
Year	4 March 1932- 9 November 2008
Country	South Africa
Occupation	Human Rights Campaigner and Vocalist

Story:

Miriam Makeba was born in Johannesburg in 1932. She had a difficult start in life, being put in prison with her mother when she was just 18 days old. Miriam's father died when she was still very young.

Miriam always enjoyed singing at church and she was a very talented vocalist. It was during the Royal Visit of 1947 that she performed a solo for the first time. Her singing career did not take off right away, though, and Miriam had to face the vicious discrimination of South Africa's apartheid regime.

Miriam helped her mother in her work cleaning houses. Miriam moved to Sophiatown and soon sang with a band called the Cuban Brothers. She later sang for the Manhattan Brothers. This was when her talent started getting more of the recognition it deserved.

When Miriam left South Africa, the South African government revoked her passport. Harry Belafonte, a famous singer, helped her immigrate to the United States after she met him while in London. After she got to the United States, she quickly became a famous singer. She sang for John F. Kennedy, the president of the United States at the time, at Madison Square Garden.

Miriam would record four albums in the United States. She won a Grammy Award in 1966. Later in her life, she would become more actively involved in activism and the fight against the South African apartheid regime. She spoke before the United Nations General Assembly twice. She won the Dag Hammerskjold Peace Prize from the Diplomatic Academy for Peace in 1986.

https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/miriam-makeba

Name	Queen Anna Nzinga Mbandi
Year	c.1580 – 1663
Country	Ndongo and Matamba Kingdoms in Africa
Occupation	Queen of Ndongo and Matamba

Story:

Queen Anna Nzinga (also known as Ana de Sousa Nzinga Mbande) was the queen of the Ndongo and Matamba Kingdoms in Africa. It is thought that she was born in the 1580s.

Queen Anna Nzinga is still famous and revered today for the strength and determination she showed in resisting and fighting the Portuguese. Portuguese colonists were in Africa, trapping people in slavery. They also wanted to take control of areas that they thought had silver mines.

At one point, there were peace negotiations the Portuguese that seemed to be somewhat successful, but the colonists later fully returned to their old practices. Queen Anna Nzinga became her people's queen after her brother died. She and her people were forced to flee from the Portuguese and establish the state of Matamba.

Quick-thinking and clever, Queen Anna Nzinga formed an alliance with the Dutch, who were also in Africa. This was because they were also fighting the Portuguese and would be a useful ally. With the help of the Dutch, Queen Anna Nzinga and her people were able to defeat the Portuguese temporarily. She continued in the fight, never giving up.

Queen Anna Nzinga worked hard to make her kingdom a commercial power. This was essential in order to force the Portuguese to treat her people in a much more respectful way.

https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-famous-people/queen-nzinga-ruler-who-set-her-people-free-006235

Name	Cesaria Evora
Year	27 August 1941 – 17 December 2011
Country	Cape Verde
Occupation	Vocalist

Story:
Cesaria Evora was a wonderfully talented singer born in Cape Verde, an island nation. Morna is the genre of music in which she sang and excelled. It combines elements of West African, Portuguese, Brazilian, and even British music.

She started singing after meeting a guitarist when she was young. To radio tapes with her performances were made available to the public in Portugal and Netherlands in the late 1960s.

Evora quit music at one point, as she wasn't making much money. When she was 45, though, she decided to start singing professionally again. She recorded two songs in Portugal. These songs were included an anthology of songs by Verdean singers.

Between 1988 and 1992, Evora recorded four albums of her music in Paris. She also toured many different places around the world, including Canada, Brazil, the continent of Africa, and Europe.

Evora won the 2004 Grammy for Best Contemporary World Music Recording. That year she was also made an Officer des Arts et des Lettres by the French culture minister, Jean-Jacques Aillagon.

https://www.allmusic.com/artist/ces%C3%A1ria-%C3vora-mn0000195373/biography

Name	Hypatia
Year	370 A.D.- 415 A.D.
Country	Egypt
Occupation	Mathematician

Story:

Born in Alexandria, Hypatia would grow up to be the first famous female mathematician. Her brilliance would become legendary. She is still known as the first woman in mathematics.

Hypatia's father was Theon. He was a well-known professor at the University of Alexandria. Theon taught his daughter academic subjects, including mathematics. Soon, Hypatia also went to school in Athens, Greece. She quickly became known for her supreme skills in mathematics.

When she came back to Alexandria, she was given the opportunity to teach mathematics and philosophy at the University of Alexandria. Her lectures became well-known, and people travelled from many different places in the world to hear Hypatia speak. Hypatia was a brilliant writer. She wrote a significant number of treatises.

