



## Information sheet on Langham Place Group

#### What was the Langham Place Group fighting for?

# What was the Langham Place Group?

The Langham Place Group was founded in 1857 by Barbara Bodichon to campaign on issues that affected women, and to campaign for granting the vote to women. Most of the members were successful, middle-class women such as Emily Davis, who founded Girton College, Cambridge and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, who was the first woman to qualify as a doctor in England and the older sister of Millicent Fawcett.

The group tried to find work for women through an employment bureau for governesses and domestic staff, and it publicised issues that affected women through the English Woman's Journal. Barbara Bodichon had previously been concerned with gaining some rights to divorce for women. While members like Elizabeth Wolstenholme had also campaigned against laws that harmed women, such as the Contagious Diseases Act, increasingly the group began to view women getting the vote as necessary for changing the laws to improve their lives.

When, in 1865, the philosopher John Stuart Mill stood for election and won a seat in Parliament, he included a plea for women's suffrage in his election address, so Barbara Bodichon took him on as an ally. In April 1866, she organised a petition for him to present to Parliament, collecting 1,521 signatures in a fortnight. Emily Davies and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson delivered the petition to Mill. Though this was unsuccessful in changing things, the group kept up this tactic when many of its members joined the NUWSS after it was founded in 1896.

## What did members of the Langham Place Group say about what they were fighting for?

The longer I live the more I see the necessity of women taking an intelligent part in all that concerns the welfare of their country, and I am sure that if they had the power of voting they would feel more decidedly than they do, that they are an important part of the Commonwealth.

Barbara Bodichon (founder of the Langham Place Group)

I have long wished to see the suffrage granted to women. The possession of an individual vote may indeed appear to be of little value, and I should not myself expect any immediate effect on legislation. But the moral effect would, I believe, be deep and far-reaching. As matters stand, the law asserts in a solemn and emphatic form that women are not called upon to take an active interest in affairs of State; and it appears to make the assertion on the ground that they are by nature unfit for any such action. This I hold to be a mischievous untruth, and believing as I do, that political interests are among the noblest that can occupy our thoughts and energies I should welcome the removal of a restriction which so strongly discourages women from taking their fair share of public affairs.

Emily Davies (founder of Girton College, Cambridge and campaigner for women's education)

I think that women should possess the franchise, as the best existing means for their protection and the representation of their interests. The interests of all classes of men are represented directly, those of women only indirectly.

Frances M. Buss (headmistress and campaigner for women's education)

#### Task:

Construct a concept map of all the things that the Langham Place Group were fighting for.





**Enquiry 2: Resources** Lesson 1:

# Information sheet on Lydia Becker and the Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage

#### What were Lydia Becker and the Manchester Suffrage Society fighting for?

#### Who was Lydia Becker and what was the Manchester **Suffrage Society?**

The Manchester National Society for Women's Suffrage held its first meeting in January 1867. Its secretary was a woman called Lydia Becker. She was elected to the first Manchester School Board and was particularly interested in the education of women and girls. She also created the Women's Suffrage Journal, a record of campaigning and a guide for new activists.

In 1867, the name of Lily Maxwell accidentally appeared as a householder on the electoral roll in Manchester.

Lydia Becker decided to use it as a test case. Lily was a widow who ran her own small business; she therefore paid her rates (council tax), which technically made her eligible to cast a vote. Lydia accompanied Lily to the polling station and persuaded the officials there to accept her vote. Encouraged by this, she organised other women householders across the north-east to add their names to electoral rolls. for 1868. This led to a case in the High Court, where Richard Pankhurst (Emmeline Pankhurst's husband) represented the women. Unfortunately, the judge dismissed the case and the argument that women ratepayers had

a legal right to cast a vote.

In April 1868, the Manchester Society held the very first public suffrage meeting and increasingly began to try to recruit working women. In October 1879, they held another public meeting in a working-class area and were surprised by how many working women attended. Responding to this, Lydia Becker campaigned in her journal for the improvement of conditions for women working as chain-makers and around the mines, although she didn't manage to turn this organisation into a coherent movement and build up working-class support for women's suffrage.

