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Women in History--Marian Wright Edelman: and Children's Rights

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Abstract

Marian Wright Edelman was born June 6, 1939, at a time when segregation were the norm. The Wright family lived in a small, southern town in North Carolina, where Marian was the youngest of five children. Her father, Arthur Jerome Wright, was a Baptist preacher, and her mother, Mary Wright, was an activist for the rights of women and African-Americans. Her father expected his children to do two things-work hard at getting ahead and help others through community service. Marian Wright was encouraged by her teachers, and church leaders to live her life with no limits. She was told that she could go anywhere and do anything she wanted. These expectations placed upon her by society. These humble beginnings set the stage for her career and a career of advocacy for children and marginalized people. With degrees, countless honors, several books, and a long array of professional experiences to her credit, she is quick to note that her modest upbringing was the foundation of her strength today.



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