

VEFAMUN'25

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS)

Open Agenda

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1. Letter From Secretary-General

Most Special Participants of VefaMUN'25,

It is I, Cansu Solmaz Hurşitoğlu, an 11th grader at Vefa High School. As the Secretary-General of VefaMUN'25, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 6th edition of VefaMUN.

I can confidently say that our academic and organization teams have poured their hearts into ensuring that VefaMUN'25 excels in every aspect. We endured sleepless nights, moments of stress, and countless challenges, but in the end, we have created something truly exceptional.

All of our team members burned the candle at both ends, which brings us to today: the best version of ourselves.

We have meticulously designed each committee to provide an enriching academic experience. I have no doubt that you will have an unforgettable time with eight committees, all carefully crafted for your engagement.

I have been taking great care of this heirloom ever since I started carrying it, and I invite you to join our conference as our family.

Welcome once again!

Warmest Regards,

Cansu Solmaz Hurşitoğlu

Secretary-General of VefaMUN'25

2. Letter From Under-Secretary-General

Dear Participants of VefaMUN'25 National Union of Women Suffrage Societies Committee,

I am honored to have the great pleasure of expressing a warm welcome to everyone attending VefaMUN'25. As the NUWSS Committee's Under Secretary General, I promise you that during the three amazing days, I will create an unforgettable debating atmosphere for you to enjoy. Regarding the committee, I am eager to hear your fascinating debates.

Tragically, we are still discussing upon women's rights in 2025. However, I sincerely hope that debating women's rights will become irrelevant in a short time. This may only be a wish for the time being, but with each person's voice, it will gradually become a reality. Believe me when I say, once, the reality was just an idea. Then it became a reality.

I urge every delegate to courageously defend their representatives' policies during the conference. It means a lot to us if you bravely shout out because this committee is more than just a simulation.

I have a special place in my heart for the VefaMUN conference for three main reasons: it was my first MUN family, I graduated from high school there, and I was the conference's former director general. You have no idea how much we suffered in the MUN Club during my time in high school. Fortunately, we are successful no matter what, and this is the sixth annual VefaMUN edition. I am incredibly proud of the executive team.

Once again, an idea became reality.

Warm Regards,

Cemre Yüksel

Under-Secretary-General of the NUWSS Committee

3. Introduction to the Committee

3.1. Foundation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies



By the 1890s, women's suffrage was being promoted by seventeen different organisations. These included the Central Committee for Women's Suffrage, the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage, the London Society for Women's Suffrage, and the Liberal Women's Suffrage Society. These organisations came together to establish the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) on October 14, 1897. Originally, the groups spread around the United Kingdom in 1888. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was its new name in 1919. Under the leadership of Millicent Fawcett, the society's president for almost two decades, the groups came together. The democratic, non-military organisation aimed at giving women the right to vote by peaceful, legal means, specifically through the introduction of parliamentary bills and gatherings to discuss and advance its goals. The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) split from the NUWSS in 1903 because they wanted to establish

more militant activities. However, the NUWSS kept expanding, and by 1914, it had more than 100,000 members and more than 500 branches around the nation. Some of the members were working class, but the majority were middle class.

3.2. Historical Background

3.2.1. Political Stance of the United Kingdom in the 19th Century

Some people began advocating for women's rights as equal citizens to men in the late 18th century. In the early 19th century, women participated in the wider movement for political reform alongside men. Both the Second Reform Act of 1867 and the Third Reform Act of 1884 expanded the right to vote to include more males during the 19th century.

By 1900, about 58% of male adults were able to vote. Some males from the working class were among them. Being rate-payers and bound by the same laws as these males, many women who were denied the right to vote were in similar situations.

As the sense of injustice grew, organisations of women started working together to advocate for the right to vote in the middle of the 19th century. They were referred to as suffragettes.

Across the nation, suffragist organisations operated under a variety of names, but they all shared the same goal: to grant women the right to vote by constitutionally guaranteed, nonviolent means.

There were regional organisations that campaigned at the local level and staged public meetings, particularly in cities like Manchester. Millicent Fawcett and Lydia Becker were important figures at the national level.

The suffragists thought that change could only be achieved by the power of legislation, and they employed lobbying strategies to convince lawmakers who supported their cause to bring up the topic of women's suffrage during a floor discussion.