#### What did Lydia Becker and members of the Manchester Suffrage Society say about what they were fighting for?

My Dear Sarah,

When the 'woman question' presents itself to my mind. I do not think of elegant ornaments of drawing rooms, but of the toiling thousands, nay millions of my country women, to whom life is no pleasant holiday but a stern reality, whose (lot) we are trying to soften. Fantastic notions about 'woman's sphere' are unknown in a world where women gain their own bread by their own labour - and frequently have to bear the burdens of the men in addition to their own.

Letter to the Leeds Express: 4 March 1868, Lydia Becker

I wonder, Mr Editor, Why I can't have the vote; And I will not be contented Till I've found the reason out I am a working woman, My voting half is dead, I hold a house, and want to know Why I can't vote instead I pay my rates in person, Under protest tho', tis true; But I pay them, and am qualified To vote as well as you.

Sarah Ann Jackson (campaigner for women's suffrage)

#### Task:

Construct a concept map of all the things that Lydia Becker and the Manchester Suffrage Society were fighting for.





## Information sheet on Harriett Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill

#### What were Harriett Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill fighting for?

In 1851, in the Westminster Review, Harriett Taylor Mill wrote (anonymously) an essay called 'The Enfranchisement of Women'. Here she argued that women who paid taxes should be represented and that it was hypocritical for Britain to celebrate the fact that it had outlawed slavery when one half of the population was still under the control of the other.

Her husband, John Stuart Mill, was impressed by this and wrote his own pamphlet in 1869, 'The Subjection of

Women', echoing her ideas. When he stood as Liberal candidate in the 1865 election, he wrote a letter to the Times, arguing for all adults to have the vote. The following year, a new Reform Bill extending the vote to more men by lowering the property qualification was up for debate, and Mill worked with the Langham Place Group to put together a petition that he could present during the debate in order to get women's suffrage added to the Bill. They managed to collect 1,521 names in two weeks; however, when

Mill presented his petition during the debate, it was met with laughter from the male MPs.

In 1868, Mill tried again, this time with a larger petition containing more signatures, including Florence Nightingale's, and, though it wasn't laughed at this time, it still had little effect. However, outside Parliament, the experience of campaigning for the petitions created a new network of groups aimed at pressuring the government to give women the vote.

#### What did Harriett Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill say about what they were fighting for?

Many persons think they have sufficiently justified the restrictions on women's field of action, when they have said that the pursuits from which women are excluded are unfeminine, and that the proper sphere of women is not politics or publicity, but private and domestic life. We deny the right of any (...) individual to decide for another individual, what is and what is not their 'proper sphere'. The proper sphere for all human beings is the largest and highest which they are able to attain to. What this is, cannot be ascertained without complete liberty of choice.

Harriett Taylor Mill: Westminster Review, 1851 'The Enfranchisement of Women' That the principle which regulates the existing social relations between the two sexes – the legal subordination of one sex to the other – is wrong in itself, and now one of the chief hindrances to human improvement; and that it ought to be replaced by a principle of perfect equality, admitting no power or privilege on the one side, nor disability on the other.

John Stuart Mill: 'The Subjection of Women' (1869)

#### Task:

Construct a concept map of all the things that Harriett Taylor Mill and John Stuart Mill were fighting for.





# Lesson 1: Plenary Sheet Enquiry 2: Resources

The nineteenth-century campaigners

The Radical Suffragists

The Suffragettes

People in the suffrage movement









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#### Resources

## What were the radical suffragists fighting for?

At the end of the nineteenth century, an increasing number of working women became interested in the vote. However, unlike the earlier, more middle-class campaigners, there was disagreement about what kind of suffrage they should campaign for.

Women's suffrage: Campaigning for women's suffrage meant arguing that women should be granted the vote on the same terms as men. Before 1918, however, this meant that a **property qualification** would be applied to them in the same way as men, meaning that only women who owned a certain amount of property would be able to vote, excluding a lot of working women.

