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Gisèle Halimi, the Unbowed

A Lawyer for World Change

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The story of a woman who said: "NO!"

Activist and politician Gisèle Halimi fought her greatest battles as a lawyer. In 1961, she denounced the use of torture in Algeria; in 1972, she asked if women's bodies were their own to control; in 1978, she brought rape to court; after a long struggle, she brought justice to gender parity in 2000.

In order to achieve victory in her battles, Halimi became a tactician. She brought courts to court and courted public opinion over the heads of judges, the better to change the law. Her story is that of a rebel, a girl who may never have gotten over her childhood humiliations, and who rose up all her life against inequality in all its forms.
