



Tell It Like It Is: Women in the National Welfare Rights Movement

By Mary E. Triece

University of South Carolina Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 176 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.5in. In *Tell It Like It Is*, Mary E. Triece brings to light a lesser known yet influential social movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s--the welfare rights movement, led and run largely by poor black mothers in the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO). Her study combines theory and critical analysis to explore rhetorical strategies and direct actions women employed as they argued for fair welfare legislation in both formal policy debates and in the streets. Triece focuses on how welfare recipients spoke for themselves in forums often marked by widely held stereotypes. Triece explains the influence of racism on welfare legislation throughout the early 1900s and explores how welfare recipients cultivated agency while challenging stereotypes such as the welfare cheat and the welfare mother. To illuminate her study, Triece uses historical documents including pamphlets, flyers, position statements, and convention materials. She examines the official newspaper of the NWRO, the *Welfare Fighter*, and draws on the congressional testimonies of welfare recipients, providing the first in-depth look at the ways that poor black women represented themselves in this formal political forum. *Tell It Like...*



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