**Adult suffrage:** Campaigning for this meant arguing that all adults, men

and women, should be given the vote without any property qualifications. Working-class campaigners argued that this would be fairer, as otherwise only wealthy men and women would have a voice. However, many worried that this would be much harder to achieve.

#### How did working women make their voices heard in the nineteenth century?

#### The Co-operative Guilds:

The Co-operative Guilds were organisations of working people who joined together to provide goods and services to working communities at a fair price. Right from the start, women were deeply involved in the co-operative movement, and people like Selina Cooper and Sarah Reddish quickly gained leadership positions and experience that they would bring to the suffrage campaign.

The Co-operative Guilds were therefore openly supportive of women's suffrage from the 1890s onwards.

#### The Trades Union Congress:

The TUC organised all of the different trade unions that organised workers in different industries to campaign for their rights. Although the TUC was closely linked to the Labour Party, and a lot of the key trade unions – especially in the cotton industry – had a lot of women members, it wasn't very supportive of women's suffrage.

Nevertheless, many women, like Helen Silcock, gained a lot of experience in organising political campaigns in their trade union and, if the TUC could be persuaded to back women's suffrage, it would be a big step forward.

#### The Independent Labour Party:

In 1893, the Independent Labour Party was formed to represent the interests of working people and, in 1895, the party conference voted to support suffrage for all men and women. However, aside from a few members like Keir Hardie, campaigning for full adult suffrage was not a priority, as most members wanted to focus on fighting poverty and improving working conditions.

However, the party platform welcomed men and women as equal members and therefore many women joined the Labour Party, including Emmeline Pankhurst, and got a lot of experience of speaking and campaigning.





## Selina Cooper and Harriette Beanland manifesto

Below is the manifesto issued by Selina Cooper and Harriette Beanland in 1904, explaining why they should be elected to the Board of Guardians. While you're reading it, answer the following questions:

- Why do Cooper and Beanland argue that it is necessary for working-class people to be on the Board?
- Why do Cooper and Beanland argue that it is necessary for women to be on the Board?
- What do Cooper and Beanland say they want to achieve if they are elected?

Excerpt taken from Selina Cooper and Harriette Beanland's manifesto:

#### FELLOW CITIZENS,

At the request of the Nelson Labour Representation Committee, and a large number of Ratepayers in the Town we offer ourselves as Candidates at the forthcoming Guardians Election.

The Poor Law was established to relieve and succour the distressed, and, as the bulk of the recipients of Poor Law Relief are of the Labouring Classes, we are of the opinion that it is in the best interests of the Poor to be directly represented by people who can realise their sufferings and privations to the full extent.

We would also remind you that a large number of applicants for relief are women and children, and from past experience, we have no hesitation in saying, that it is almost imperative that women should be on the Board in order to administer acts and receive confidences that could not be extended to men in the same capacity.

It will be our aim to see that the lives of the aged and infirm are made as bright as it is possible to make them. The children shall have our special attention in order that their lives and characters may be fully developed and that they may grow up to be useful citizens and go out into the world without the taint of pauperism.

Other means will be adopted to place before you reasons why you should support the return of Labour Candidates and if you will use your votes to this end you will have done your share towards making the lives of the unfortunate poor brighter and happier than they have been put to the present.

Your obedient servants,

**SELINA-JANE COOPER** 

HARRIETTE MARY BEANLAND

March 9th 1904

#### Key terms:

Ratepayers - People who paid council tax

Poor Law Relief - Money given by local government to help people in poverty

Labouring Classes - Working people

**Privations** – Deprivation

Confidences – Things reported that are to be kept secret

Imperative - Very important

Pauperism - Poverty





## Arguments for and against

Helen Silcock put forward in the 1901 Trades Union Congress a motion for the TUC to get behind women's suffrage. Those who opposed her wanted the TUC to support adult suffrage instead, and countered with a bill to campaign for that. These are some of the arguments put forward by supporters of either side.