One of Hypatia's best known pupils was Synesius of Cyrene. Synesius wrote letters that mentioned Hypatia and give us insight into Hypatia's character and life. We learn that Hypatia created sophisticated devices such as a planisphere and astrolabe. These instruments were used for the study of astronomy. Synesius also said that Hypatia created other ingenious and practical devices.

Sadly, Hypatia met a terrible end after Cyril, the patriarch of Egypt, arranged for her death. Fortunately, Hypatia's work will never be forgotten.

http://www.math.wichita.edu/history/Women/hypatia.html

Name	Gisèle Rabesahala
Year	7 May 1929 – 27 June 2011
Country	Madagascar
Occupation	Politician and Activist

Story:

Gisèle Rabesahala was the first woman in Madagascar to be appointed a government minister in 1977. Earlier on, she also became the first woman in the country to ever be a municipal councillor in 1956 and the first female political party leader in 1958.

Gisèle's father was in the French army, and that is why she spent her childhood outside of Madagascar, in France, Tunisia, and the territory that is now Mali. It was when he died in 1942 that her family went home to Madagascar.

Gisèle began her political career remarkably early, at the age of 17. She advocated for political prisoners. She soon became the country's first female municipal councillor and the first Malagasy woman to ever establish a political party and then lead it.

Gisèle Rabesahala fought for the rights of the poor and against colonialism. Gisèle Rabeshala devoted a great deal of her life to the fight for human rights and freedom of Madagascar's people.

Gisèle is remembered for her wise words. She said, "*If we don't know where we come from, we don't know where we are going*." That means that we need to understand our own roots and the conditions faced by the people who came before us in order to figure out what we need to do to move forward.

Gisèle Rabesahala was an incredible leader and someone we should always admire.

https://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/gis%C3%A8le-rabesahala/biography
https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sgsm17743.doc.htm

Name	Bibi Titi Mohammed
Year	June 1926 – 5 November 2000
Country	Tanzania
Occupation	Politician

Story:

Bibi Titi Mohammed was born to a Muslim family in 1926. A member of the Mmatumbi tribe in Dar Salaam, Tanzania, she was a freedom fighter and a leader. She was among the founding members of the Tanganyika (or Tanzanian) Africa National Union (TANU). She successfully recruited thousands of other women to this organization. TANU was the political party that fought for independence. It was one of the nation's major parties.

Bibi Titi Mohammed was always ambitious and courageous. She bravely fought for women's rights in Tanganyika and encouraged them to take part in the struggle for independence with her. She determinedly promoted women's literacy, as well.

Bibi Titi was eventually nominated as the woman leader of the Governing Council of TANU. She made sure that women had the opportunity to express their ideas and fight for their own interests. She connected her goals for women's rights to those of independence of the story, deeply understanding their connection. Bibi Titi was strongly anti-colonialist.

Bibi Titi Mohammed was an intelligent and powerful woman who knew how to plan and strategize to achieve her goals. She overcame the fact that politics had been an entirely male-dominated field before she started her career.

http://awaazmagazine.com/previous/index.php/latest-issue/special-features/item/551-bibi-titi-mohamed-and-the-historical-context-of-the-time-in-tanzania

Name	Mabel Dove-Danquah
Year	1905 - 1984
Country	Sierra Leone
Occupation	Author

Story:

Mabel Ellen Dove-Danquah was a well-known creative writer. She and her family moved to Sierra Leone when she was a small child. As a young woman, she travelled to England and completed a secretarial course. She did this in brave defiance of her father's wishes, challenging expectations for women.

Later on, she would have a column in The Times West Africa newspaper (the first newspaper in Ghana). She used this platform to promote women's rights and fight imperialism and colonialism. Mabel Ellen was among the first literacy feminists in Africa.

Mabel Ellen Dove-Danquah wrote on many different topics, including political activism, the education of women and women's rights, anti-colonialism, and anti-exploitation. She also wrote many short stories, including: "The Happenings of the Night" (1931); "The Adventures of the Black Girl in Her Search for Mr. Shaw" (1934); "Anticipation" (1947); "Payment" (1947); "Invisible Scar" (1966); and "Evidence of Passion" (1969).

Mabel Ellen's work and writings helped to inspire and educate many people. She helped women feel more confident in themselves and their own abilities. Mabel Ellen Dove-Danquah fought for women to have equal rights to men.

https://www.modernghana.com/news/915669/mabel-dove-danquah-the-first-woman-elected-in-african-legi.html
https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/Mabel-Dove-Danquah-A-Trailblazing-Author-Feminist-Politician-Activist-Journalist-388029#

Name	Vera Chirwa
Year	1932 - present
Country	Malawi
Occupation	Lawyer and Activist

Story:

Vera Chirwa was born in Malawi (then known as Nyasaland) in 1932. She would become the first female lawyer in Malawi. She was called to the Bar in London in 1966. Vera accomplished this after several years of studying hard while having to raise a family.

