

## VOTES FOR WOMEN – A TIMELINE

1832	First petition on women's suffrage presented to Parliament
1838	The Infants Custody Act gave a wife a legal right to see her children
1867	First debate on women's suffrage in Parliament, led by John Stuart Mill
1869	The <i>Municipal Franchise Act</i> gave single women ratepayers the right to vote in local elections
1870	The Married Women's Property Act said that married women could keep their earnings while still living with their husbands
1884	Women campaign to be included in the Third Reform Act, without success
1889	The Women's Franchise League was formed
1897	Formation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS), led by Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929), drawing together peaceful campaign groups under one banner
1903	The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) was founded in Manchester by Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928)
1905	Suffragette militancy began
1907	The Women's Freedom League was formed after a break from the WSPU
1908	Hunger striking by Marion Wallace-Dunlop was adopted as a WSPU strategy
1909	Forcible-feeding began
1910-1912	Parliament considered various 'Conciliation Bills' which would have given some women the vote, but none passed
1913	The Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act, also known as 'The Cat and Mouse Act', was introduced, targeting suffragettes on hunger-strike
1914-18	Two million women replaced men in traditionally male jobs
1916	A conference on electoral reform, chaired by the House of Commons Speaker, recommended limited women's suffrage.
1918	The Representation of the People Act gave women the vote provided they were aged over 30 and either they, or their husband, met a property qualification
1918	The Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act is passed on 21 November allowed women to stand for Parliament. Women voted in a general election for the first time on 14 December.
1928	The Equal Franchise Act gave all women over 21 equal voting rights with men; in the May election (the so-called 'Flapper Election') women aged between 21 and 29 voted for the first time.