| There are five million women in the country who have no husbands and have to work for a living. Without the vote, no one will pass laws to help them.                              | If women are given the vote on the same terms as men, only wealthy women will qualify and they will vote for the Conservatives or Liberals and not for the interests of working people.      | Women do most of the work to raise children – if we keep women ignorant of politics by refusing them the vote then they will raise politically ignorant children.  |
|--|--|--|
| Employers currently give women jobs because they can pay them less. If you give women the vote it will allow them to campaign for better pay, which will raise wages for everyone. | Working women aren't really interested in the vote; only middle-class women care about it. If you want to improve the lives of working women, focus on improving wages and fighting poverty. | The North of England branch of the NUWSS had launched a petition in 1900 among the women workers of the Lancashire cotton factories, calling for the vote, which had been signed by almost 30,000 working women. |
| Women are naturally more conservative than men; even working women might not vote for radical change.  | The interest in adult suffrage is not genuine; it is just a way of putting off giving any women the vote.  |  |

#### Task:

Draw up a table like the one below and put the arguments in each column according to whether you think they were put forward by people supporting women's suffrage or adult suffrage in the TUC and Labour Party.

In 1901, the TUC applauded Helen Silcock's speech but decided to support the motion calling for adult suffrage instead. Why do you think they came to this decision?

| 1. Women's suffrage | 2. Adult suffrage |
|---------------------|-------------------|
|                     |                   |
|                     |                   |
|                     |                   |





## **WSPU** quotes

Below is some information about the WSPU and selected quotes from its members. Read through them and, using what you remember from the lessons on the nineteenth-century suffrage campaigners and on the radical suffragists, discuss the following two questions in pairs.

- 1. Which of these ideas would the nineteenth-century suffragists have agreed with?
- 2. Which of these ideas would the radical suffragists have agreed with?

Remember, areas of disagreement might not only be represented by direct conflict in ideas but also by the suffragettes mentioning ideas that the suffragists ignored or by the suffragettes leaving out ideas that either the nineteenth-century suffragists or the radical suffragists considered important.

You should highlight or annotate the quotes when you think you have identified areas of agreement or disagreement.

#### The WSPU

The WSPU was founded in Manchester in 1903, but moved to London in 1906 in order to put more pressure on the Liberal government. The key thing that made the suffragettes different from other groups was their policy of 'militancy' - from 1905, when Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney were first arrested for attacking a police officer, the suffragettes deliberately broke the law in order to get publicity and get arrested. By 1913, this had escalated to the point where some suffragettes were burning down houses and planting bombs. The other thing that made the suffragettes different was that the group was organised like an army: the leadership, especially Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst, demanded complete obedience from the members of the group. Unlike the radical suffragists, the leadership of the WSPU was satisfied that only some women would get the vote at first; the vote was something that had to be achieved at all costs.

"If you have any pettiness or personal ambition you must leave that behind before you come to this movement. There must be no conspiracies, no double dealing in our ranks. Everyone must do her part. The founders and leaders of the movement must lead, the non-commissioned officers must carry out their instructions, the rank and file must fight. For there is no compulsion to come into our ranks, but those who come must come as soldiers ready to march."

Christabel Pankhurst, 1907

"My conduct was meant as a protest against the legal position of women today. We have no vote, and as long as we have not votes we must be disorderly."

Christabel Pankhurst --quoted in the Manchester Guardian, 1905

#### Sir

Everyone seems to agree upon the necessity of putting a stop to Suffragist outrages, but no one seems certain how to do so. There are two, and only two, ways in which this can be done. Both will be effective.

- 1. Kill every woman in the United Kingdom.
- 2. Give women the vote.

Yours truly, Bertha Brewster

Letter to Daily Telegraph from suffragette, 26 February 1913





## **WSPU** quotes

From school I went into service as a maid-of-all-work. That was in 1909 when the suffrage struggle was in the news. After I'd listened to a woman standing on a street corner somewhere in Camden Town, saying why we needed the vote, I became really interested. I went to several meetings and bought myself a 'Votes for Women' badge (...) I have to admit I tucked it under the lapel of my coat because I didn't want to upset my mother and I couldn't afford to lose my job. Even if nobody else could see it, I knew it was there! I wasn't a brave soldier in the women's army but what the movement did was to make me think and then to believe I could do things for myself. And I did! People like me didn't write books about their experiences so the effect on us gets forgotten. The suffragettes certainly helped change my life.