Vera is still very well-known in East Africa for her work fighting for women's rights, human rights activism, and Malawi's political development. Before she became a lawyer and while working as a clerk, she established the Nyasaland African Women League. This organization was created to assist the MCP's struggle for independence.

Vera and her husband were living in Tanzania when she decided to study law. Later on, they were brought back to Malawi and given a death sentence for high treason. Vera and her husband were separated and imprisoned, awaiting their deaths. They only saw one another one more time, in 1992. This was only a few weeks before her husband's death.

It was in 1993 that Vera finally received a pardon and was released. She immediately re-entered political and social activism. Vera's autobiography, *Fearless Fighter*, was published in 2007.

https://www.times.mw/how-women-counted-story-of-vera-chirwa/
https://face2faceafrica.com/article/meet-malawis-first-female-lawyer-who-fought-for-a-multi-party-system-and-spent-12-years-on-death-row

Name	Derartu Tulu
Year	21 March 1972 – present
Country	Ethiopia
Occupation	Olympic Athlete

Story:
Deratu Tulu was born in 1972 in Ethiopia, specifically in the village of Bokoji. Bokoji is found in central Ethiopia's Arsi region. She is most famous for winning the gold-medal in the 10,000-meter race at the Barcelona Olympics. She was the first African woman ever to win a gold-medal in the Olympics. During her career, she has won many medals: 35 gold, 12 silver, and 15 bronze.

Deratu grew up with nine siblings. While she was in elementary school, she did very well in horse-riding. She quickly showed her talent in running, as well. In 1988, she won her first medal: a bronze medal in a national 1500-meter race. A year after that, she took part in her first international race. It took place in Norway.

The 1990s were Deratu's greatest time of fame and recognition around the world. She set a record in Bulgaria in a 10,000-meter race. She also won a 10,000-meter race in Egypt. It was Deratu's performance in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992 for which she is best known. When she won, she draped herself with the Ethiopian flag.

Deratu became a member of the Ethiopian Police Force when she was just 17 years old.

http://www.ethiopians.com/derartu_tulu.htm
https://www.famousbirthdays.com/people/derartu-tulu.html

Name	Asli Hassan Abade
Year	1958 – present
Country	Somalia
Occupation	Military Pilot and Activist

Story:

Asli Hassan Abade was the first female African military pilot. She was born in 1958 in Somalia and grew up with nine siblings. The family lived near the Mogadishu airport. Asli has said that she thinks being so close to an airport as a child was what inspired her to become a pilot one day.

As a young woman, Asli went to Italy and receive pilot training. When she returned to Somalia, she joined the Somali Air Force (SAF) in the mid-1970s. Her first flight as a solo pilot took place on September 9, 1976. Asli has been confirmed to have been the first female pilot in the SAF. It is also generally believed that she was the first African woman to be a pilot in any military in Africa. Asli was in the Somali Air Force for 10 years.

Asli was also an activist advocating for peace and the end of civil conflict in Somalia. She dressed in the colours of the Somali flag whenever attending major political functions. This helped her gain the attention and respect she needed to make change in her country.

Asli was also recognized for the efforts she made in helping with the reconciliation process that occurred in Arta, Djibouti. Her work helped lead to the establishment of the Transitional Federal Government there.

Asli moved to Texas when she got married. In 2011, she went travelled back to Mogadishu. She brought medical supplies to a children's hospital in order to help with the famine the country was then experiencing. In 2017, she went back again. She has said that when she "*stepped out of the plane, I first kissed the ground…I could not believe that I was actually in Mogadishu*."

Asli Hassan Abade has said that "*When you have peace, you have life*." She has shown her devotion to helping create peace and well-being by wishing to help younger generations.

https://ummahsonic.com/asli-hassan-abade-military-pilot-africa/
https://www.revolvy.com/page/Asli-Hassan-Abade

Name	Efua Theodora Sutherland
Year	June 1924 – January 1996
Country	Ghana
Occupation	Playwright and Children's Writer

Story:

Efua Theodora Sutherland was born in Cape Coast, Ghana. She was successful at school and ended up being among the first African women to ever study at Homerton College at Cambridge University in England.

When Efua returned to Ghana in 1951, she became a secondary school teacher. She also started writing for children. Soon after this, she co-founded *Okeyame*, a cultural journal. In the late '50s, Efua established the Experimental Theatre Players in Accra. This would later be transformed into the Ghana Drama Studio as well as a courtyard theatre. When the Drama Studio initially opened, it was a workshop for children's writers. It later became a playwrights' workshop.

Efua also founded the Ghana Society of Writers. In the late '60s, she established the Kusum Agoromba (Kusum Players), a touring theatre group. Efua quickly became one of the best-known female writers in Africa. She also gained international fame. Some of Efua Sutherland's famous plays include *Foriwa* (1962), *Edufa* (1967), and *The Marriage of Anansewa* (1975).