Debates on women's suffrage were held in Parliament virtually annually between 1870 and 1884. Because parliamentary sessions were widely reported in the national and local newspapers at the time, this was successful in maintaining public awareness of the subject.

3.2.2. The Situation of the Labour Party

At the Congregational Memorial Hall on Farringdon Street on February 27, 1900, representatives of the Independent Labour Party (ILP), the Social Democratic Federation (SDF), and the Fabian Society—all of Britain's socialist parties—met with leaders of trade unions. Keir Hardie's motion to create "a distinct Labour group in Parliament, who shall have their whips, and agree upon their policy, which must embrace a readiness to cooperate with any party which for the time being may be engaged in promoting legislation in the direct interests of labour" was approved by the 129 delegates following a debate. The Conference created a Labour Representation Committee (LRC) to enable this.

Emmeline Pankhurst wished that the new Labour Party stood for women's voting on an equal basis with men. The party did, however, explicitly state in its program that it supported equal rights for men and women. "The vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men" was Hardie's position. Other party members believed that they should call for "full adult suffrage" because so many working-class men lacked the right to vote. Philip Snowden noted that the Conservative Party would benefit if only middle-class women voted. David Lloyd George and other left-wing Liberal Party members shared this opinion.

Emmeline Pankhurst caused controversy at the 1902 Labour Party conference when she suggested that "immediate action must be taken to secure the granting of the suffrage to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men to improve the economic and social condition of women." Instead, a resolution advocating for "adult suffrage" became party policy after this was rejected.

3.2.3. 1906 Liberal Government

The Liberal Party defeated the Labour Party and the Conservative Party by a significant majority in the 1906 General Election, winning 399 seats. Fawcett thought that women would be granted the right to vote by the incoming prime minister, Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and his Liberal government. Some Liberal MPs, however, were firmly opposed to this. In the United Kingdom, there were a million more adult women than men, it was noted. It was proposed that women would "swamp men with their votes" and cast votes as women rather than as citizens.

Although Campbell-Bannerman told Millicent Fawcett that he could not convince his colleagues to approve the legislation that would turn their dream into a reality, he nevertheless offered his assistance. Fawcett was dedicated to using legal methods to win votes for women, even though the Liberal government refused to introduce legislation.

Fawcett, like other NUWSS members, was concerned that the Women's Social and Political Union's (WSPU) violent activities might turn off possible women's suffrage advocates. Fawcett, however, was polite in her criticism of the WSPU and respected the suffragettes' bravery.

Herbert Asquith took Henry Campbell-Bannerman's place after he resigned in April 1908. He had consistently opposed women's suffrage and made it clear that his administration would not pass laws granting them the right to vote.

The NUWSS kept growing. Catherine Marshall and her mother opened a branch in Keswick in May 1908. Later, Catherine wrote: "A committee was formed, rules drawn up, and active propaganda work started at once. It was unanimously decided that our object should be votes for women on the same terms as for men, and that the Association should be a strictly non-party organization; we also pledged ourselves to peaceful and constitutional methods only. Our work was to consist of spreading the principles of Women's Suffrage using meetings, letters to the press, of distributing literature on the subject.... The audience at these meetings averaged between 50 and 100 in numbers; in every instance, a resolution in favour of votes for women on the same terms as for men was enthusiastically carried."

3.2.4. 1914-1918 World War I

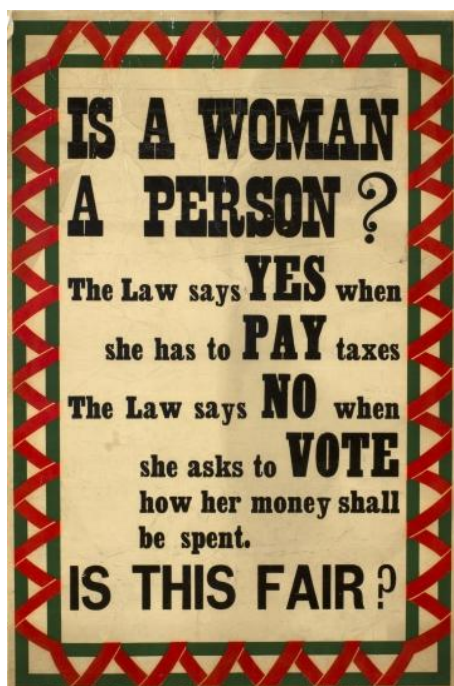
The NUWSS split between those who opposed war and those who supported it throughout the conflict. To fill the positions of individuals who were serving, the group established an employment register. During World War I, the NUWSS funded women's hospitals in France that employed entirely female physicians and nurses. Under Eleanor Rathbone's direction, the NUWSS persisted after changing its name to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in 1919. After that, it divided into two organisations: the Union of Townswomen's Guilds, which concentrated on women's welfare and education, and the National Council for Equal Citizenship, a brief organisation that worked on other equal rights initiatives.