Alice Kedge, 1895–1994

The proposition that we are here to maintain is so simple, so clear, that when one is called upon to justify it, one scarcely knows what to say. The fact is, it is not our business to justify it; the burden of proof lies on the other side. How do they justify their monstrous idea that one half of the human race shall have no political rights?

Israel Zangwell, 1907

"The Liberal leaders (...) must be challenged on the fundamental principle of Liberalism – government of the people by the people, even such of the people as happen to be women."

Christabel Pankhurst, 1905





#### **NUWSS** and WFL information cards

You are now going to explore how far the division between the suffragists and suffragettes was due to the WSPU's tactics. You are going to be assigned a key figure from the WSPU, the suffragist organisation the NUWSS or the Women's Freedom League (the WFL). Below is some information about the NUWSS and the WFL.

#### The NUWSS

The NUWSS was set up in 1897 and led from that point on by Millicent Fawcett. It had links to the earlier Langham Place Group and was initially dominated by middle-class women who had begun to make advances at the end of the nineteenth century, such as Elizabeth Garett Anderson and Emily Davies, who had worked on getting women into the medical profession and higher education. However, because the NUWSS was organised democratically, with

women in its 600 branches across the country (by 1914) able to decide how they should campaign, working women also had a significant voice within the movement. For many of these women, the vote was the means to an end, a way of improving the lives of working women more generally. The key policy of the suffragists of the NUWSS was campaigning through peaceful protest and persuasion, in contrast with the militant suffragettes.

## The Women's Freedom League

The Women's Freedom League was founded in 1907 by three members of the WSPU, Charlotte Despard, Teresa Billington-Greig and Edith How-Martyn. They left because they disagreed with both the aims and the tactics of the WSPU. They disliked the fact that the Pankhursts were increasingly hostile to the Labour Party and thought that the WSPU was beginning to forget the interests of working women, especially by accepting limited women's suffrage,

which would only give the vote to women with property. They also disapproved of the increasing violence of the WSPU's protests and the absolute control of the group exercised by the Pankhursts. While the WFL was still a militant group, they preferred to focus on non-violent civil disobedience, such as refusing to pay taxes or take part in the census.





# Timeline of suffragette activities

| 1903 | WSPU formed in Manchester by Emmeline Pankhurst.  |
|------|---|
| 1905 | Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney arrested in Manchester – 'Deeds Not Words' slogan is born.  |
| 1906 | After Liberals win the election, the WSPU moves its headquarters to London.   |
| 1907 | Split in WSPU; some members leave to found the 'Women's Freedom League'.  |
| 1909 | The first hunger strike by suffragettes in prison leads to the beginning of forcible feeding.   |
| 1910 | Truce while negotiations happen with government over passing a Suffrage Bill. After the Bill is almost successful in Parliament, the Prime Minister, Asquith, intervenes to halt its progress. In response, the WSPU embarks on a mass march on Parliament, which ends in 'Black Friday' as the police assault the suffragette protesters.  |
| 1912 | Mass window-smashing by suffragettes. Labour comes out in support of women's suffrage and forms an alliance with the NUWSS. As Asquith's Liberal Party has a small majority in the House of Commons, they might have to rely on Labour for votes. Christabel Pankhurst flees to Paris. Major split in the WSPU, and the Pethick-Lawrences leave.  |
| 1913 | Another near-success in gaining votes for women in Parliament is blocked by the Speaker of the House. This leads to widespread fury in the suffrage movement. Militant suffragettes begin arson and bombing campaigns. The government passes the 'Cat-and-Mouse Act' to temporarily release suffragettes on hunger strike and then re-arrest them when they have recovered. Many suffragettes (including Emmeline Pankhurst) go on the run. On Derby Day, Emily Davison dies while attempting to attach a suffragette banner to the King's horse. |
| 1914 | Continuing attacks by suffragettes. On 4 August, war is declared and Emmeline Pankhurst formally suspends suffragette activities during the course of the war.  |





#### Character cards

#### **Emmeline Pankhurst**

The founder of the WSPU. She had campaigned for the Labour Party in Manchester for many years but had become frustrated about the lack of progress on women's suffrage and so set up her own movement.

