

Diverse Perspectives

Do you know this American?



Tarana Burke founded the Me Too Movement in 2006 to raise awareness of sexual assault and abuse in society. Due to the prevalence and reemergence of the movement in 2017, Burke was named as part of a group of women activists known as the "silence breakers" as part of Time Person of the Year 2017. Burke also created Just Be Inc. to help victims of sexual harassment and assault. She is currently serving as Senior Director of Girls for Gender Equity in Brooklyn which helps young women of color increase their overall development through various programs and classes.

For further reading, [click here](#).

MIT Media Lab, Tarana Burke 2018 Disobedience Awards at the MIT Media Lab, CC BY 2.0

Dolores Huerta co-founded the National Farmworker's Association in 1962 with Cesar Chavez. In 1965, she helped organize the Delano grape strike in California and was also the lead negotiator in the worker's contract that was created after the strike. Huerta has received numerous awards for her community service and advocacy for workers, immigrants, and women's rights. She received the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights in 1998 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. In 1993, Huerta was the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

For further reading, [click here](#).



Gago Skidmore, Dolores Huerta by Gago Skidmore, CC BY-SA 3.0



Temple Grandin is an American Professor of animal science and an autism spokesperson. She is one of the first adults to speak publicly about her experiences with autism in the 1980s. Grandin earned a master's degree from Arizona State University and a doctoral degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, both in animal science. In 2009, she was named a fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers due to her sensitive and humane ways of designing animal-handling equipment. In 2017, Grandin was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

For further reading, [click here](#).

Steve Jurvetson from Menlo Park, USA, Temple Grandin at TED, CC BY 2.0

James Baldwin is considered to be one of the 20th century's greatest writers. He broke new literary ground in writing about race and social issues. Baldwin is best known for his essays on the Black experience in America and he wrote his first novel in 1953. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1954. Baldwin broke new ground when writing about homosexuality, in his novel *Giovanni's Room*, in 1955, which was considered a taboo subject at the time. Due to his prolific writing about race and social issues, Baldwin is considered one of the leading voices of the Civil Rights Movement.

For further reading, [click here](#).