On August 4, 1914, two days after the British government declared war on Germany, the NUWSS announced that it would stop all political action until the war was over. Millicent Fawcett headed a meeting opposing the war that evening. Fawcett opposed encouraging young men to join the military, despite her support for the war effort.

The war was viewed differently by the WSPU. There weren't many active members of the wasted force. After the WSPU conducted confidential talks with the government, the latter said on August 10 that all suffragettes would be released from prison. The WSPU agreed to stop their militant actions and support the war effort in exchange. The WSPU held a protest in London following the awarding of a £2,000 government grant. "We Demand the Right to Serve," "For Men Must Fight and Women Must Work," was among the messages displayed on banners held by the members. Emmeline Pankhurst urged trade unions to allow women to work in traditionally male-dominated fields during the 30,000-person meeting. She told the audience: "What would be the good of a vote without a country to vote in!"

Fawcett declined to oppose the First World War, even in the face of pressure from some NUWSS members. Fawcett criticised the peace initiatives of individuals such as Mary Sheepshanks during a February 1915 Council meeting of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Until the German soldiers were expelled from France and Belgium, Fawcett maintained, "I believe it is akin to treason to talk of peace." Ray Strachey, her biographer, argued: "She stood like a rock in their path, opposing herself with all the great weight of her popularity and prestige to their use of the machinery and name of the union."

The decision not to support the Women's Peace Congress in the Hague led to the resignation of 10 members of the National Executive and all of the NUWSS's officials (except for the Treasurer) following a contentious executive meeting in Buxton in 1915. Both sides used argumentation that was hurtful. Mrs. Fawcett did not typically convert arguments between friends into fights, but she felt personally betrayed by this one since her friends attended the meeting. It turned out to be the one incident in her life that she wanted to forget.



Millicent Fawcett wrote to Herbert Asquith in May 1916, arguing that women should be able to vote because of their contributions to the war effort. He informed the House of Commons in August that he had changed his mind and planned to propose legislation granting women the right to vote. Women over 30 who were householders, the wives of householders, occupants of property with an annual rent of £5, or graduates of British colleges were prohibited from voting in the House of Commons on March 28, 1917, by a vote of 341 to 62. The concept of allowing women to vote on the same terms as men was rejected by MPs.

In February 1918, the Qualification of Women Act was passed. The Manchester Guardian reported that "The Representation of the People Bill, which doubles the electorate, giving the Parliamentary vote to about six million women and placing soldiers and sailors over 19 on the register (with a proxy vote for those on service abroad), simplifies the registration system, greatly reduces the cost of elections, and provides that they shall all take place on one day, and by a redistribution of seats tends to give a vote the same value everywhere, passed both Houses yesterday and received the Royal assent."

3.2.5. Post World War I

Under Eleanor Rathbone's direction, the NUWSS continued after changing its name to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in March 1919. It centred on the equal suffrage movement, which was successful in 1928. The NUSEC divided into two organisations in 1928: the Union of Townswomen's Guilds, which concentrated on women's welfare and education, and the National Council for Equal Citizenship, a brief organisation that concentrated on other equal rights issues.

3.2.6. 1928 Equal Franchise Act

As a result of the 1928 Equal Franchise Act, all women over the age of 21 could now vote in elections.

4. Key Challenges and Movements

4.1. The Common Cause

It was initially released on April 15, 1909. It was "the organ of the women's movement for reform" in its the first edition and was mostly funded by Margaret Ashton. It backed the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' policies. The newspaper's initial editor, Helena Swanwick, was paid £200 a year. Maude Royden and Clementina Black also served as editors for a while.