Efua once explained: "*I'm on a journey of discovery. I'm discovering my own people. I didn't grow up in rural Ghana—I grew up in Cape Coast with a Christian family. It's a fine family, but there are certain hidden areas of Ghanian life—important areas of Ghanian life, that I just wasn't in touch with; in the past four or five years, I've made a very concentrated effort to make that untrue. And I feel I know my people now*."

https://www.indiatoday.in/who-is-what-is/story/who-was-efua-sutherland-the-ghanaian-playwright-activist-google-doodle-honours-1270771-2018-06-27

Name	Felicia Banjo (Felicia Adetowun Ogunsheye)
Year	5 December 1926 – present
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Educationist and Professor

Story:

Felicia Banjo (Felicia Adetowun Ogunsheye) was born in Nigeria in 1926. Prior to her retirement, she enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a professor. She devoted a great deal of her time to establishing a variety of associations and programmes for the promotion of women's empowerment.

Felicia completed her secondary school education at Queen's College. After that, she became the first woman to ever attend Yaba College of Technology. Felicia achieved another first at the University of Cambridge in England, becoming the first Nigerian woman to ever study there.

Not only that, she was also the first female student to attend the University College, Ibadan. She would also eventually become the first female professor in Nigeria. She obtained a position as a professor of information science at the University of Ibadan. She would one day become the founder of the Abadina Media Resource Centre Library of the University of Ibadan.

After graduating from Cambridge, Felicia returned to Nigeria and became a teacher. Later on, she attended a college in Boston, Massachusetts in 1961 to earn a graduate degree. Later on, she was given the position of head of the university press at Ibadan. She was also a chairperson of the Banjo Commission on education review.

In 1965, Felicia became the President of the Nigerian Association of University Women.

https://blackcantabs.herokuapp.com/earliest-african-women/
https://face2faceafrica.com/article/the-story-of-felicia-adetowun-ogunsheye-nigerias-first-ever-female-professor

Name	Alhaja Kudirat Abiola
Year	1951-1996
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Activist

Story:
Alhaja Kudirat Abiola fought in the struggle to defend the results of the June 12, 1993 election. She was murdered in 1996, apparently by instruction of President Sani Abacha.

Alhaja was born in Zaria, Kaduna State in 1951. She completed high school in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, but she did not go to university. When she was 18, she married MKO Abiola, a prominent businessman. She used her traditional "bride price" to pay for her sisters to be educated, showing her generosity of spirit and dedication to social justice.

Her husband, Chief MKO Abiola, was elected president in 1993, but that electoral result was unfairly overturned. She fought against the military government that usurped her husband and took power. This caused her to be sent to prison.

Alhaja continued to oppose the military president. He decided to have her killed in the effort to subdue any opposition to his presidency. In 1994, she was put in prison (solitary confinement) for continuing to proclaim MKO Abiola's presidential mandate.

It was the fact that her husband's power was unfairly stripped from him that pushed Alhaja into the pro-democracy movement. She inspired many other people to take part in this movement.

Kudirat was inducted into the Nigerian Women Hall of Fame long after her death, acknowledging her bravery and strength.

http://saharareporters.com/2019/06/11/kudirat-abiola-adadevoh-aisha-buhari-make-nigerian-women-hall-fame
https://www.legit.ng/1104864-the-story-brutal-murder-kudirat-abiola-lagos-1996.html

Name	Princess Elizabeth Bagaya
Year	c. 1940 - present
Country	Uganda
Occupation	Government Minister and Diplomat

Story:

Princess Elizabeth Bagaya is a multi-faceted and brilliant woman who was born into the royal family of Toro, western Uganda. Her eloquence was matched by her elegance, and she was admired by everyone who knew her.

The princess received her elementary education at a Protestant missionary institution called Kyebambe Girls' School. After that, she attended Gayaze High School for a while but ended up completing her high school education at an all-girls school in England, Sherborne.

She then studied at the prestigious University of Cambridge between 1959 and 1962. She then studied to become a lawyer. She was called to the Uganda bar in the mid-1960s. She was unable to begin practicing as a lawyer, though, because of political turmoil in the country. She was soon invited to work as a model in London, England.

Bagaya worked as a successful model and later an actress until eventually returning to Uganda in 1971. She was given a government position and continued in this work from 1971 to 1974. Bagaya became foreign minister in 1974. She worked hard to improve Uganda's image around the world, delivering an impressive speech to the United Nations.

