

Shirley Chisholm Quotes

*Black, People, Country, Men, Justice, Racism, Political, Years, Want, America,
Thinking, Prejudice, Voice, Revolution, Father, Inspiring, Powerful, Needs,
Heart, Firsts*

You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.

~Shirley Chisholm

Don't list to those who say YOU CAN'T. Listen to the voice inside yourself that says, I CAN.

~Shirley Chisholm

Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth.

~Shirley Chisholm

In the end anti-black, anti-female, and all forms of discrimination are equivalent to the same thing: anti-humanism.

~Shirley Chisholm

I ran for the presidency, despite hopeless odds, to demonstrate the sheer will and refusal to accept the status quo.

~Shirley Chisholm

Defeat should not be the source of discouragement, but a stimulus to keep plotting.

~Shirley Chisholm

Women must become revolutionary. This cannot be evolution but revolution.

~Shirley Chisholm

I've always met more discrimination being a woman than being Black...men are men.

~Shirley Chisholm

Laws will not eliminate prejudice from the hearts of human beings. But that is no reason to allow prejudice to continue to be enshrined in our laws - to perpetuate injustice through inaction.

~Shirley Chisholm

Health is a human right, not a privilege to be purchased.

~Shirley Chisholm

Tremendous amounts of talent are lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt.

~Shirley Chisholm

I have never cared too much what people say. What I am interested in is what they do.

~Shirley Chisholm

The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says, 'It's a girl.'

~Shirley Chisholm

I am and always will be a catalyst for change.

~Shirley Chisholm

At present, our country needs women's idealism and determination, perhaps more in politics than anywhere else.

~Shirley Chisholm

When morality comes up against profit, it is seldom that profit loses.

~Shirley Chisholm

Racism is so universal in this country, so widespread and deepseated, that it is invisible because it is so normal.

~Shirley Chisholm

America has the laws and the material resources it takes to insure justice for all its people. What it lacks is the heart, the humanity.

~Shirley Chisholm

I love America not for what she is, but for what she can become.

~Shirley Chisholm

There is a good deal of evidence that the United States is moving to the right, and that the main force behind the movement is a resurgence, in a new form, of racial prejudice.

~Shirley Chisholm

My greatest political asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth, out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn't always discuss for reasons of political expediency.

~Shirley Chisholm

Racism keeps people who are being managed from finding out the truth through contact with each other.

~Shirley Chisholm

Congress seems drugged and inert most of the time... its idea of meeting a problem is to hold hearings or, in extreme cases, to appoint a commission.

~Shirley Chisholm

It is not heroin or cocaine that makes one an addict, it is the need to escape from a harsh reality.

~Shirley Chisholm

Be as bold as the first man or [woman] to eat an oyster.

~Shirley Chisholm

That I am a national figure because I was the first person in 192 years to be at once a congressman, black, and a woman proves, I would think, that our society is not yet either just or free.

~Shirley Chisholm

Rhetoric never won a revolution yet.

~Shirley Chisholm

That's what's wrong with the country. There are too many 'good soldiers' accepting too many bad decisions.

~Shirley Chisholm

... all Americans are the prisoners of racial prejudice.

~Shirley Chisholm

There is little place in the political scheme of things for an independent, creative personality, for a fighter. Anyone who takes that role must pay a price.

~Shirley Chisholm

Some members of Congress are among the best actors in the world.

~Shirley Chisholm

As there were no black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers - a great pity, on both counts.

~Shirley Chisholm

As a black person I am no stranger to prejudice. But the truth is that in the political world I have been far more often discriminated against because I am a woman than because I am black.

~Shirley Chisholm

Political organizations are formed to keep the powerful in power.

~Shirley Chisholm

I don't measure America by its achievement but by its potential.

~Shirley Chisholm

Any time things appear to be going better, you have overlooked

something.

~Shirley Chisholm

Some fine men are in Congress, too few, trying to do a responsible job. But they are surrounded and almost neutralized by a greater number whose instinct is to make a deal before they make a decision.

~Shirley Chisholm

The minorities have been confined to the city by a moat of bigotry.

~Shirley Chisholm

To label family planning and legal abortion programs "genocide" is male rhetoric, for male ears.

~Shirley Chisholm

I am not antiwhite, because I understand that white people, like black ones, are victims of a racist society. They are products of their time and place.

~Shirley Chisholm

We have been so patient and loyal ... and what has it gotten us? We want our full share now.

~Shirley Chisholm

Of my two `handicaps,' being female put more obstacles in my path than being black.

~Shirley Chisholm

I'd like them to say that Shirley Chisholm had guts. That's how I'd like to be remembered.

~Shirley Chisholm

I had met far more discrimination because I am a woman than because I am black.

~Shirley Chisholm

My God, what do we want? What does any human being want?

~Shirley Chisholm

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