#### **Christabel Pankhurst**

Emmeline Pankhurst's eldest daughter. She had trained as a lawyer and was behind the strategy of militancy. She also ran the *Suffragette* newspaper.

#### **Annie Kenney**

From a family of mill workers, Annie Kenney had worked with Christabel since 1905. When Christabel fled to France (1912), Annie organised the movement in her place.

#### **Emily Davison**

Emily was a particularly militant suffragette, who was one of the first to adopt the strategy of arson. Even the leadership thought that she was too radical. In 1913, she attempted to attach a suffragette banner to the King's horse on Derby Day and was killed, becoming the first martyr of the suffrage movement.

## The Pethick-Lawrences

Emmeline and Frederick Pethick-Lawrence were a wealthy couple who supported the WSPU financially. However, in 1912, they became frustrated by the Pankhursts and left the group.

## Sylvia Pankhurst

Sylvia was the younger daughter of Emmeline. She remained much closer to the Labour Party than her mother or sister and focused her organising among the poor women of the East End of London.

## **Lady Constance Lytton**

One of the WSPU's most determined activists. When the police insisted on treating her differently because she was an aristocrat, she assumed the false name 'Jane Warton' and was force-fed with the other suffragettes. Her experiences in prison left her with a weakened heart, which later caused a stroke and partial paralysis.

## Marion Wallace-Dunlop

Arrested for stencilling an extract from the Bill of Rights on to the wall of the Palace of Westminster, Marion became the first suffragette to go on hunger strike in prison.

## Mary Leigh

The first suffragette to be forcibly fed, Mary was the leader of the WSPU's band. By 1913, she was working closely with Sylvia Pankhurst to improve conditions in the East End of London.





## **Character cards**

| Florence Southeran  | Flora Drummond  | Kitty Marion  |
|---|---|---|
| Florence took part in the demonstration that led to 'Black Friday' in 1910. She had been a supporter of the NUWSS, but after this experience she joined the WSPU, as she believed that militant tactics were more likely to get results.                    | Known as 'The General', Flora was also from a working background. She was a key organiser for the WSPU. | Kitty was a German-born actress who joined the WSPU and became a prominent militant activist, taking part in the arson and bombing campaigns of 1913. |
| Mary Richardson  Mary was another important militant. She was best known for slashing the painting of the Rokeby Venus in the National Gallery as an act of protest. She went on to head the women's section of the British Union of Fascists in the 1930s. |   |   |





#### Character cards

#### Millicent Fawcett

From a prominent liberal family, Millicent founded the NUWSS in 1897 and led it to victory in 1918. She was made a Dame in 1925.

#### Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

The first woman to qualify as a doctor in Britain and the sister of Millicent Fawcett. She signed the petition for women's suffrage in 1866 and briefly joined the WSPU.

#### Helena Auerbach

An official in the NUWSS and the first treasurer of the Women's Institute.

#### **Emily Davies**

A member of the Langham Place Group and the founder of Girton College for women in Cambridge, she later campaigned for the NUWSS.

## **Kate Frye**

An actress, she became one of the NUWSS's hardest working activists, travelling across the country to campaign and only stopping once she got married in 1915.

#### Helen Silcock

President of the Wigan Weavers Union, she tried to introduce suffrage amendments to the TUC as well as campaigning for the NUWSS.

## **Emily Hobhouse**

A convinced pacifist (someone who believes in avoiding violence), Emily was a suffragist and also a campaigner for the Boer people imprisoned in British concentration camps in South Africa.

## Helen Fraser

Having been a member of the WSPU, she resigned from the group in 1908 in protest against its policy of militancy and joined the NUWSS instead. She was a talented artist and speaker.

