

SOJOURNER TRUTH



Sojourner Truth was born in 1797. She was born Isabella Baumfree but later changed her name to Sojourner Truth. Sojourner Truth was an abolitionist and women's rights activist. She became an iconic and dynamic figure in both the civil rights and women's rights movements. She is most famous for delivering her impromptu speech, *Ain't I A Woman?* in 1851 at a Women's Rights Convention, at Old Stone Church in Akron, Ohio. Sojourner Truth is one of the most influential supporters and fighters of human rights in the nineteenth century.

Sojourner Truth was born into slavery. Like most African Americans born into bondage, little is known about her early life. She spent her early childhood living in New York at an estate owned by a Dutch American named Colonel Johannes Hardenbergh. In 1826, she escaped slavery along with her infant daughter and was able to find freedom.

As an adult, Truth began her career as an abolitionist. She supported many reform causes, including prison reform, property rights, and universal suffrage. In 1844, Truth joined the Northampton Association of Education and Industry in Northampton, Massachusetts. Founded by abolitionists, the organization supported a broad reform agenda, including women's rights and pacifism. In 1850, Truth spoke at the first National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts. She soon began touring regularly with abolitionist George Thompson, speaking to large crowds on the subjects of slavery and human rights. Sojourner Truth was a former slave, an abolitionist, and a supporter of equal rights. She fought for the fair treatment of both people of color and women, and she spawned and influenced a generation of abolitionists and civil rights leaders.