The NUWSS kept gaining support even if its numerous attempts to win the vote were unsuccessful. Due to the increased attention, its membership grew from 13,429 in 1909 to 21,571 in 1910. Its income had increased to £14,000 and it now had 207 societies. The NUWSS was to be reorganised into federations. The NUWSS had 26,000 members and 16 federations by 1911. With sufficient money, the NUWSS was now able to assign Kathleen Courtney and Catherine Marshall to full-time positions at national headquarters.

4.2. Mud March

The NUWSS chose to stage its biggest protest in history to convince Henry Campbell-Bannerman and his administration to grant women the right to vote. Philippa Strachey organised the United Procession of Women, which was held on February 9, 1907. In support of women's suffrage, almost 3,000 women marched from Hyde Park Corner to the Strand in a nonviolent protest. It was named the "Mud March" because of the weather that day, which was characterised by torrential rain that left the marchers muddy and soaked.

4.3. NUWSS Suffrage Procession

On June 13, 1908, suffragists get ready to participate in the NUWSS Procession. The constitutional National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies sponsored this protest with the goal of persuading Asquith, the country's new Liberal prime minister, that women's suffrage was widely supported. Thousands of women from all around the United Kingdom travelled to London on specially chartered trains to attend the event.



4.4. Conciliation Bills

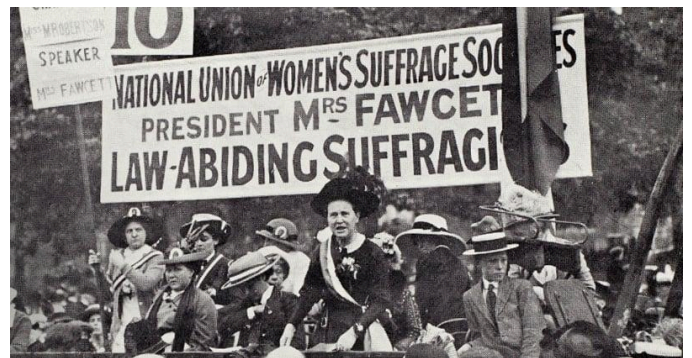
To secure a new mandate, Asquith called a general election in January 1910. But after losing votes, the Liberals had to rely on the 42 MPs from the Labour Party to help them govern. In a letter to Millicent Fawcett, Henry Brailsford, a member of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage, recommended that he try to form a Conciliation Committee for Women's Suffrage. "My idea is that it should undertake the necessary diplomatic work of promoting an early settlement."

Both Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett supported the plan, and the WSPU announced a ceasefire that would apply to all militant actions until the Conciliation Bill's future was known. A Conciliation Committee was established with 36 Members of Parliament (25 Liberals, 17 Conservatives, 6 Labour, and 6 Irish Nationalists) who were all in favour of women's suffrage. They drafted a bill that would have granted suffrage to only one million women, but they hoped it would win over everyone except the most ardent anti-suffragists. Fawcett stated that "personally many suffragists would prefer a less restricted measure, but the immense importance and gain to our movement is getting the most effective of all the existing franchises thrown upon women cannot be exaggerated."

By granting the right to vote to a select group of women based on their marital status and financial holdings, the Conciliation Bill sought to appease the suffragist movement. The Conciliation Bill was approved by 109 votes during a two-day debate in July 1910, and it was decided to forward it to a House of Commons committee for amendment. To secure a definite majority, Asquith called another election before they finished the job. But the outcome was quite similar, and Asquith was still dependent on the Labour Party's backing to lead the nation.

4.5. Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage

Senior NUWSS member Katherine Harley proposed a Women's Suffrage Pilgrimage in 1913 to demonstrate to Parliament the number of women who desired the right to vote. On June 18, 1913, NUWSS members departed. The Women's Pilgrimage was advertised in local publications by NUWSS members. In a letter to The East Grinstead Observer, for instance, Helen Hoare stated: "It is undeniably true that some males who were once inclined to support



it have become estranged due to the actions of the militant party. The law-abiding, non-militant National Union of Women's Suffrage Society arranged a massive pilgrimage from all over England to London to show the world that it is still alive and to support its members during a protracted and discouraging battle. On July 26, an estimated 50,000 women arrived at London's Hyde Park. The march was a part of a campaign against the WSPU's use of violence, as The Times newspaper noted.

