The Association of Black Radcliffe Women (ABRW) started in the spring of 1975. They first wanted to achieve unity among the students "from all regions of the United States, Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa." These women were very aware of the ethnic and cultural variety among the black community of women. They also set up a big sibling program to address was the divide between upper clanswomen and the "freshwomen." This would allow cross-class friendships and mentorships to flourish across the divide between the Harvard Yard and upper class houses. The diverse community of black women took its first steps in strengthening its constituency.

"Let us find the strength, support, courage in our unity, combining our spirit, intellect, and resources so that we may best address our needs," ABRW Constitution, 1975

Creating a community of excellence: ABRW’s annual college scholarship

Radcliffe President Martina Horner, right with Margo Forde, center and her mother. Ms. Forde was the recipient of the ABRW college scholarship in February, 1985.

Black Women and the Long Struggle: ABRW focused on connecting black women across academic class lines. They also set up programs to address the educational needs of its female members by forming study groups and had teach-ins to discuss the best organizational techniques. The women appropriated the word of teach-ins, an technique of civil disobedience where members learned about the political cause of the day, to describe workshops on study skills. ABRW did not completing eschew political engagement was open to explicit forms of activism as well. They opening advocated for the Ephraim Isaac, a popular black scholar and professor, to receive the tenure appointment in Afro-American Studies department. The group would form strategic partnerships with the BSA or Third World Organizations to fight the larger battles for admissions, divestment, or affirmative action.