How did men support votes for women?
Fighting for the Vote

While the fight for votes for women has been long been regarded as a movement led and supported by women, it is important to recognize that men participated in the struggle, both in and outside Parliament.

Also, men’s suffrage societies contributed to the general campaign with the Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage (1907) and The Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement (1910).

With the coming of the First World War the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies and Women’s Social and Political Union called off their fight for enfranchisement.

In 1918, women were given limited voting rights with the Representation of the People Act. Universal suffrage, that is, the vote for men and women on equal terms, was finally achieved with the Equal Franchise Act in 1928 when all men and women were given the vote at 21 years. In 1969 the voting age for men and women was lowered to 18.

Use the sources in this lesson to investigate the role played by male supporters, or ‘suffragettes in trousers’ during the campaign for votes for women.
This lesson, ‘Suffragettes in trousers’ uses documents to explore male participation in the struggle for the vote for women both in and outside Parliament. The overarching enquiry question is ‘How did men support for votes for women?’ but also did the nature of that support vary?

The sources reveal that men were also prepared to adopt a range of methods to fight for the cause in a way that some students may not be familiar with or not had an opportunity to acknowledge. Male supporters set up their own pressure groups and also made peaceful and militant protests in order to fight for the enfranchisement of women.

We hope that these documents will offer students a chance to develop their powers of evaluation and analysis. The intention is that this lesson would be used as part of general scheme of work on the Suffragette movement. Therefore, a couple of questions require the pupils to use their own contextual knowledge or extend their research or as with the Extension Questions, focus specifically on the fact that they are working with archival sources.

Alternatively, teachers may wish to use the sources to develop their own lesson in a different way or combine with other sources available from our Suffragettes on file online resource. In this themed collection there are further documents on the role of George Lansbury and other male supporters.

All sources in this lesson have been provided with a transcript and more difficult language has been explained in square brackets. Each source is captioned and dated to provide a sense of what the document is about. Teachers may wish to adapt this lesson to a group-based activity. Small groups could work on printed versions of the different sources and present to the rest of class or work at a whiteboard and present to the class that way.

Sources used in this lesson

CRIM 1/149/3: Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement leaflet - Set out the aims of the union, its campaign methods and details of subscription.

CRIM 1/149/3: Membership pledge coupon endorsing the Men’s Political Union methods and refusal to participate elections until women are given the vote.

HO 45/10338/139199: Petition to the King from the Men’s Committee of Justice for Women’s Suffrage, 29 June, 1909

HO 144/1183/218081: WSPU leaflet describing the case of William Ball a supporter sent to prison for window smashing.

HO 144/13025: Hugh Arthur Franklin, set a railway carriage on fire on the Great Central Railway at Harrow in October 1912

ASSI 52/212: Article from the front cover of the Suffragette, 22 November 1912 entitled: The hero of the Hour- Mr. Lansbury Fights for Woman Suffrage.
Whilst the fight for votes for women has been regarded as a movement led and supported by women, it is important to recognize that men also participated in the struggle, both in and outside Parliament. In the nineteenth century, John Stuart Mill had presented an amendment to the Second Reform Bill in 1866 to include votes for women when the issue of the franchise was aired. Henry Fawcett, reformer of the Post Office, was also a keen supporter of the suffrage movement. He worked with his wife Millicent on her campaigns with the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies and provided financial backing. Similarly, barrister Frederick Pethick-Lawrence worked with his wife Emmeline, leading suffragette campaigner and publicist. Labour M.P. Kier Hardie often raised the issue in the House of Commons and fellow member George Lansbury resigned his seat in 1912 so that he could fight a by-election on the suffrage question, although he did not regain his seat until 1922. He served time in prison for making speeches in support of members of the Women’s Social and Political Union who committed criminal acts. Whilst serving time in Pentonville Prison he went on hunger strike.

Other high profile male supporters included philosopher Bertrand Russell - who had stood at the Wimbledon by-election in 1907 on the votes for women ticket. In his campaign pamphlet he said: “I consider that the exclusion of women from direct political action is unjust and inexpedient, and that no reason exists for prolonging this exclusion. If elected I should urge the claims of women to enfranchisement at every opportunity.” He argued in an article entitled Liberalism and Women’s Suffrage (1908) that “it is plain that no man can call himself truly a democrat if he is in favour of excluding half the nation from all participation in public affairs”.