5. Bloc Positions

5.1. Women's Social and Political Union

Established in 1903, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was a significant militant group and women-only political movement advocating for women's suffrage in the United Kingdom. Known as the suffragettes from 1906, Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia, exercised strict control over the group's membership and policies. The members of the WSPU gained notoriety for their direct action and civil disobedience. According to Emmeline Pankhurst, they were waging a "reign of terror". Members of the group heckled politicians, staged protests and marches, broke the law to make arrests, broke windows in well-known buildings, burned or sprayed chemicals in postboxes, injuring multiple postal workers, and carried out a string of arsons that left at least five people dead and at least twenty-four injured. Members of the organisation participated in hunger strikes and were forced to eat while incarcerated. "To make England and every

department of English life insecure and unsafe" was the group's stated objective, according to Emmeline Pankhurst.

5.2. Anti-Suffrage Society

One of the main opponents of women's suffrage was William Cremer. According to Hansard, William Cremer had long argued that adult suffrage would eventually result from opening the door and granting the right to vote to a very small number of women. As a result, a majority of women rather than men would take control of the nation's governance. Because they are emotional and impulsive beings, women do not make decisions based on logic like men do. Although he was occasionally labelled a woman-hater, he believed that having two marriages was the finest response he could provide to those who made such accusations. He loved them too much to force them into politics and force them to fulfil commitments, responsibilities, and duties they didn't comprehend or find appealing.

William Cremer met renowned author Mary Humphry Ward in the summer of 1908 and urged her to serve as the Anti-Suffrage League's first president. Ward concurred, and the group released its manifesto on July 8, 1908. It said the following: "Women who oppose women being granted the right to vote in parliament ought to have their voices heard loud and clear. The situation is urgent. If those who believe that a successful women's suffrage campaign would bring disaster to England are not willing to act quickly and effectively, judgment may be rendered automatically and our nation may head towards a significant social and political revolution before realising the risks."

The Times quoted Ward as saying: "Women's suffrage is a more dangerous leap in the dark than it was in the 1860s because of the vast growth of the Empire, the immense increase of England's imperial responsibilities, and therewith the increased complexity and risk of the problems which lie before our statesmen - constitutional, legal, financial, military, international problems - problems of men, only to be solved by the labour and special knowledge of men, and where the men who bear the burden ought to be left unhampered by the political inexperience of women"

Mary Humphry Ward gave talks against women's suffrage throughout the nation. The Anti-Suffrage League gathered signatures opposing women's suffrage, and at a meeting on March 26, 1909, Ward reported that the petition had more than 250,000 signatures. In June of the following year, she announced that the campaign had 110 chapters, 15,000 paid members, and 320,000 petition signers.

The leaders of the Anti-Suffrage League asserted that there was a risk that a few organised women would pressure the government to alter the electoral system and that the great majority of British women had no interest in voting. Herbert Asquith agreed that granting women the right to vote would be "a political mistake of a very disastrous kind" when Lord

Curzon, another ardent opponent of women's suffrage, set up a meeting with a delegation from the Anti-Suffrage League.

6. Roles of the Delegates

1. Margaret Aldersley

She was born in 1852, Burnley, Lancashire, as a daughter of a working-class family and started working in the textile industry at a young age. The inequalities that she suffered in the workforce influenced her to take action in women's rights movements and trade union activities. She started to represent working-class women to achieve their claims by joining a women's suffrage campaign in the early 1900s. She had an indispensable part in making the organization non-discriminatory. She participated in public speeches, campaigns, distribution of informational brochures in Northern England to raise awareness among working-class women about how to defend their political rights, including their right to vote. She encouraged women who worked in industry to create local-level initiatives.

2. Catharine Alderton

She was born in 1869 and cherished education and public service. Her political career began with her joining the Women's Liberal Federation, where she advocated for equal rights and suffrage. She became an essential part of the federation, supporting women's right to vote with her well-known effective ability to deliver speeches. She became the first woman elected to the Colchester Borough Council, taking an important role as a woman in governance. She became the first woman mayor of Colchester, and she used her position to elevate policies on the rights of women and children, healthcare, and education.