She would later be forced into exile but would return to Uganda again. She was appointed Uganda's ambassador to the United States and held this position from 1986 to 1988. She made great efforts to educate people in the United States about Uganda and Africa as a whole.

https://biography.yourdictionary.com/princess-elizabeth-of-toro

Name	Akua Asabea Ayisi
Year	3 April 1927 – 21 April 2010
Country	Ghana
Occupation	Lawyer and journalist

Story:

Akua Asabea Ayisi was a courageous and independent woman who became a lawyer and the first female journalist in Ghana. Akua would become known as a revolutionary in Ghana, advocating for the country's independence and women's rights.

Her mother, Mercy Adebra, was very much like her daughter, brave and independent. She advocated for the education of girls and made sure that Akua got an education much more advanced than most girls of the time received. Her father was a linguist who worked for the king, who was among his relatives.

Once Akua had grown up, she became private secretary for Kwame Nkrumah. She assisted him in writing anti-colonial material and wrote books, as well. Akua was put in prison during the period before independence. Ghana was eventually made independent in 1957.

Akua then attended Newham College, Cambridge in England to earn her law degree. After that, she returned to Ghana and began a career as a barrister. Her career flourished and she became very prominent in professional and government circles. In 1968, she was part of the constitutional assembly that composed Ghana's new constitution. Akua became the first woman to ever run for parliament in Ghana in 1969. She was also part of the effort to re-write the constitution in 1978.

https://www.modernghana.com/news/914597/ghanas-first-female-journalist-akua-asabea-ayisi.html

Name	Aoua Keita
Year	12 July 1912 – 7 May 1980
Country	Mali
Occupation	Midwife and Activist

Story:

Aoua Keita was born in 1912 in Bamako, which was located in the territory then known as the French Sudan (and today known as Mali). She was a very bright girl and was admitted to the first girls' school in the city in 1923. Aoua would later become a well-known midwife and anti-colonial activist.

Aoua gained admission to the first girls' school ever to exist in Bamako. After studying there, she progressed to a boarding school. After that, she studied to become a midwife at the École de Médecine de Dakar (Dakar School of Medicine). She graduated in 1931. Aoua became a member of the African Democratic Rally (RDA). She devoted herself to creating women's wings in the party. She was in a position of control of electoral campaign literature, as well.

Aoua was a midwife in the civil service, and this meant she had to travel to a variety of different posts. In the late 1950s, she was made Commissioner for Women for the RDA. In 1959, she was elected to Parliament. This made her the first woman from a Francophone nation in West Africa to be elected to her country's national assembly. She additionally established a Pan-African women's organization.

https://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/aoua-keita-0/biography

Name	Margaret Ekpo
Year	1914 - 2006
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Activist and Politician

Story:
Margaret Ekpo was born in 1914. She would become one of the first women to gain political office in Nigeria. Margaret devoted her life to fighting for the rights of women.

Margaret earned her degree in domestic economics in Dublin, Ireland in 1948. When she came back to Nigeria, she used her education to establish a domestic science institute for the training of young girls in home economics and dressmaking.

Margaret also established a Market Women Association in Aba. This association was for the promotion of women's economic and political rights. Additionally, Margaret's political activity was instrumental in the circumstances that led to the creation of the National Council of Nigeria (NGNC).

In 1950, Margaret and other women stormed a prison in order to obtain justice for a female prison officer who was murdered when she rejected advances from a man she worked with. She was clearly an extremely courageous woman.

In 1961, Margaret was elected to the Eastern Regional House of Assembly.

https://www.legit.ng/1182577-retro-history-margaret-ekpo-pioneers-female-politics-nigeria.html

Name	Women soldiers of Dahomey
Year	18th century – late 19th century
Country	Dahomey (Benin)
Occupation	Military leaders

Story:

The women soldiers of Dahomey were members of a female army that existed between the middle of the eighteenth and the late nineteenth centuries. They belonged to the Kingdom of Dahomey. Today, that is found in the Republic of Benin.

The women's army of Dahomey was first established in the early seventh century, at a time when the Kingdom of Dahomey was gaining in power. King Houegbadja was the king at that point. The king quickly decided to have female members of his entourage, as so many men were preoccupied with war. The women chosen were often huntresses. The king assigned them the duties of guarding his royal palace and personally protecting him.

As Dahomey continued to become more powerful, a later king, King Ghezo, decided that he would expand the female army. He did this to help deal with the loss of male soldiers in wars. The female army kept getting bigger and eventually it encompassed not only women from Dahomey but from other regional groups.

The women soldiers of Dahomey were extremely courageous and dedicated. They were determined to train so often and so intensively that they would excel the male soldiers, and many people feel that they were successful. They sang songs about their own strength and ambition. These female soldiers were truly legendary.

https://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/sites/womeninafrica/files/pdf/The%20Women%20Soldiers%20of%20Dahomey_Women%20in%20African%20History_Comic%20Strip_0.pdf

Name	Luiza Mahin
Year	c.1835-
Country	Brazil
Occupation	Former African Slave and Abolitionist

Story:

Luiza Mahin was an extraordinary woman who lived in 19th-century Brazil. She was forcibly brought to Brazil from Africa as a slave. She was ripped from her people, the tribe of Mahi. The Mahi were Yoruba people of Dahomey.

