

The Top 5 Women Who Shattered the Glass Ceiling



Tiffany Dickie

Long gone are the days where women stay home and take care of the house and men go out and earn money. From stay-at-home dads to female CEOs gender norms have received a serious revamp in the last two decades. As a person who happened to find her passion within a typical female profession I greatly admire those who broke through the glass ceiling and paved a new path for future generations. Here are my top five women who not only defy, but shatter traditional gender roles.

5. Valentina Tereshkova – Astronaut

Science and engineering have been traditionally male studies. In the past women didn't even have the opportunity to be exposed to the studies let alone the chance to peruse those career paths. Valentina Tereshkova shattered her glass ceiling on her way to outer space when she became the first woman in space in June of 1963. Her out-of-this-world accomplishments and her brilliant mind earned her a spot on this list.



4. Kathryn Bigelow – Director

Female actors have been predominant in movies for generations. From Audrey Hepburn to Elizabeth Taylor, actresses have been gracing the screen and taking home awards for years. It is in the director's chair that women tend to be under-represented. In 2010 Kathryn Bigelow became the first female director to win a prestigious Academy Award for Best Director for her film "The Hurt Locker". While I struggle to understand how it took until 2010 for a woman to receive this both confuses and confounds me, it is Ms. Bigelow's ground breaking victory in the public eye which earns her a place on this list.

3. Sandra Day O'Connor – Supreme Court Judge

The legal world has always been a man's world. When Sandra Day O'Connor graduated from Stanford Law School in 1952 she couldn't even find a law firm who would give a woman an interview. When she finally found a small law firm to give her a job she had to agree to work for free for them to even consider her. She had a long road ahead of her to make in in the profession. After thirty year working as a lawyer she received the highest honour in her profession when President Ronald Reagan appointed her as the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America. Her devotion on her profession and her determination to continue working in her passion earned her a spot on this list.



2. Charlotte Cooper – Olympian

It is difficult to even imagine a world where women were not allowed to participate in sports at all. In 1900 Charlotte Cooper participated in the Paris summer Olympics – the first to allow female athletes. She was the first ever female individual champion. Whole her feat occurred over a century ago, this moment paved the way for future female Olympians and start athletes to be where they are today and has earned her place on this list.

1. Hillary Clinton – Politician

Love her or hate her, Hillary has shattered the highest glass ceiling that exists in the western world. After winning the Democratic nomination for president of the United States, she went on to win the majority of the votes and beat Donald Trump by over 2 million votes in the popular vote. Her dedication to her cause and her tenacity in the face of public, vicious, and perpetual adversity has earned her the top spot on this list. For generations women have been pushing on the glass ceiling. These women pushed hard enough for it to crack. These women have opened doors for millions of others. Who would your top glass ceiling destroyer be? Could you pick just one?