3. Betty Balfour

She was born in 1880 and comes from a politically participative family; her uncle, Arthur Balfour, was a prime minister, utilizing this, she established relations with not only upper and middle-class women but also with working-class activists. By this, she had a key role in overcoming class disparities during the movements. She gained considerable recognition for her involvement in the NUWSS's Election Fighting Fund initiatives before the outbreak of World War I, playing a substantial role in organizing strategies to endorse parliamentary figures who advocated for women's right to vote. Her dedication helped expand the reach of the NUWSS and shaped public perception of the suffrage cause as rational and democratic.

4. Florence Balgarnie

She was a groundbreaker in women's suffrage movements, a journalist, and a committed liberal. She was one of the leading members of the British Women's Temperance Association (BWTA) during the 1890s. She wasn't afraid of speaking about discrimination, even if that meant condemning her colleagues at BWTA. Balgarnie was at odds with Lady Henry Somerset, who was the president of BWTA at the time, after the visit of an American activist,

Ida B Wells. She not only demanded suffrage but also supported improving women's social and economic rights and international peace activism.

5. Anna Barlow

Anna Barlow adhered Quaker which shaped her values as advocating gender equality, social justice, and morality. Her belief in Quaker formed her political life. She thought reform should be enacted through democratic and non-violent ways. Owing to these, she was a member of NUWSS, supporting that women should be involved in politics, unlike more radical unions such as WSPU.

6. Annie Besant

She was born in 1847. Besides being a feminist, she was also a philosopher and a pedagogue. She believed that women's rights should be beyond just voting; women should be able to make decisions about their bodies, especially about birth-control and women's reproductive rights, and overall about their lives. At the end of the 1800s, she had a far-reaching impact. She participated in Indian independence movements, believing women in India should have educational improvements and women's rights. She was also a member of the Fabian Society, defending socialism, and she was one of the leaders of the Theosophical Society. She deeply believed that mindfulness awakening was a must in women's rights.

7. Vera Brittain

She was born in 1893 and had her early education at Oxford University, which helped her to have an intellectual view. But the main thing that changed her whole perspective was being a Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse during World War 1. Losing the ones that she loved at the war and witnessing the tragedies of the war shaped her into an anti-war activist and a pacifist. She believed the essential value in society should always be peace. She was also a powerful writer. One of her masterpieces, 'Testament of Youth', not only details her experiences during the war but also talks about gender discrimination. Although her main aim was sustaining the peace, she also had a leading role in NUWSS on educational equality between genders, political rights, and social freedom.

8. Elizabeth Cadbury

Elizabeth Cadbury was the daughter of a Quaker family. Growing up, she was raised by Quaker values and became a woman who supports social justice and peace. These dragged her to defend women's rights and suffrage movements. She not only stood up for women's rights. She and her husband advocated for injustices that working-class people face in education, healthcare, and social life.

9. Margery Corbett Ashby

Margery's mother, Marie Corbett, was a committed feminist activist, and as Margery got older, she followed in her mother's footsteps. She participated in NUWSS as an eminent lecturer and in the following years as an international secretary. She aimed to make a global women's suffrage reform. International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which she first joined as a

member and later became the president, allowed her to promote women's rights on a global basis.

10. Lady Florence Dixie

Lady Florence Dixie was a writer, adventurer, and suffragist. She travelled to Patagonia and explored places which were, at the time, not on the maps. She was strongly committed to women's right to education, property, and political representation. Her book 'The Story of She-Wolf' was about gender roles and the limitations inflicted on women. She opposed the drawbacks that society had for women and the old-fashioned, traditional expectations for women.

11. Helen Fraser

Helen Fraser was born in 1879 in Scotland. She was a member of the Church of Scotland, and her faith guided her to advocate for social reform with religious movements. She contributed to NUWSS, playing a key role in campaigning to believe women should be able to take part in politics. She claimed reform shouldn't be limited to women's suffrage. She participated in various unions that tried to resolve the problems of income support for children, impoverishment, healthcare for low-income families, etc.

12. Alison Garland

Alison Garland was a Unitarian, adhered to dignity and respect. Her politics were interrelated with the Liberal Party, especially with the Women's Liberal Federation. She not only fought for suffrage, but she also supported social reform (women's education system, income supports for kids, workplace standards for women, etc.). She wanted equal rights between genders, not just in the United Kingdom but in the entire World. By joining the International Alliance of Women, she brought suffrage to a global scale.

