

Who was Alice Paul?

The name may be unfamiliar, yet she was a woman who made an indelible mark on our lives. Alice Paul was the architect of some of the most outstanding political achievements made on behalf of women in the 20th century. In 1913 she founded the National Woman's Party which worked to gain the right to vote for women through a constitutional amendment. Paul organized massive demonstrations and played a pivotal role in the passage of the 19th Amendment. In 1923, Alice Paul authored the Equal Rights Amendment and worked 54 tireless years for its passage. She wrote the equal rights statement that appeared in the UN Charter. The non-discrimination clause which she campaigned for as part of the 1964 Civil Rights Act remains the only Federal protection women have against discrimination in the workplace. Alice Paul changed our lives...forever.

What is Paulsdale?

Paulsdale is the farmhouse in Mount Laurel, New Jersey, where Alice Paul was born to Quaker parents and spent her childhood. At Paulsdale she learned that women and men were equal, and that lesson helped her change the world. The 150-year-old Paulsdale stands on a knoll surrounded by sheltering trees and fragrant lilacs. In its sturdy simplicity, Paulsdale symbolizes the same strength and perseverance that was Alice Paul's.

Why is Paulsdale important?

We are saving a vital link to our history. Alice Paul changed our mothers' lives, our lives and the lives of our daughters to come. It is important that all Americans recognize the contributions made by women in advancing this great nation. Women, especially, need to be aware of these contributions, and to have the opportunity to benefit from the inspirational example set by their foremothers. There are too few memorials to educate women about their past and inspire them toward their future. Paulsdale is a memorial that will do both. It is listed on both the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places. This historic farmhouse, on six and a half acres of open land, is located in a community undergoing rapid residential and commercial development. Its future is threatened. If we do not take steps to save it, it will be lost....forever.

What will Paulsdale become?

Paulsdale will become a center for leadership development and training for women and girls. Under its roof and in its memorial garden, we will bring people together to use their collective experience as a catalyst to develop approaches to the challenges facing American women...and all women. Paulsdale will also be available to organizations on the local, regional and national levels, for specialized programs and small conferences.

How can you help?

Your financial contribution to save Paulsdale will help create a living memorial to the life and work of Alice Paul. She was a modest yet defiant crusader, who dedicated her life to what she described as "the ordinary notion that women are equal to men." It seems fitting that women and men alike are uniting to preserve this historic landmark, so that the spirit and legacy of Alice Paul will live on...forever.

