

The Women's March on Washington began as an organically growing groundswell the day after the 2017 election when a grandmother in Hawaii proposed to forty of her friends to go march in Washington, D.C. Initially the name Million Women March was used, however, the name was quickly changed when its historical roots were brought to the founding members' attention.

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the 1997 Million Women March, a mobilization started by Dr. Phile Chionesu which brought thousands of African American women together in Philadelphia for the social, political, and economic development to the black community. We've been in touch with Dr. Phile to verbally apologize for any harm caused by the use of the name.

It was out of respect for the 1997 Million Women March and in tribute to the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 28, 1963 that the name was changed to the ***Women's March on Washington***. The original March on Washington – at which Martin Luther King Jr delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech – set a precedent for hundreds of thousands of people of diverse backgrounds to gather in Washington, D.C. for the advancement of human rights, and specifically to demand civil and economic rights for African Americans. One of the legacies of this march was the inspiration of other historical marches, including by the 1965 March on Washington for Peace in Vietnam and the four Marches on Washington for the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Transgender people occurring in 1979, 1987, 1993 and 2000. The diversity of these historical moments reflect the many communities drawn to the 2017 Women's March on Washington, and continue to be our inspiration in the fight for justice and human rights for all. It is in this spirit and our desire to embrace the legacy of advancing equity and human rights set by these marches that we call on all people to join us at the Women's March on Washington on January 21st.