13. Sarah Grand

Sarah was a feminist writer. She wasn't directly involved in politics, her way was more intellectual and literary. Her novels mainly address sexual education, women's health, and gender norms problems. She aimed to raise awareness through her books and change the traditional role of women in society. She wanted women to have rights over their bodies, politics, and healthcare. She had a major role in the intellectual and literary view of suffrage.

14. Katherine Harley

Katherine was a suffragist and a war nurse. During World War 1, she volunteered for the Scottish Women's Hospital for Foreign Service, she helped establish hospitals in France and Serbia. Her bravery and leadership in the war provided a model for her belief that women should be able to take part in both civic and national life. She participated in NUWSS, working on organizing local women's suffrage campaigns mainly in the Midlands and Wales.

15. Margaret Hills

She was a Christian Liberal; her faith shaped her to advocate for social reform, gender equality, and peace. She showed significant success for that time by graduating from Oxford,

and had the opportunity to have an intellectual view. For her, education was a must for all women. In her opinion, if they can reshape the system, women would take part in social and political life. She was a member of NUWSS, believing suffrage could be successful through non-violent actions. Beyond suffrage, she also supported and contributed to child welfare, the healthcare system, and overall social justice.

16. Louisa Lumsden

She was a suffragist and educator. She worked and became one of the pioneers of women's access to higher education. She contributed to accepting women to Edinburgh University. She got into this university and became one of the first women. She was a defender of gender equality and participated in NUWSS. She was a Christian, and her faith led her to make reform in a peaceful and non-violent way.

17. Margaret McDonald

Margaret was a Christian socialist. She got married to the future first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald. She tried to improve the Labour Party's policies on women and social issues. She was a member of NUWSS and helped establish clinics, schools, and mother-baby projects. She believed suffrage and women's rights were a global issue and represented the United Kingdom at international conferences. She considered that regardless of nationality, religion, colour, language, when it comes to women's rights, all women should support each other.

18. Chrystal Macmillan

Chrystal was a Scottish feminist. She was born in Edinburgh and studied mathematics and natural sciences at the University of Edinburgh. She became one of the first women that graduate from the university. This made her strongly support that all women should have access to education. She was an active member of NUWSS. In 1908, she urged the House of Lords to extend voting rights in parliamentary elections to Scottish women who had graduated from university. Even though the case was unsuccessful, she inspired a lot of women activists. During World War 1, she participated in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom(WILPF) and believed wars were the creation of patriarchy and women were the ones who could fix that system.

19. Louisa Martindale

Louisa graduated from the University Medical School in 1889. She was one of the first women who become a doctor and worked in a clinical setting. Her occupation shaped her as a defender of women's rights. Alongside her involvement in public health reform, she was also a suffragist. She believed the solution for women's welfare was to include women in politics to stand for their rights and needs on a political basis. She was a Unitarian; she not only fought for suffrage but also believed in social reform. For her, justice and ethics must be the main values in society.

20. Catherine Osler

Catherine was born in a Unitarian family and raised with moral and equal values. She believed non-violent methods were the solution for suffrage and started participating in NUWSS, unlike other organizations, which were following more radical methods, such as WSPU. Her political life was also connected with the Liberal Party. Although she supported liberal ideas most of the time, she did not hesitate to highlight the points that she did not agree with. In 1909, she withdrew from the Birmingham Women's Liberal Association to protest the government's force-feeding of locked-up suffragettes.

21. Clara Rackham

Clara was a liberal, Unitarian, and a suffragist. She was one of the few women who got a higher education, she graduated from Newnham University. She was an active member of NUWSS and worked hard to attract working-class women into suffrage, believing all women, no matter their social status, should have equal rights. She was also a member of the Labour Party and became one of the first women to work in the Cambridge Borough Council. During World War 1, she joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. She also served on the Board of Education, encouraging equal education opportunities.

22. Amelia Scott

Amelia was a Christian suffragist, feminist, and reformer. She grew up in a modern and intellectual household, which helped her develop those values. She went to the University of London. She became a member of NUWSS, supporting non-violent, peaceful, and legal methods for suffrage. She gave importance to educational and labour rights. She believed every woman should be able to get an education to achieve their freedom. She advocated for better and equal educational opportunities between girls and boys. She was against child labour and believed every woman should be treated as same as men in labor conditions.