## **Emily Murgatroyd**

A weaver since the age of ten, Emily saved up money to be able to join the NUWSS's 'Great Pilgrimage' in 1913. She was also a committed trade unionist.





#### Character cards

## Selina Cooper

She worked in a cotton mill from the age of 11 and became prominent in Labour politics before joining the NUWSS as one of its key speakers and organisers.

## **Katherine Harley**

The president of the West Midlands branch of the NUWSS and the organiser of the 'Great Pilgrimage' of 1913. She organised field ambulances in the First World War and was killed in action in 1917.

## Florence de Fonblanque

Florence came up with the idea of the 'Brown Women' march from Edinburgh to London as a peaceful protest. She belonged to the NUWSS and the WSPU.





#### Character cards

#### **Charlotte Despard**

She was initially the secretary of the WSPU before she left to found the WFL in 1907. She stood as a pacifist Labour candidate in the 1918 general election and later campaigned for the Communist Party.

## Teresa Billington-Greig

A teacher, she was one of the first three suffragettes to be arrested in 1906, before leaving the WSPU to join the WFL. Although she claimed to be nonviolent, she was arrested several times for using a horse whip during protests.

#### **Edith How-Martyn**

An activist for the WSPU who broke away to help found the WFL in 1907. Edith had been a mathematics lecturer, who had to give up her job when she married. She organised the WFL to boycott taxes and the 1911 census.

#### **Hannah Mitchell**

A socialist and activist for the WSPU, she felt that the Pankhursts didn't care enough when she fell ill due to overwork, so she transferred her loyalty to the WFL. She later became a city councillor in Manchester.

#### **Anne Cobden Sanderson**

Initially a member of the NUWSS, Anne went on to join the WSPU and was imprisoned following a violent demonstration in 1906. Later, she left to join the WFL.

#### **Muriel Matters**

Born in Australia, Muriel came to the UK in 1905 and joined the WSPU. In the following year, she left to join the WFL and carried out protests such as chaining herself to the gallery in the House of Commons and scattering propaganda from an airship.

## **Emily Phipps**

An activist for the WFL and a teacher, in 1918 she stood as an independent candidate in the general election.

## Mary Ann Rawle

A Lancashire mill worker who joined the WSPU in 1906 and worked as Hannah Mitchell's assistant, she was briefly imprisoned and on her release joined the WFL. By 1913, she had become an officer in the NUWSS.





# Name grids

| Pairs   | Group 1           | Group 2                     |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pair 1  | Annette Akroyd    | Janie Allan                 |
|         | Rachel d'Avigdor  | Louisa Garrett Anderson     |
| Pair 2  | Charlotte Babb    | Alice Arncliffe-Sennett     |
|         | Agnes Beddoe      | Minnie Baldock              |
| Pair 3  | Priscilla McLaren | William Ball                |
|         | Rosaline Masson   | Agnes Olive Beamish         |
| Pair 4  | Mary Merryweather | Hilda Brackenbury           |
|         | Bessie Parkes     | Sarah Carwin                |
| Pair 5  | Caroline Biggs    | Edwy Clayton                |
|         | Barbara Bodichon  | Julia Anne Cobden-Sanderson |
| Pair 6  | Helen Bright      | Clara Codd                  |
|         | Ursula Bright     | Charlotte Despard           |
| Pair 7  | Frances Buss      | Edith Downing               |
|         | Josephine Butler  | Victor Duval                |
| Pair 8  | Frances Cobbe     | Susan Ada Flaman            |
|         | Emily Davies      | Mildred Mansel              |
| Pair 9  | Emma Dornbusch    | Hugh Franklin               |
|         | Elizabeth French  | Mary Gawthorpe              |
| Pair 10 | Mary Anne Garrard | Louisa Evelyn Haig          |
|         | Elizabeth Harvey  | Nellie Hall                 |
| Pair 11 | Annie Keary       | Lilian Hicks                |
|         | Katherine Lucas   | Kitty Marion                |