Dr Richard Pankhurst, in 1883 had stood as an Independent candidate for a by-election in Manchester for universal adult suffrage. Later he concentrated on the struggle for women’s rights and in 1889 helped form the Women’s Franchise League with his wife Emmeline. The organisation’s main objective was to secure the vote for women in local elections.

Victor Storr and Thomas Bayard Simmonds started a series protests in Parliament later called the ‘Grille Protest’. From the public gallery they called for justice for women and showered the M.P.s below with suffrage leaflets. As part of this coordinated protest, some women chained themselves to the metal grille which concealed them from the chamber, Some men called for the protection of women at public meetings and spoke out against the brutality of their treatment by the authorities. Others were ridiculed or forcibly removed from political meetings for protesting against the exclusion of women from the franchise.

Support for the female franchise also came from male writers such as E.M. Foster, H.G. Wells, George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Hardy and the economist John Maynard Keynes. Henry Selfridge also supported votes for women, there must have been some self-interest here in wanting to secure the female market for his department store, but nevertheless he promoted the Women’s Social and Political Union with a flag on the building and advertised in the suffragette paper Votes for Women and used the suffragette colours in his department store’s windows.

Of course the campaign was not just supported by those men who had the advantage of making themselves heard through access to political power, money or privilege. There were ordinary working class and middle class men who wanted the vote for their female relatives and friends. There were whole suffrage families that showed shared commitment to the cause. Documentary evidence exists for men going on hunger strike, publishing suffragette campaign material and supporting pressure groups such as The Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage (1907) and The Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement (1910) founded by Victor Duval who in the same year published a pamphlet entitled An Appeal to Men. Duval prior this had been active supporter of The Women’s Social and Political Union and the Women’s Freedom League. He was also charged in July, 1909 for “Aiding and abetting Marion Wallace Dunlop, in wilful and malicious damage to the stone work of St. Stephen’s Hall, House of Commons, by stamping it with an indelible rubber stamp, to the value of ten shillings.”
Men’s Committee for Justice to Women was founded in 1909 after the Women’s Freedom League deputation to parliament was arrested and imprisoned. The Committee watched cases where women were prosecuted for suffrage protests. Albert Dawson was its chairman. One of their petitions is included as a source for this lesson.

According to Israel Zangwill, member of The Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage, “the petticoat no longer makes the Suffragette. We are suffragettes – suffragettes in trousers.” The men who set up and joined these pressure groups wanted to use their position as voters to secure the vote for women. However, there were differences between the organisations. The Men’s League favoured a more legalistic approach and discussed the ethical arguments in favour of votes for women. The Men’s Political Union, formed later, favoured more direct action. Another organisation, founded by Mrs Arncliffe-Sennett in 1913, was The Northern Men’s Federation for Women’s Suffrage and sent a delegation of Scotsmen to meet the Liberal Prime Minister, Herbert Henry Asquith. Some suffrage societies allowed men to be members; the Women’s Social and Political Union however, did not.

The Representation of the People Act passed in 1918 did not give all women the right to vote. Only those aged 30 or over and were home owners could vote. This meant that a further 8.4 million women attained the right but working class women did not get the right to the ballot. Full suffrage for all women over the age of 21, on equal terms as men, was granted ten years later with the Second Representation of the People’s Act in 1928.
Tasks

Leaflet for the *Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement*, TNA Catalogue ref: CRIM 1/149
1. What were the aims of this union?
2. How did the *Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement* hope to achieve its aims?

Pledge coupon for *Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement*, TNA Catalogue ref: CRIM 1/149
1. According to the membership pledge coupon, what specific action would male supporters of female suffrage take?
2. What possible impact could this action have?
3. What do both these documents reveal about the organisation of the Men’s Political Union?

Petition from the *Men’s Committee of Justice for Women’s Suffrage*, 29 June, 1909, TNA Catalogue ref: HO 45/10338/139199
1. What sort of suffrage campaign method is this?
2. What arguments are used to justify votes for women?
3. Why have the petitioners appealed to the king?
4. Find out more about the *Men’s Committee of Justice for Women’s Suffrage*, how did it differ from *Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement*?

Extract from a leaflet from The Women’s Social and Political Union entitled ‘*Torture in an English Prison*’, TNA Catalogue ref: HO 144/1183/218081
1. How and why did William Ball choose to support female suffrage?
2. Why did he ask to be treated as a ‘political offender’?
3. What clues does this source provide about effectiveness of the Women’s Social and Political Union as a pressure group?

Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act 1913 form, TNA Catalogue ref: HO 144/13025
1. Why was Hugh Arthur Franklin sent to prison?
2. Why was he released from prison do you think?
3. What is the Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act more commonly known as?