23. Evelyn Sharp

She was born in Manchester, England, and was a writer, liberal, and feminist. Her activism started by joining NUWSS, where she fought for suffrage. She was supporting taking non-violent and modern actions for suffrage, unlike WSPU. She believed that the most important thing for women to achieve their freedom was sustaining their economic independence. In her books, she mentioned the obstacles women face when they want economic freedom, when they want to pursue their occupation, the welfare of working-class women, etc. She also contributed to social reform, became a member of the Labour Party, and defended better working conditions for women.

24. Nessie Stewart Brown

Nessie was a suffragist and social reformer. She was born in Scotland and graduated from St. Andrews University and became a teacher. Her political life started with joining NUWSS defending suffrage in peaceful and non-violent ways. She believed that every woman should be able to receive education, and education was the way that could lead them to independence and achieve their rights. She also fought for work conditions for women, such as their salary, work hours, and overall discrimination against working-class women.

25. Janie Terrero

Janie was the daughter of a middle-class family. She graduated from St. Andrew University. She and her family were active members of suffrage, and after a while, she became a member of NUWSS. She agreed with non-violent thoughts given by WSPU, and she delivered speeches about gender equality to society to raise public awareness. She was an organizer of drawing-room meetings and garden parties where she discussed women's suffrage and educated people. She joined the window-smashing campaign which protested the reading Conciliation Bill in Parliament and as a result, she was sent to Holloway Prison. During her time in prison, she attempted to do a hunger strike twice but got force-fed. These showed her commitment to suffrage and earned her the Hunger Strike Medal from WSPU. And when she was in prison, she sewed a napkin with the names of 19 other suffragists who were locked up like her. That napkin is now exhibited in the Museum of London.

26. Laura Veale

Dr. Laura Veale came from a medically strong family. She faced many barriers as a woman doctor, but she continued in her job. In 1904, she moved to Harrogate and became the first female doctor of the town. Also, during World War 1, she worked at the Maternity and Infant Welfare Scheme and provided essential healthcare to mothers and children. In addition, she became a member of NUWSS and believed women should have political power and access to equal opportunities as men.

27. Mary Ward

She was born in Hampshire, England. Mary's greatest masterpiece was the school she established, St. Mary's School. It was one of the first schools that gave girls high-quality education. She aimed to break the traditional labels on women and make a brighter, intellectual future for them. She believed an educated woman could take a critical role in politics. She was also a suffragist and a member of NUWSS who believed women should have equal rights and opportunities.

28. Edith Grey Wheelwright

She graduated from Girton University, where she started her groundwork on women's rights and social reform. Through her career, she contributed to many educational fields. She was an important member of the Girls' Public Day School Trust, where she advocated for equal educational opportunities for girls. She was also a part of the suffrage movement and a member of NUWSS, actively working for women's right to vote. At the same time, she was also cooperating and working with other suffragists such as WSPU.

29. Ellen Wilkinson

She graduated from Manchester University and studied history. Her political career started with joining the Independent Labour Party (ILP), and later she became an active suffragist who defended equal rights for women and women's right to vote, and attended NUWSS. She gave speeches to society to raise awareness about suffrage. She became a Member of Parliament for the Jarrow constituency. In 1936, thousands of unemployed workers protested

the government's issue on unemployment. Ellen supported the protests and became their voice by using her position.

7. Resources

- <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/electionsvoting/womenvote/overview/earlysuffragist/#:~:text=Millicent%20Fawcett%20and%20the%20NUWSS>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/National-Union-of-Womens-Suffrage-Societies>
- <https://spartacus-educational.com/Wnuwss.htm#:~:text=By%20the%201890s%20there%20were,%2828>
- <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/the-1913-suffrage-pilgrimage-peaceful-protest-and-local-disorder/>
- <https://spartacus-educational.com/Wnusec.htm>
- <https://www.exploringsurreypast.org.uk/themes/subjects/womens-suffrage/the-womens-suffrage-movement-in-surrey-new/the-great-pilgrimage-through-surrey-1913/>