“Any Power Strong Enough to Assist in the Hour of Distress”: African American Women, International Human Rights Law, and the Court of Public Opinion

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Founding Members,
National Association of Colored Women (NACW)
July 1896
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Black Women’s Organizing

Officers of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), 1935
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They have noticed through the columns of their papers, they say, the "honest appeals of Anti-Caste" in their behalf, and send in this document an acknowledgment of "their heartfelt thanks." They then call attention to some enclosed newspaper cuttings, giving accounts of cruel outrages and lynchings of their people in the South, such as they see to be of almost constant occurrence there. They think that the time has come...
European Conference Participation, 1890s

- Hallie Quinn Brown
- Mary Church Terrell
- Ida B. Wells Barnett
Mary Burnett Talbert

“Mary Morris Burnett Talbert: Eighth Spingarn Medalist.”
*Crisis Magazine* 24, No. 3 (July 1922): 125.
Photo Credit: Unknown.
The feature of the meeting will be the visit from Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, of Buffalo, N. Y., National president of the Federation of Women's Clubs who has recently returned from France where she was engaged in war work among the soldiers.

Negro Woman to Speak — Mrs. Mary B. Talbert of Buffalo, N. Y., will speak at the Lincoln high school auditorium at 8:30 o'clock Monday evening, March 1, on "The Negro's Right to World Citizenship," and the meeting will be free to the public. Mrs. Talbert is the president of the National Association of Colored Women. Mrs. Talbert was sent to France by the Y. W. C. A. to work among the colored soldiers. Mrs. E. D. Cannady has charge of Mrs. Talbert's Portland engagement.

Cleveland Gazette, November 22, 1919

Mrs. Mary B. Talbert of Buffalo, N. Y., president of our National Federation of Women's clubs, the woman who led the drive that saved the Hon. Frederick Douglass' beautiful home at Anacostia, D. C. after Booker T. Washington and other men had failed to do so, made it the organization's headquarters, and who but in recent months returned from an extended trip thru the war stricken parts of France, as well as visiting some of that country's largest cities, confering with its leaders in woman's work, etc., will be at Mt. Zion Cong church, next Tuesday evening, and should be heard by all. She has a wonderful story to tell of her travels abroad, as well as at home, and is one of our most eloquent speakers. Mrs. Talbert is a native or long resident of Oberlin, and a graduate of the College there—a brilliant woman. Her coming will benefit our people of the community.

Morning Oregonian, February 22, 1920
Disillusionment turned Distinct Feminist Internationalism

Lugenia Burns Hope (back row, far right) and members of the International Council of Women of the Darker Races, circa 1930.

Courtesy of Robert W. Woodruff Library Archives, Atlanta University Center, Neighborhood Union Collection.
The Scottsboro Boys, with attorney Samuel Leibowitz, under guard by the state militia, 1932
The United Nations

Educator and Civil Rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy Ferebee shaking hands, 1938. (Photo by Afro American Newspapers/Gado/Getty Images)
From Left to Right, Dr. Dorothy B. Ferebee, NCNW President, Dean Acheson (Secretary of State), Edith Sampson, alternate U.S. delegate to the United Nations, and Mary McLeod Bethune, Council President Emeritus.

As pictured in The Chicago Defender, December 2, 1950
U.S. President Harry Truman, far left, poses with, left to right, Mary McLeod Bethune, retiring founder-president of the National Council of Negro Women, Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Ambassador of India to the United States, and Dr. Ralph Bunche, United Nations Director of Trusteeship, in Washington D.C., on Nov. 15, 1949. They were presented with citations for outstanding citizenship.

(AP Photo/Harvey Georges)
Alignment, 1960s

- State Department
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- NCNW International Center (1975)
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