

### Never Lose Hope

Hi, my name is Alice Paul and I am explaining a day in my life as a leader of the women's rights and the suffrage movement. Today is March 3rd, 1913. I wake up bright and early to start my job, that job is leading women to fight for their rights. I want this nation to change for the better and allow women, like myself, to have the same equal rights as men do. I feel motivated and confident from these last few days because of how much I've already accomplished, I know this will all be worth it. I feel hopeful today as if something is different than the other days. I prepare and devour breakfast; there is no time to waste! I look at the clock and it's time for me to meet with my fellow suffragists to discuss our next steps. As I arrive at the National American Woman Suffrage Association building, I am immediately greeted by my members asking to meet with me instantly. My members begged me to get everyone together to head down to the White House.

President Woodrow Wilson was against the idea of women having rights and the right to vote, I felt the urge to change his mind about this. I told my fellow members we should start a "Silent Sentinels" protest. We created banners before walking to the White House; this message was aimed toward the president. The banner states, "Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?" The ladies and I silently marched to the gated White House and stood outside. We waited for hours in silence. I felt like leaving as if this was pointless. I remember my mother attending suffragist meetings and always standing up for what she thought was right. Standing strong and proud, an angry mob of men approached us. They were infuriated because we were

protesting after the US entered World War 1. We stayed silent and calm. Our silence made them even more livid.

The men then began to throw random objects at us. I turned my head and looked at the women and told them to stay strong and not start a riot. That's when a man began to grab my banner aggressively. He was pulling me to try and attack, and one of the girls wanted to defend me. The silent protest that I had wanted has escalated into violence. Once the police arrived they instantly arrested me and my members. I kept questioning the cop but, he never answered me. As I was placed in the car with cuffs around my hands- I looked outside to see an angry mob bashing my members and me. Once I arrived in jail, I was instantly placed in a cell. I knew that this wasn't right but although the events of the protest did not proceed how I wanted, I never lost hope. Fast forward to days later, I chose to go on a hunger strike. I disobeyed commands and continued to fight for my rights. Women were inspired by my courage and strength which motivated them to keep fighting for the equal rights they deserve. I'm not certain what will happen next, but I hope good things happen due to my actions. I am Alice Paul, and I will never stop fighting for what is right.

Alice Paul was instrumental in securing the 19th Amendment, and her lifelong dedication to women's rights, protesting and the hunger strike made a huge impact on society. She helped set the stage for future battles for equality. Alice Paul January 11, 1885 - July 9, 1977. Her name will forever be remembered.