Luiza showed her strength of character throughout her life. Her son, Luis Gama, would one day say that his mother had been a princess in Africa. She was literate and educated, and she stood up for her ideals courageously.

She refused to take part in Catholic rites and sacraments, determined to stay true to her faith. She was a Muslim. As Luiza was literate in Arabic, she had been able to read the Koran and she devoted herself to spreading the word of the prophet Mohammad.

Luiza would become a leader in a revolt against the white slave owners in Brazil. She wanted to accomplish not only freedom from slavery but to make Islam the official religion of a newly established country. She would have been declared Queen of Bahia.

Despite all her efforts, Luiza and her followers were unsuccessful. Luiza managed to escape brutal punishment by fleeing to Rio de Janiero. She was forced to leave her son, Luis Gama, with his father. This man, who was white, sold his Luis into slavery when he was 10.

After he grew up, Luis became a brilliant lawyer, journalist, poet, and abolitionist. He always admired and praised his mother.

https://foreverblackeffusion.wordpress.com/2015/03/06/luisa-mahin/

Name	Richardene Kloppers
Year	5 January 1926 - 2014
Country	Namibia
Occupation	Teacher

Story:
Richardene Kloppers was born at Keetmanshoop and grew up in Tseiblaagte. Tseiblaagte was named in honour of Richardene's great-grandfather. He was called Tseib, and he was a Nama chief.

Richardene was raised in a house made of corrugated iron. The family was quite poor and entirely depended on the work her father did with his hands. Richardene would often help her father with different tasks, such as sawing beams.

Richardene Kloppers attended the Roman Catholic Mission School in Tseiblaagte, reaching the sixth grade while there. Later, she travelled to South Africa to earn her teaching degree. She became the first qualified black female teacher in Namibia.

In the early 1950s, she established the first multiracial school in the country. This was a brave and strongly principled decision, as doing so was illegal under the cruel apartheid administration. The school was located in the city of Windhoek, specifically in a black African neighbourhood called Old Location.

Richardene was a woman we should all admire. She was highly ethical and courageous, willing to fight for her beliefs and with a strong sense of justice. She did things that benefited the lives of black children and challenged the unjust laws of Apartheid.

https://allafrica.com/stories/201008201159.html
https://en.unesco.org/womeninafrica/

Name	Labotsibeni Mdluli
Year	1858 – 1938
Country	Swaziland
Occupation	Princess

Story:
Labotsibeni Mdluli was born in 1858 and would one day become the Queen Regent of the Mdhluli section of the Swazi nation. She was the wife of Ngwenyama Mbandeni. Her son was Bhunu Heli Mahlikhlp Ngwane III and her grandson was King Sobhuza II.

It was in 1889 that her husband died and she was made the Ndhlovukazi (Queen). Labotsibeni was Queen for 36 years. At first she was the Queen Mother and later on she acted as Queen Regent. This was because Sobhuza was still too young to be ruler.

Labotsibeni was an extremely intelligent woman who was known to have an excellent character. She was known for her diplomatic skills and ability to strategize. Labotsibeni believed strongly in the independence of the African continent from European colonial powers.

Labotsibeni was among the wealthiest women in South Africa. She refused, however, to wear any European clothing. She was sent many gifts, including such clothing, by the Queen of England. She was still determined to only wear clothing that was authentic to her culture.

Labotsibeni was not only a great ruler but a courageous human being. We should always remember her.

http://nhmsa.co.za/news/queen-labotsibeni-stateswoman-revolutionary-and-pioneer/

Name	Ntebogang Ratshosa
Year	1882 -
Country	Botswana
Occupation	Queen

Story:

Ntebogang Ratshosa was an extraordinary woman who ruled as Queen in the African country of Botswana. The path to her destiny began in 1916 with the death of the then ruler, Bangwaketse Kgosi Seepapitso III. His heir was still only a little boy, and someone else needed to be given power until he was of age.

Ntebogang was chosen to rule after two other women occupied the throne. There was first the 'one-eyed Queen" Mohumagadi Gagoangwe Gaseitsiwe (nee Sechele) (Seepapitso III's mother). After that, Ntebongang was put in charge. This was because she was Seepapitso III's elder sister.

Ntebogang Ratshosa cared deeply for her people. She worked tirelessly to help ensure their well-being. It was her duty to keep them safe and prosperous while waiting for the reign of her brother when he would be Batheon II.

