

## **#Persistence through Female Solidarity: The Value of a Historical Example**

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Roland (1805-1852), French socialist and feminist, was a teacher and a journalist who developed a radical coeducational curriculum during the revolution of 1848 and was co-founder of a union of socialist teachers of both sexes (in the language of the time). In addition, she was a single mother of four children by two different men who gave her children her own name. She was arrested for subversion several times and in 1851 exiled as a political prisoner to Algeria. Throughout her life, support from her female friends and fellow activists encourage, supported and enabled her political engagement. This essay examines, through her correspondence, the role that female solidarity played in Roland's ability to persist in her political goals. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: [journal@transformativestudies.org](mailto:journal@transformativestudies.org) Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2019 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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### **“NEVERTHELESS, SHE PERSISTED.”**

This meme emerged from Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell's obstruction of Senator Elizabeth Warren's exercise of her rights as a member of the Senate in early February 2017. During the confirmation hearings for Senator Jeff Sessions, nominated by the newly elected Donald Trump for Attorney General of the United States, Warren attempted to read into the record a letter from the late Coretta Scott King on the nominee. In 1986, King had written to the Senate in opposition to Sessions' nomination to a seat on the the federal bench; in that letter, the civil rights activist had identified and condemned Sessions' racism in

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