

**“One day a group of gray-haired women
may quietly take over the earth.”**

—Gloria Steinem



We are mothers, grandmothers & mentors of future generations. As the moral authority of this nation, it is our right & responsibility to question this election. We won't stand for not being heard.

Folding Chair **SIT-IN**

December 16-17, 2016: 10:00 a.m.

MEDIA ALERT

WHAT: Grey-Haired Women's Folding Chair Sit-In

WHEN: December 16 - 17th 2016 starting at 10 a.m.

WHERE: People's Plaza on Independence Mall, Philadelphia, PA

WHO: Sisters In Struggle, A Network of SpiritHouse Project

HOW: CONTACT: Ruby Sales (678) 902-5882

WHY: To demand validation of their votes, a full count, and that [#DonaldTrump](#) not be certified. In response to voter suppression and other illegal acts of disenfranchisement that handed Donald Trump a victory he did not earn. “We are part of a generation that lost land, jobs, scholarships, and loved ones while fighting for the right to vote in the South. We fought long and hard for voting rights and to up build this democracy. We are not about to let anyone turn us around now.” says Ruby Sales, a human and civil rights ‘marathoner.’

“We come before the nation deeply fearing for our safety and standing up to save our lives,” Sales goes on. She notes that [Southern Poverty Law Center](#) has documented nearly 1000 hate crimes -- many against blacks, Muslims and women -- since the November 8th election. Over 10,000 teachers report children of color being bullied (now called the Trump effect). Our democracy as well as our lives are at stake based on the bigoted people and policies Trump has promised—and is putting in place.

“Given all our sacrifices and investments in this country throughout the years, we grey haired women have earned the right to serve as the moral authority and conscience of this nation. As witnesses to the tremendous struggles of the past and of the current cesspool our country is in, we are mothers, grandmothers and mentors of future generations. We will not stand without being heard. It is our right and responsibility to question the outcome of the election. It is our right to make sure that as part of authentic democracy voting rights are upheld,” says Sales. “We declare Trump unfit to be President of the United States.”

STORY ANGLES:

- Take advantage of this special opportunity to hear from highly regarded Civil Rights leader Ruby Sales.
- Ask her about the [civic pain](#) she discussed with On Being's Krista Tippett before the election, and how that pain should be understood, now, after the election of a man seen as a threat to American ideals, progress, and Constitutional imperatives.
- Cover this multicultural, if erstwhile silent group of approximately 40 women, who represent the generation and gender of citizens, who more than any others can claim rights as the ‘moral authority,’ of our country.
- Speak with younger women there for support, solidarity and sustained connection to revisit and reverse Trump's election.
- Interview any of these intergenerational, non-partisan and multicultural women to hear how their perspectives transcend identity politics--and express the unmistakable common ground mothers and grandmothers share.
- Hear their lessons of hindsight from decades past, like the Voters Rights era; from Insight, as they share observations of how we got where we are today electing Trump; and foresight, as they explain fears for the future of their descendents.

VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY IMAGES:

- Capture mature women (ages 40+) as they sit firm for the recovery of democratic sanity in our country.
- Capture images of the Liberty Bell and Independence Mall, symbolic of the freedom fight of so many slaves and others.
- Capture images of multigenerational, all-different colored women working together for biggest cause in half a century.
- (Related image files available upon request.)

#SIS is a **SpiritHouse Project** network of women from all generations, races, ethnicities, faiths and sexual identities who are activists, lawyers, writers, scholars, preachers, theologians, artists, workers and practitioners. We have chosen Philadelphia because it is the city where a colonized people decided to break the chains of a monarchy and free themselves to become a democracy. It is on this solid ground of promise and opportunity that the fighting 40 will sit-in on our folding chairs as a Mighty Cloud of Gray Haired Witnesses.

Ruby Sales, who worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Lowndes County, Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement is nationally recognized for her life-long social justice work. Sales is also Founder and Director of the Atlanta-based SpiritHouse Project.

Selected coverage of Ruby Sales:

- [Ruby Sales: Where Does It Hurt?](#). On Being with Krista Tippett, September 15, 2016.
- [The Legacy of Jonathan Daniels with Ruby Sales](#). Washington National Cathedral, October 11, 2015.
- Mosnier, Joseph. [Civil Rights History Project: Interview with Ruby Sales](#). The Library of Congress & The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History. (April 25, 2011).