Ntebogang was born in 1882 in Kayne. She was educated in the Christian faith and was very well-educated. Eventually, she married Ratshosa Motswetla, a Bangwato noble. She had three children with him. She was widowed in 1917 and then went back to Kayne.

During her time as regent for Seepapisto III, she did many great things. Ntebogang was recognized by everyone as being deeply intelligent and being a clever strategist. One of her greatest accomplishments was the creation of medical care centres that provided healthcare for her people.

http://www.weekendpost.co.bw/wp-column-details.php?col_id=381

Name	Bertina Lopes
Year	1924 - 2012
Country	Mozambique
Occupation	Artist

Story:
Bertina Lopes was a brilliant painter and sculptor from Mozambique. She was born in Lourenco Marques (today called Maputo), the capital of Mozambique.

Bertina's mother was African and her father Portuguese. When she was still young, Bertaina went to Lisbon, Portugal to study art. Many important things happened to her in Portugal. She met people who would be important influences on her, such as Marcelino Macedo Vespeira (a surrealist artist) and Carlos Botelho (an expressionist).

Bertina returned to Mozambique in 1953. She then started teaching in a technical school. Later on, she went back to Portugal. She was able to do this because she won a scholarship to study ceramics in that country. Her time in Portugal this time, though, was more difficult. This was because she believed in fighting for the independence of Mozambique. An organization called PIDE (Portuguese International and State Defence Police) was hostile to her because of this.

It was because of this that Bertina moved to Italy. She arrived in Rome in 1963. This was where she spent the remainder of her life. She deeply missed Mozambique and you can see that in her work in the 1970s and '80s. They show that she was feeling homesick.

Bertina was a highly accomplished artist, and she won many awards and prizes. In 1975, the International Centre for Mediterranean Art and Culture awarded her a prize. In 1988, she won the Grand Prix d'Honneur from the European Union of Art Critics.

http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2018/modern-contemporary-african-art-l18802/lot.76.html

Name	Jeanne-Marie Ruth-Rolland
Year	17 June 1937 – 4 June 1995
Country	Central African Republic
Occupation	Teacher, Activist, and Politician

Jeanne-Marie Ruth-Rolland was born in Bangassou, a city in the Central African Republic, in 1937. This amazing woman would become the Central African Republic's Minister of Social Affairs and the first woman to ever run for president in any African nation.

She trained as a teacher and then earned the position of director of social services in the army of the Central African Republic. She also acted as an advisor to the prime minister on women's issues. Not only that, she campaigned as an advocate for homeless children in Bangui, the capital city of the Central African Republic. She pointed out and condemned the corruption she saw in the government of Andre Kolingba, who had a military regime. This was a courageous course of action, as she knew there would be terrible consequences. She was determined to stand up for her country.

There was a period during which her tendency to speak out on her beliefs was met with hostility by the military ruler of the republic, General Andre Kolingba. He put her in prison from 1986 to 1991. When Kolingba left his position, Jeanne-Marie gained a position on the Cabinet. In 1993, she ran for president.

Jeanne-Marie died when she was only 58 years old, on June 4, 1995 while in Paris, France.

https://www.nytimes.com/1995/06/12/obituaries/j-m-ruth-rolland-central-african-official-58.html
https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195382075.001.0001/acref-9780195382075-e-1773
https://importantwomensbirthdays.tumblr.com/post/161915308428/jeanne-marie-ruth-rolland
https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/ruth-rolland-jm-1937-1995

Name	Rose Ziba Chibambo
Year	September 1928 – January 2016
Country	Malawi
Occupation	Activist

Story:
Rose Ziba Chibambo was very brave and has been referred to as a "lioness" because of that. She was an admirable and courageous woman who her people will always remember.

She was born in September of 1928 in Kafukule in Mzimba. Her father was a businessman and teacher. She would later say that her parents were excellent ones, teaching her that she should always speak her mind. They also gave her an education.

The man who Rose would eventually marry was a treasurer of the Zomba branch of Nyasaland African Congress (NAC). Rose would decide to organize other women and create the Women's League of this organization when she was only 24 years old.

Rose was known for asserting her herself and expressing her beliefs. On one occasion, she burst into a meeting and challenged leaders because of her worry that they would sell out the nation. She believed in fighting for the independence of her country from colonial powers. She would say that the only thing she cared about "*was a free Nyasaland*."

Rose would be imprisoned in Zomba Prison for a year a day after the birth of her daughter. She would be made to sleep on the floor. Rose shared a cell with two other members of the Women's League. Later on, she and her husband found refuge by fleeing to Zambia, but this meant that they would be separated from their children. Her husband died soon after.

