

Lucienne Boyce

A Women's Suffrage Timeline

1832	The First Reform Act specifically excludes women from the franchise by using the term "male person".
7 June 1866	Liberal MP John Stuart Mill presents to Parliament a petition for the female franchise based on the property qualification, prepared by the feminist Kensington Society.
1867	National Society for Women's Suffrage founded in Manchester.
1867	Second Reform Act increases male franchise. Further women's petitions support John Stuart Mill's failed attempt to move an amendment to insert the word "person" instead of "male person".
1871	MP Jacob Bright introduces a Women's Disabilities Removal Bill, drafted by Dr Richard Pankhurst, which passes its Second Reading but is opposed by the Government. The Bill is reintroduced by Bright in 1871 and 1872 with the same result.
1874	The Women's Suffrage Bill is re-introduced by Conservative member W Forsyth with an amendment excluding married women. The amendment splits the feminist movement. In 1877 re-elected Jacob Bright reintroduces the Bill without the exclusion clause. It is defeated, and again in 1878 and 1879. The bill passes to other sponsoring MPs, and is eventually reintroduced in 1883 with the married women's exclusion clause reinstated, when it is again defeated.
1884	The Third Reform Act excludes women from the franchise.
1886	The National Society for Women's Suffrage introduces a Bill for the franchise excluding married women which passes its Second Reading and is then defeated.
1889	Another franchise bill is introduced which excludes married women. Opponents of exclusion form the Women's Franchise League: members include Mrs Pankhurst. The WFL adopts Dr Pankhurst's original Women's Disabilities Removal Bill.
1892	A K Rollit introduces another private member's bill which is opposed by future prime minister Henry Herbert Asquith.
October 1896	Following the 1895 general election, when suffrage societies had combined to work together, the London, Manchester and other provincial societies form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS).

May 1900	The North of England Society for Women's Suffrage organises a working women's petition for the vote.
10 October 1903	Widowed Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst, disappointed by the Independent Labour Party's half-hearted support for the female franchise, founds the Women's Social and Political Union in Manchester. The WSPU's aim is to obtain the vote for women on the same terms as men.
February 21 1905	Kier Hardie, Independent Labour Party MP, attempts to win a place for the reintroduction of a women's franchise bill while Mrs Pankhurst lobbies other MPs for support, which is not forthcoming. Eventually another MP yields his place and the bill is set down for 12 May 1905. The WSPU collects signatures for a petition and lobbies the Easter ILP Conference to support the bill, while the NUWSS holds a meeting in its support.
12 May 1905	Women from many suffrage organisations pack the lobby of the House of Commons. Discussion of the preceding bill – about carriage lighting – is spun out leaving only half an hour for the franchise bill, which is talked out.
13 October 1905	Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney attend a meeting in the Free Trade Hall in Manchester where Liberal politician Sir Edward Grey refuses to answer Annie Kenney's question: will the Liberal Government give women the vote? (The Liberals were expected to be in power shortly, and in fact formed a government in December 1905.) The pair are hustled out and arrested. In court on the following day Christabel is sentenced to seven days and Annie to three days in prison. WSPU policy now is to oppose the Liberal Government by interrupting meetings during the General Election in January 1906, during which 29 Labour MPs are elected.
16 February 1906	The WSPU holds its first meeting in Caxton Hall, London. When Mrs Pankhurst learns that the King's Speech contains no promise of votes for women, she leads a deputation to the House of Commons.
26 April 1906	The Prime Minister having announced he will receive a deputation of 200 MPs who have formed a Women's Suffrage Committee, Keir Hardie introduces a resolution in favour of votes for women on 26 April. Christabel Pankhurst watches from the Ladies' Gallery and leads a disturbance when it seems the Resolution will be talked out.
19 May 1906	The Prime Minister, Mr Campbell Bannerman, receives the women's deputation but will not pledge his support for votes for women.
October 1906	The WSPU opens its headquarters in Clements Inn, London and pursues its anti-Government policy.

