

The struggle for women's right to vote in Mexico

Women have played a fundamental role in Mexico's independence, reform and revolution. However, they did not have a right to political participation. Their struggle began during the Mexican Revolution, with the starting point being the First Feminist Congress of the Yucatan in 1916. At that historic meeting, the women gathered there demanded equality, education and citizenship in order to build -together with the men in a responsible manner-a new Mexican society underpinned by progress, democracy, justice and equality. Yucatan was the first state to recognize women's right to vote in 1923.

In 1937, President Lázaro Cárdenas promoted a reform granting full political rights to women. Both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, and most of the state legislatures passed this reform.

Later, in 1947, President Miguel Alemán proposed a constitutional amendment that would let women exercise their right to participate in municipal elections. Upon assuming the presidency, Adolfo Ruíz Cortines fulfilled his campaign promise and sent an initiative to reform Constitutional Articles 34 and 115 that promoted universal suffrage for women to the Chamber of Deputies.

Finally, on October 17, 1953, the Executive published the decree recognizing the full citizenship of Mexican women in the Official Journal. Since then, women's fight to participate in decisions involving their families and nation has continued. They have demonstrated their ability and their right to influence the country's social, economic and cultural policy decisions.

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