Extract from the front page of *The Suffragette* newspaper, dated 22 November 1912, TNA Catalogue ref: ASSI 52/212
1. What has George Lansbury, Member of Parliament for Bow & Bromley, decided to do to support votes for women?
2. How does the language and tone used in this newspaper show its support for George Lansbury?

Extension questions
1. Can you explain why the sources for this lesson topic come from these particular collections, i.e. H.O. (Home Office), CRIM (records from the Central Criminal Court), ASSI (records of justices of assize and related bodies i.e. court sessions in English counties for trial of civil and criminal cases) and T (records from the treasury)?
   Clue: Think about the role of these particular bodies/departments.

2. Can you suggest any *other* sources which could be used to find out more about ‘Suffragettes in trousers’?
**Men's Political Union**

**FOR**

**Women's Enfranchisement.**

*Head Office:—13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.*

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE.**

G. WARRE CORNISH, Hon. Treasurer.

VICTOR D. DUVAL, Organising Secretary.

F. R. HENDERSON, JUNR., Hon. Literature Secretary.

FRANK RUTTER, Hon. Secretary.

D. CAMERON-SWAN, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

**OBJECT.**

To secure for women the Parliamentary Vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

**METHODS.**

1. Action entirely independent of all political parties.
2. Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the franchise is granted.
3. Participation in Parliamentary Elections in opposition to the Government Candidate, and independently of all other Candidates.
4. Vigorous agitation and the education of public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates distribution of literature, newspaper correspondence and deputations to public representatives.

**MEMBERSHIP.**

Men of all shades of political opinion, who adopt the objects and methods of the Union, are eligible for Membership. Minimum Subscription, 1/-. 

---

**Source one:** Leaflet for the 'Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement' CRIM1/149/3
Men’s Political Union
FOR
Women’s Enfranchisement
Head Office: 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
G. WARRE CORNISH, Hon. Treasurer
VICTOR D. DUVAL, Organising Secretary
F.R. HENDERSON, JUNR., Hon Literature Secretary
FRANK RUTTER, Hon Secretary
D. CAMER0N-SWAN, Hon. Parliamentary Secretary

OBJECT
To secure for women the parliamentary Vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men.

METHODS
1. Action entirely independent of all political parties.
2. Opposition to whatever Government is in power until such time as the franchise is granted.
3. Participation in Parliamentary Elections in opposition to the Government Candidate, and independently of all other Candidates.
4. Vigorous agitation and the education of the public opinion by all the usual methods, such as public meetings, demonstrations, debates distribution of literature, newspaper correspondence and deputations to public representatives.

MEMBERSHIP
Men of all shades of political opinion, who adopt the objects and the methods of the union, are eligible for Membership. Minimum Subscription, 1/- [One shilling]
How did men support votes for women?

Source two: Pledge coupon for Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement, CRIM 1/149/3
Minimum Entrance Fee, 1/-

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE.

I endorse the objects and methods of the Men’s Political Union for Women’s Enfranchisement, and thereby undertake not to support any Government Candidate at Parliamentary Election until Women have obtained the Parliamentary vote.

I desire to be enrolled as a Member.

Signature.............................................................................................................................

Address..............................................................................................................................

This half to be detached and posted, with the Entrance Fee, to the Hon. Treasurer, M.P.U.W.E., 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.
To The King's Most Excellent Majesty:

The humble Petition of the undersigned, being loyal and dutiful subjects of your Majesty:

Showeth:

1. Your Petitioners submit this petition on behalf of the Men's Committee for Justice for Women.
2. For many years past large numbers of their fellow subjects, who are common taxpayers, and as such deserve equal treatment, have been allowed to take part in elections, and to create and destroy laws. Your Petitioners, therefore, have argued that they are entitled to the same rights as other citizens and that their voices should be heard and heeded by the same law and order in which women are enfranchised to vote, but whose rights should be enacted and upheld by the same law and order in which women are enfranchised to vote, but whose rights should be protected and maintained.

To your Petitioners, your Majesty, for your Royal Justice and consideration, and the benevolence and kindness of the Father of Whom you are the Son, and in the name of your Majesty, the undersigned, your Petitioners submit this petition in the name of all. In the name of all, your Petitioners submit this petition in the name of all.