23 October 1906	A WSPU demonstration at the Lobby of the House of Commons results in the arrest of ten women, including Annie Kenney and Mrs Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence who are sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment but released half way through their sentences. Sylvia Pankhurst's protest at the trial results in 14 days in prison for her. There are another four similar demonstrations by the end of the year.
23 December 1906	The Liberal Parliamentary Committee for Women's Suffrage is formed.
4 February 1907	The NUWSS organise a women's procession in London; due to bad weather it is known as the Mud March.
13 February 1907	The day after Parliament opens, women marching from Caxton Hall (the first "Women's Parliament") to the House of Commons with a resolution protesting about the omission of votes for women from the King's speech are brutally treated by the police. Christabel and Sylvia Pankhurst are amongst the 54 women arrested.
9 March 1907	Another Women's Suffrage Bill is talked out at its second reading.
20 March 1907	The Second Women's Parliament ends with another deputation to the House of Commons; 75 women arrested.
October 1907	A split in the WSPU about the Pankhursts' "autocratic" governing style leads to the formation of a splinter organisation, the Women's Freedom League, although the WFL retains WSPU policy and continues using militant methods. The WSPU founds its newspaper <i>Votes for Women</i> . In the same year the Women's Anti-Suffrage League is formed as well as a Men's League for Opposing Women's Suffrage. These organisations merge in 1910 to form the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage.
30 January 1908	Asquith, who is about to become Prime Minister, tells a deputation from the NUWSS that the Government will not introduce a bill for women's suffrage or allow facilities for a private member's bill. Asquith goes on to replace Campbell-Bannerman as Prime Minister in April.
11 February 1908	First day of a three-day WSPU Women's Parliament session ends in a deputation to Parliament from Caxton Hall; women reach the House of Commons in furniture vans and two succeed in getting inside.
13 February 1908	Mrs Pankhurst challenges a statute of Charles II, under which more than 12 people approaching Parliament or the King may be imprisoned, by leading a deputation of 13 women. She and eight other women are arrested and sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment.
28 February 1908	A Private Member's Bill brought by Liberal H Y Stanger is carried at its second reading by 271 votes to 92, but its further progress is blocked by the Speaker.

Mid May	Mrs Pethick-Lawrence introduces the suffragette colours – purple, white and green.
20 May 1908	Asquith tells a deputation of 60 Liberal MPs that he will not consider Stanger’s bill, but says he will bring in electoral reform before the end of Parliament. Many think the female franchise will be included, but the WSPU is unconvinced.
13 June 1908	The NUWSS hold a procession of 13,000 women to the Albert Hall.
21 June 1908	The WSPU holds a procession and Hyde Park meeting. After the meeting Christabel Pankhurst sends its resolution to Asquith asking for his response to so large a gathering (some newspapers thought it achieved double its expected attendees of 250,000). Asquith replies he has nothing to add to his statement of 20 May. In response the WSPU call a public meeting in Parliament Square on the evening of 30 June.
30 June 1908	The women in Parliament Square are treated with such brutality by police and other men that two women, incensed by the violence, go to Downing Street and throw stones at the Prime Minister’s windows. Mrs Pankhurst endorses their actions. It is the first damage caused by suffragettes.
13 October 1908	Before the opening of Parliament on 13 October the WSPU issues an appeal to the public to “help the suffragettes to rush the House of Commons”. On 12 October Christabel and Mrs Pankhurst and Mrs Drummond are served with a summons to appear at Bow Street but refuse to hand themselves in until the evening of the 13 th , when the demonstration is underway in Parliament Square. At the trial which opens on 21 October Christabel Pankhurst calls Lloyd George as a witness. She is sentenced to ten weeks imprisonment; the other two women three months. The WSPU hold processions and meetings outside Holloway during their incarceration.
28 October 1908	A member of the WFL chains herself to the grille in the Ladies’ Gallery in the House of Commons and delivers a speech. The NUWSS executive now repudiates militant action.
5 December 1908	Lloyd George, having offered to address a Women’s Liberal Federation meeting at the Albert Hall on votes for women, is heckled by suffragettes in prison dress. One of the WSPU contingent defends herself with a whip; an Evening Standard reporter later protests about the “grossly brutal conduct” of the stewards. Lloyd George excludes women from his future meetings.
24 February 1909	Sixth Women’s Parliament and another deputation to the House of Commons meets with the usual brutality.