Rose only came back to her country in 1994. She would say that "*I do not dabble in appeasement. Speaking your mind is not being disrespectful. Malawian tradition has that flaw and it affects women a lot. I believe that nobody should hesitate to speak what they feel*."

https://www.times.mw/rose-chibambo-life-of-a-lioness/

Name	Josephine Bakhita
Year	c. 1869 – 8 February 1947
Country	Sudan and Italy
Occupation	Slave and Saint

Story:
Josephine Bakhita was born in Olgossa, which is located in the Darfur region of southern Sudan. She was kidnapped and sold into slavery when she was just seven years old. She was given the name Bakhita at this time. This name means *fortunate*. That might seem strange as she was a slave at this time, but it was prescient in a way. Later in life, she would be able to find freedom, peace and contentment. This courageous woman lived a remarkable life.

After being sold to various different masters and treated very cruelly, she was eventually sold to Callisto Legnani in 1883. Legnani was the Italian counsel in Khartoum, Sudan. After taking Josephine to Italy, he gave her to a man named Augusto Michieli. Augusto Michieli made her babysitter to the child Mimmina Michieli.

Josephine Bakhita accompanied the child to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, where Mimmina was receiving religious education. Josephine became interested in the Catholic faith, feeling she had a strong attachment to it. Eventually, Josephine was baptized and confirmed into the faith. This took place in 1890. She took the name *Josephine* at this time.

Later on, a judge determined that Josephine should be free. This was because slavery was illegal in Italy, and so she should have been free since 1885 (when she first arrived in Italy). In 1893, Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa. She was sent to the city of Schio in 1902. There she helped the religious community through her work in embroidery, sewing, welcoming visitors, and cooking. It was her efforts in this area that made children who attended the school there and the local community in general love her.

Josephine Bakhita said, "*Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God*!"

https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-josephine-bakhita/
https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5601

Name	Queen Ngalifourou
Year	1864 - 8 June 1956
Country	The Kingdom of Mbé
Occupation	Queen of the Bateke people

Story:
Queen Ngalifourou was born in 1864 in the kingdom of Mbé. The territory of that kingdom is today the Republic of Congo. She became a wife of the king when she was very young. Ngalifourou was made his main wife in 1879, meaning that she reigned along with him. It also meant that when he died, she ascended the throne.

Custom dictated that she should marry the king that succeeded, and she did so. This did not make her lose any power, though. Queen Ngalifourou acted as guardian of the nation's army. She dispatched soldiers to assist the French in fighting in Africa, as a favour for Charles de Gaulle. Queen Ngalifourou was awarded military honours, such as the Legion of Honour.

As we can see, Queen Ngalifourou was an extraordinary woman. She was brave and intelligent, and she wielded her power in a fair and assertive way.

https://www.revolvy.com/page/Ngalifourou

Name	Buchi Emecheta
Year	21 July 1944 – 2017
Country	Nigeria
Occupation	Writer

Story:
Buchi was born in 1944 in Lagos, Nigeria. She would grow up to become a brilliant and famous writer, publishing many novels and works of children's literature.

She moved to the United Kingdom in 1960 and started working as a librarian. In 1970, she became a student at London University, studying sociology. After this, she accepted a position as a community worker in Camden, North London in 1976. She continued in this job until 1978.

During this time, Buchi was already becoming well-known for her writing. A lot of her work drew on her own experiences as a black woman and single parent living in the Great Britain. Her first novel was semi-autobiographical. It was called *In the Ditch*. It was published in 1972. Its sequel was called *Second Class Citizen*. It was published in 1974. This novel is about a young Nigerian woman living in poverty in London, struggling to bring up her children.

In *The Bride Prize* (1976), she addressed the position of women in Nigerian society. She also wrote *The Slave Girl* (1977), which won the New Statesman Jock Campbell Award, as well as *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979). She also wrote many children's novels, such as *Nowhere to Play* (1980).

https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/buchi-emecheta

Name	Rose Lokissim
Year	c.1955 – 1986
Country	Chad
Occupation	Soldier

Story:
Rose Lokissim was a woman of legendary courage and strength. She was an elite soldier in the resistance against Hissene Habre's brutal dictatorship in Chad in the 1980s. Rose was truly a person who the world (and especially Chad) will always remember.

She was arrested for providing documents to rebels to help them with their endeavour in fighting against Habre's government. She and they had resolved that they would no longer live under such terrible conditions and political oppression without resisting as strongly as they could.

When Rose was in prison and living in deplorable conditions most of us could never even imagine, she showed how remarkably brave she was in other ways. Even though she being tortured too, she put her life at further risk by objecting to the torture of other prisoners and smuggling messages out to their relatives to let them know what was happening.

Sadly, Habre's secret police found out about this. Rose was executed. Rose was truly a fearless human being, and we can especially see this in one of the statements that guards said that she made: that "*even if she dies in prison, she doesn't regret it, because Chad will thank her and history would talk about her*."

https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/05/talking-rose-150521103155485.html