# Name grids

| Pairs   | Group 1                | Group 2             |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Pair 12 | Elizabeth Malleson     | Marie Naylor        |
|         | Harriett Martineau     | Alice Paul          |
| Pair 13 | Elizabeth Nichol       | Frances Rowe        |
|         | Anna Priestman         | Christabel St John  |
| Pair 14 | Sarah Remond           | John Scurr          |
|         | Mary Somerville        | Sophia Duleep Singh |
| Pair 15 | Caroline Stansfeld     | Florence Spong      |
|         | Flora Stevenson        | Emma Sproson        |
| Pair 16 | Helen Taylor           | Grace Tollemache    |
|         | Elizabeth Wolstenholme | Julia Varley        |





# Research cards: what were different people within the suffrage movement fighting for?

#### Task 1:

You are now going to use the database to find out about two different people involved in the suffrage movement. You will need to look at the following fields:

Name

- Family and education
- Suffrage groups they were members of
- Whether they were arrested or whether they signed the 1866 petition
- Details of suffrage activity

**Tip:** You may need to use all of the information in the database and your imagination to decide their reasons for joining the movement. Think back to the possible reasons we discussed at the start of the lesson if you get stuck.

| Name:                                  | Name:                                  |
|--|--|
| Groups:                                | Groups:                                |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Key actions:                           | Key actions:                           |
| Reasons for joining suffrage movement: | Reasons for joining suffrage movement: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |





## Responses

#### Response 1: Letter from the 'Women's Party', 1918

23rd February, 1918.

Dear Friend,

We are writing to you as a friend of the W.S.P.U. In the days when it was fighting for the Vote, because we know that you will consider it a privilege to take part in celebrating the wonderful triumph of our cause.

Votes for Women has been won because the W.S.P.U. was blessed with marvellous leadership, which drew to itself loyal and enthusiastic followers. The W.S.P.U., by its pre-war crusade for the Vote, followed by its patriotic stand and national service during the War, has won the greatest political victory on record.

Under its new name of 'The Women's Party', the W.S.P.U. has now even greater work to do, for it has to ensure that the Women's vote shall be of the utmost possible service in protecting the industrial and other interests of women, and in securing the progress and safety of the nation as a whole. Indeed we need not remind you that everything depends on how the vote is used, now that it has been won.

## Response 2: Interview with Millicent Fawcett in 1918

National News: 10 March 1918

Women Voters: Special Interview with Mrs Fawcett

Now that the People's Bill has enfranchised over 6,000,000 women, there is great interest, particularly in political circles, as to how far these new voters will support the existing parties, and what policy they will pursue. Mrs Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, said that the suffrage movement in the past has always supported the Labour Party, because it was the only party in the House which definitely upheld the women's cause. 'The Labour Party,' she continued, 'has done a great deal for women and is making a great effort to organise them today. At the next election it will contest a great number of seats, and I know for a fact that it is running several women as candidates. For these reasons it was only logical that women should support the Labour Party. But I am quite unable to say how women will vote at the next election. It is true that most of those enfranchised by the recent Act are working women, but that does not necessarily say that they will support the Labour movement.

'There are a great many evils which I hope to see remedied now that women have secured the vote. The problem of women's employment, both industrial and professional, is one which demands immediate attention – The Civil Service, employing as it does several thousands of women workers, is one of the first Government Departments women electors will insist on seeing modified. Until a few years ago the Government was one of the worst employers of women workers – in fact, many of the most flagrant cases of sweating were found in Government offices.

The granting of the franchise to women I regard as a very great victory. At the same time, while I am delighted with the vote, I am by no means satisfied. A law which gives a boy the vote and withholds it from a woman until she is thirty cannot be said to be a fair one. We supported the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference because it was a compromise. A very similar procedure was adopted in Norway when women were first given the vote in that country. But in Norway it soon became apparent that any difficulties were illusory and I am sure that a similar condition of affairs will prevail in this country.

**Task:** Read these alongside your plenary sheet. Which of the reasons for wanting the vote are being mentioned here and which are being left out? Highlight your plenary sheets with the reasons you can find.