Source three: Petition from the Men's Committee of Justice for Women's Suffrage, 29 June, 1909 HO 45/10338/139199
The Humble Petition of the undersigned, being loyal and dutiful subjects of your Majesty:

Sheweth:-

1. Your Petitioners submit this Petition on behalf of the Men's Committee for Justice to Women
2. For many years past large numbers of Your Majesty's subjects, who are women taxpayers and as such share with their other fellow citizens the obligations and burdens necessary for the maintenance and defence of the Realm, have urged that they as a matter of right and justice, should also have a share in the same way as men citizens of saying how such taxes should be raised and spent, and by what laws and in what manner this Realm should be governed.
3. For this purpose societies of women citizens have been organised to promote the passing into law of the measure which shall confer on women citizens the same political rights as are enjoyed by men. Among such societies are The Women's Social and Political Union and The Women's Freedom League. These two societies alone directly represent in their membership many thousands of your Majesty's subjects who pay taxes and share other obligations of citizenship.
4. Ever since Mr. Asquith, your Majesty's Prime Minister, has held his present office, the societies mentioned have sought an interview with him for the purpose of placing before him reasons why the Government should give facilities for a measure granting full political rights to women. To this end Mr. Asquith has on many occasions been asked to receive a small deputation of women representing the said societies, but he has always refused to receive any such deputation.
5. Moreover deputations of women have been chosen to present to Mr. Asquith in person at the House of Commons resolutions and petitions in favour of the proposed reform. Such deputations proceeding in a lawful, quiet and reasonable manner to the House of Commons in exercise of their undoubted constitutional right, have at the instance of Mr. Asquith been met by the forces of the police, denied entrance to the Houses of parliament and without fair cause have suffered arrest and imprisonment.
6. Mr. Asquith has been again asked to receive at the House of Commons a small deputation of women citizens representing among other bodies of organised women subjects the two societies named and he has replied repeating his former refusal. The deputation has notwithstanding decided to go to the House of Commons and there repeat their request to see Mr. Asquith and submit to him reasons why the proposed reform should be undertaken by the Government. There are grounds for believing that Mr. Asquith will meet this assertion of right on the part of your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects with the same exercise of force as before and great wrong will be done to your subjects.
7. Your Majesty's predecessors have granted and your Majesty has confirmed to all loyal subjects the right of approaching your Majesty and submitting petitions for the address of grievance and your petitioners humbly submit that the subjects of your Majesty are acting within the spirit and substance of the Constitution desiring your Majesty's Minister on your Majesty's behalf, and in your Majesty's name to concede a like privilege to that which you and your Majesty's predecessors have ever freely granted.

Your petitioners would therefore humbly petition that your Majesty will, to prevent the threatened wrong, give such directions or take such measures as will ensure hearing today by Mr. Asquith of the deputation of women from the said societies

And your Petitioners will ever pray etc.
We desire to place before you the case of a working man and a trade unionist who has been cruelly victimised by the Government for making a political protest.

Mr. William Ball is a member of the National Transport Workers’ Federation. On December 21st last he was arrested for breaking two panes of hiss at the Home Office. In his defence at the police-court the following day he stated that he broke the windows as a protest against the unjust sentence passed on MacDougall prisoner), and also as a Suffrage, which would measure for Votes for daughters and two sons, protection for his girls. If the vote were ex-not given to women on be an insult to all right-

In spite of the fact first offence, that he bore character, that his purely political motive, called serious damage, to two months’ hard Pentonville Prison, Mr. Ball demanded to be treated as a political offender, and in particular to have the “ameliorations of prison conditions” specified by Mr. Winston Churchill in April, 1910, in the regulations framed specially with a view to Suffrage prisoners who had been convicted of offences not involving “dishonesty, cruelty, indecency, or serious violence.” Two of the conditions...
We desire to place before you the case of a working man and a trade unionist who has been cruelly victimised by the Government for making a political protest.

Mr William Ball is a member of the National Transport Workers’ Federation. On December 21st last he was arrested for breaking two panes of glass at the Home Office. In his defence at the police-court the following day he stated that he broke the windows as a protest against the unjust sentence passed on MacDougall (another Suffrage prisoner), and also as a protest against Manhood Suffrage, which would bar the passage of a measure for Votes for Women. He had two daughters and two sons, and he wanted as much protection for his girls as he did for his boys. If the vote were extended to more men and not given to women on the same terms it would be an insult to all right-thinking men.

