[Name of the Writer]

[Name of Instructor]

[Subject]

[Date]

Women’s fight and struggle against Apartheid

# Introduction

It has been the recurrent modus operandi of the world to control weak populations and assist the powerful ones. In this context, several historic struggles have been launched by aggrieved against the aggressors. Apartheid is one such freedom movement by the weak and the aggrieved black people in South Africa. This was the movement which aimed to curtail white supremacy in the land. The white race ran the country with iron-fist and much-institutionalized segregation. As tyranny produces resentment and rebellions in society, so happened in the south African society where freedom fighters rose against this inhuman institutionalized racial discrimination. This apartheid then produced many great leaders in world history such as Nelson Mandela who led the struggle against apartheid. However, no movement can succeed if women do no participate side by side. Keeping this universal fact in mind, the women from the black society also took part in ending apartheid in South Africa and this became the tipping point in the history (*Theorising Women: The Intellectual Contributions of Charlotte Maxeke to the Struggle for Liberation in South Africa*). Among the most notable women, the name of Charlotte Maxeke is most significant. She is the women who led the women-front a participated wholeheartedly in the struggle. She was the person who believed in equality justice and collective benefit for all. She is the lady who did not hesitate a bit and went ahead in ending brutal practices of apartheid.

# Discussion

Charlotte Maxeke was an iron lady who was born in Polokwane (Pietersburg) District on April 7, 1874. Since her childhood, she wanted to attain a good education. when she grew up, it was the 19th century South Africa where the white population was dominating every aspect of life. Her mettle and the vigor did not accept the ongoing patterns of life, she decided to work for those who need help and assistance. This is the reason that she is known as the mother of Black freedom. She worked for uplifting blacks in their lives and decided to put her own contribution. Charlotte Maxeke was known for her two individualized characteristics: her wisdom and her intriguing voice. In order to raise awareness in the world against the heinous racial segregation in her country, she toured the civilized countries of the world such as Great Britain and the United States of America. Basically, she wanted to have free education for all African people. Later on, she was invited to the American University of black people- Wilberforce University- and then she graduated from there. As she had secured the right of education for herself, now she was determined upon educating other African girls or all Africans in general. She started her own school to propagate her own vision of the world where there is no discrimination of any kind. Charlotte Maxeke was known for her sense of justice and to seek justice for all, she initiates political activism in society (*Women Students in Political Organizations : Appropriating and Reinterpreting Apartheid History in Post Apartheid South Africa.*). She voiced concerns against the edicts of carrying passports everywhere. To further promote her vision of the ideal society, she started her women association to give practical shape to her ideals. She founded the Bantu Women’s league which is still in place under the new name as African National Congress Women’s League.

# Conclusion

In a nutshell, the struggle of Charlotte Maxeke was live even after her death. Her anti-apartheid sentiment was adopted by all feminist people and they advocated the same cause (Onyebadi and Memani). It is no surprise that she is known for her noble ideals and values. For her momentous efforts and struggle, she is rightly known in the world as the mother of black freedom. Besides, she is the person who illustrated that fact that women are not lacking any potential. For the life of Charlotte Maxeke, it is clear that no matter what strong women do know how to stand up against injustices in society.

# Works Cited

Onyebadi, Uche, and Lindani Memani. “Women and South Africa’s Anti-Apartheid Struggle:” *Music as a Platform for Political Communication*, 2017. *ResearchGate*, doi:10.4018/978-1-5225-1986-7.ch002.

*Theorising Women: The Intellectual Contributions of Charlotte Maxeke to the Struggle for Liberation in South Africa*. http://etd.uwc.ac.za/handle/11394/1627. Accessed 2 July 2019.

*Women Students in Political Organizations : Appropriating and Reinterpreting Apartheid History in Post-Apartheid South Africa.* http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/handle/10539/14752. Accessed 2 July 2019.