SECTION I: WOMEN DID IT ALL RIGHT ALONGSIDE THE MEN

As long as there’s been Africans in bondage, raped, murdered, marginalized and denied avenues to press for justice, there’s been a civil rights movement in the United States. In the middle of the 20th century, however, equal justice campaigns hit a fever pitch. Aided by a relatively new thing called television, the protests for equality and fairness and the backlash against them were broadcast around the world. Everyone saw the singing, chanting, placard-carrying throngs marching through the America South. Everyone saw the fire hoses, dogs, club-wielding police and venomous vitriol of the white racist crowds who opposed them. What often went unseen were the Black women of the Civil Rights Movement, who organized and strategized alongside the men. They took the beatings and were arrested alongside the men. They rallied their celebrity friends to attend the 1963 March on Washington bringing notoriety to the now iconic event. They sang to the crowds and to the organizers, particularly when spirits were low. But now is the time to learn who some of the courageous, intelligent, nurturing and talented women of the Civil Rights Movement really were.