In spite of the fact that this was Mr. Ball’s first offence, that he bore a thoroughly good character, that his action was done from a purely political motive, and that it could not be called serious damage, Mr. Ball was sentenced to two months’ hard labour. Arrived at Pentonville Prison, Mr. Ball demanded to be treated as a political offender, and in particular to have the “ameliorations of prison conditions” specified by Mr. Winston Churchill in April, 1910, in the regulations framed specially with a view to Suffrage prisoners who had been convicted of offences not involving “dishonesty, cruelty, indecency, or serious violence.”...
‘Suffragettes in Trousers’

How did men support votes for women?

Source five: Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act 1913
form HO 144/13025

---

PRISONERS (TEMPORARY DISCHARGE FOR ILL-HEALTH) ACT, 1913.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered No. of Prisoner</th>
<th>4577.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Hugh Arthur Franklin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>Middlesex Sessions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Conviction</td>
<td>8th March, 1913.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offence of which convicted</td>
<td>Endangering the safety of passengers by setting fire to a Railway carriage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence</td>
<td>9 months' imprisonment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison in which confined at date of this Order</td>
<td>Wormwood Scrubs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Order of the Secretary of State for Temporary Discharge of Prisoner.

Whereas the Prisoner above described is now confined in the above mentioned prison: and whereas I am satisfied that, by reason of the condition of the said prisoner’s health, it is undesirable to detain him in prison, but that, such condition of health being due in whole or part to his own conduct in prison, it is desirable that his release should be temporary and conditional.

I hereby order the temporary discharge of the above described prisoner until the twelfth day of May, 1913, subject to the conditions specified below.

Given at Whitehall on the twenty-sixth day of April, 1913.

(Signed) R. McKenna.

Secretary of State.

To the Governor of H.M. Prison

at Wormwood Scrubs.

and all others whom it may concern.

CONDITIONS.

1. The prisoner shall return to the above mentioned prison on the twelfth day of May, 1913.

2. The period of temporary discharge granted by this Order may, if the Secretary of State thinks fit, be extended on a representation by the prisoner that the state of his health renders him unfit to return to prison. If such representation be made, the prisoner shall submit to, if so required, for medical examination by the Medical Officer of the above mentioned Prison or other registered medical practitioner appointed by the Secretary of State.

3. The prisoner shall notify to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis the place of residence to which he goes on his discharge. The prisoner shall not change his residence without giving one clear day’s previous notice in writing to the Commissioner, specifying the residence to which he is going, and shall not be temporarily absent from his residence for more than twelve hours without giving a like notice.

4. The prisoner shall abstain from any violation of the law.

---

PRISONERS (TEMPORARY DISCHARGE FOR ILL-HEALTH) ACT, 1913

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered No. of prisoner</th>
<th>4577</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Hugh Arthur Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>Middlesex Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of Conviction</td>
<td>8th March, 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offence of which convicted</td>
<td>Endangering the safety of passengers by setting fire to a railway carriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence</td>
<td>9 months' imprisonment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prison at which confined at date of this order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Order of the Secretary of State for Temporary Discharge of Prisoner

Whereas the Prisoner above described is now confined in the above mentioned Prison: and whereas I am satisfied that, by reason of the condition of the said prisoner’s health, it is undesirable to detain him in prison, but that, such condition of health being due in whole or part to his own conduct in prison, it is desirable that his release should be temporary and conditional.

I hereby order the temporary discharge of the above described prisoner until the twelfth day of May, 1913, subject to the conditions specified below.

Given at Whitehall on the twenty-six day of April, 1913.

(Signed) R. McKenna.

To the Governor of H.M. Prison

At Wormwood Scrubs and all others whom it may concern.

CONDITIONS

1. The prisoner may return to the above mentioned prison on the twelfth day of May, 1913.
2. The period of temporary discharge granted by this Order, may if the Secretary of State thinks fit, be extended on a representation by the prisoner that the state of his health renders him unfit to return to prison. If such representation be made, the prisoner shall submit himself, if so required, for medical examination by the Medical Officer of the above mentioned prison or other registered medical practitioner appointed by the Secretary of State.
3. The prisoner shall notify the Commissioner for Police of the Metropolis the place of residence to which he goes on his discharge. The prisoner shall not change his residence without giving one clear day's previous notice in writing to the Commissioner, specifying the residence to which he is going, and he shall not be temporarily absent from his residence for more than twelve hours without giving like notice.
4. The prisoner shall abstain from any violation of the law.
How did men support votes for women?

The Hero of the Hour—Mr. Lansbury Fights for Woman Suffrage.

The Great Woman Suffrage Fight in East London.

The Suffragette

Edited by Christabel Pankhurst.
The Official Organ of the Women's Social and Political Union.

Vol. I—No. 6. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1912. Price 1d. Weekly (4 for 1s.)

A striking photograph of Mr. George Lansbury addressing a meeting in favour of Votes for Women. Mr. Lansbury resigned his seat in order to fight Bow and Bromley in the interests of Woman Suffrage. The contest will stand out in history as a great political landmark in the fight for Woman's Freedom, seeing that it is the first occasion on which a Parliamentary seat has been contested solely upon this issue, and that it was brought about in order to make the election a Woman's Suffrage test.

The members of the W.S.P.U. have played a prominent part in supporting and working for Mr. Lansbury.

To the men and woman of Bow and Bromley, we say in the words of the W.S.P.U. election address:—"We believe that they will join hands with Mr. Lansbury in making this a women's election. Each man will remember what his mother and his wife has done for him, and he will pay back the debt by voting for the Women's Candidate this time. By voting for Mr. Lansbury every man will be helping to make the world a happier and a safer place for his daughters.

"Let all the men and women of Bow and Bromley band themselves together against the Party politicians and send Mr. Lansbury, the champion of the working men and working women, back to Parliament to fight the woman's battle against uncourteous and dishonest politicians."

THE GREAT WOMAN SUFFRAGE FIGHT IN EAST LONDON.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING.

History is in the making at Bow and Bromley. Weary of the insincerity and trickery of Party politicians in dealing with the great question of the Enfranchisement of Women, an honest man has cut himself free from Party trammels and is seeking re-election as an Independent Woman Suffrage Candidate. If re-elected Mr. Lansbury will put up the first real fight ever fought in the House of Commons for the political liberty of women. All Suffragists say God-speed to Lansbury.

GOOD LUCK TO LANSBURY—THE SUFFRAGE CANDIDATE.
The Suffragette
EDITED BY CHRISTABEL PANKHURST

The Official Organ of the Women’s Social and Political Union

VOL. I-No.6 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1912 Price 1d. Weekly (Post free 1½d)

The Hero of the Hour--- Mr. Lansbury Fights for Woman Suffrage

[Photograph of George Lansbury addressing a meeting]

Caption: A striking photograph of Mr. George Lansbury addressing a meeting in favour of Votes for Women. Mr. Lansbury resigned his seat in order to fight Bow and Bromley in the interests of Woman Suffrage. The contest will stand out in history as a great political landmark in the fight for women’s Freedom seeing that it is the first occasion on which a Parliamentary seat has solely been contested on this issue, and that it was brought about in order to make the election a Women’s Suffrage test. The members of the W.S.P.U. have played a prominent part in supporting and working for Mr. Lansbury.

THE GREAT WOMAN SUFFRAGE FIGHT IN EAST LONDON

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

History is in the making at Bow and Bromley. Weary of the insincerity and trickery of Party politicians in dealing with the great question of the Enfranchisement of Women, an honest man has cut himself from Party trammels and is seeking re-election as an Independent Woman Suffrage Candidate. If re-elected Mr. Lansbury will put up the first real fight ever fought in the House of Commons for the political liberty of women. All Suffragists say God-speed to Lansbury.

To all the men and women of Bow and Bromley, we say in the words of the W.S.P.U. election address:--- “We believe that they will join hands with Mr. Lansbury in making this a women’s election. Each man will remember what his mother and his wife has done for him, and he will pay back the debt by voting for the Women’s Candidate this time. By voting for Mr. Lansbury every man will be helping to make the world a happier and safer place for his daughters.

Let all men and women of Bow and Bromley band themselves together against the Party politicians, and send Mr. Lansbury, the champion of the working men and women, back to Parliament to fight the women’s battle against unscrupulous and dishonest politicians.”

GOOD LUCK TO LANSBURY—THE SUFFRAGE CANDIDATE
Did you know?

The National Archives Education Service also offers free taught sessions onsite in Kew and online.

You can book a free Virtual Classroom session, an online lesson where students can use individual computers to interact with our Education Officers and explore original documents without needing to travel to the archive. You will need computers or tablets for your students to work on individually or in pairs.

A free Video Conference session allows our Education Officers to teach through your whiteboard, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer, webcam and microphone to set up this web-chat with The Archives.

Our Onsite Workshops are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I’s signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

Find out more:

✉ education@nationalarchives.gov.uk
🌐 www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education
facebook.com/TheNationalArchivesEducationService

The National Archives