March 1909	Geoffrey Howard introduces a private members' bill which was opposed by all suffrage societies who did not think votes for women should be an after-thought to an extension of the male franchise. In addition, Prime Minister Asquith says such a bill should be a Government measure and voted against it. Although the bill was carried by 34 the Government would not allow further time for discussion.
30 March 1909	Seventh Women's Parliament; 21 women arrested. A private members' bill to introduce the suffrage on a three month residential qualification is opposed by all suffrage societies.
June 29 1909	The eighth Women's Parliament sees the violent rebuff of more deputations and the first act of official WSPU window breaking; the windows of several Government buildings are broken. One hundred and eight women are arrested and all the stone throwers are remanded. Mrs Pankhurst and the women on the deputations plead that their action was within the Bill of Rights and their case is referred to the High Court to be tried in December. They are released, but the stone throwers go to Holloway where they smash windows and go on hunger strike, following the example of Marion Wallace Dunlop who had gone on an unofficial hunger strike earlier that summer.
5 July 1909 to 28 October	Mrs Pankhurst has agreed not to send any more deputations to the House of Commons pending the High Court Hearing, but when Asquith refuses to meet their deputation the Women's Freedom League set up a picket at the House of Commons. It lasts from 5 July to 28 October.
17 September 1909	Asquith attempts to address a meeting at Bingley Hall in Birmingham. Women are banned from the meeting but suffragettes Mary Leigh and Charlotte Marsh smash windows in the hall by throwing slates from a nearby roof. Eight other women are arrested for smashing windows. Leigh and Marsh are imprisoned with hard labour for four and three months respectively; the other women from a month to 14 days. In Winson Green prison they go on hunger strike. By now 37 women have been released from prison after hunger striking. To prevent the termination of their prison sentences, the Home Secretary orders their forcible feeding.
October 1909	The Women's Tax Resistance League is formed. It is independent of other suffrage societies and based on the principle: "No taxation without representation". Women who refuse to pay their taxes face the seizure and sale of their property.
January 1910	Asquith calls a general election. Militancy is suspended during the election, but the WSPU campaigns in 40 constituencies. After the election H N Brailsford establishes an all-party Conciliation Committee of MPs to draft a Bill, under the chairmanship of Lord Lytton, brother of prominent suffragette Lady Constance Lytton.

6 May 1910	Death of Edward VII. All WSPU propaganda stops until after the funeral.
14 June 1910	The Conciliation Bill is introduced. The Bill would enfranchise women householders and women occupiers of business premises with a rateable value of £10 per annum and over. The WSPU formally announce a truce to militancy; suffrage societies demonstrate in support of the bill and send deputations to Prime Minister Asquith, who also receives anti-suffrage deputations.
12 July 1910	The Conciliation Bill passes its second reading by a majority of 110 votes. However, Lloyd George raises the issue of whether or not the Bill would be capable of widening amendments; it is not.
13 July 1910	The WSPU holds a demonstration in Hyde Park which welcomes the second reading result and calls on the Government to provide facilities to enable the Bill to become law. However, Asquith refuses to grant further facilities.
10 November 1910	At a meeting in the Albert Hall Mrs Pankhurst announces that a WSPU deputation will be sent in eight days' time as a last constitutional effort to secure the passage of the Conciliation Bill. "If the Bill is killed by the Government then I have to say there is an end to the truce."
18 November 1910	On the day that Parliament reconvenes the WSPU holds its ninth Women's Parliament. On learning that Asquith has not given facilities to the Conciliation Bill, but has said he will make a statement on the question, a deputation is sent to the House of Commons. The brutality that follows is so extreme that this becomes known as Black Friday. Over 100 women are arrested. Mrs Pankhurst's sister Mrs Clarke and Henria Williams later die from their injuries. Brailsford takes charge of collecting evidence of police brutality, but the Government refuse to hold an inquiry into the conduct of the police.
22 November 1910	The Women's Parliament is still in session when Asquith's statement is received. It does not satisfy the WSPU and Mrs Pankhurst leads a deputation to Downing Street; she and over 100 other women are arrested. The next day another attempt to reach the House results in 18 arrests. Window breaking on 24 November results in 21 arrests.
January 1911	Asquith is returned after a general election. The WSPU renews its truce in the hope that the Conciliation Bill will proceed.
2 April 1911	Women boycott the National Census, refusing to fill in the census forms: "If we don't count we refuse to be counted".
5 May 1911	An amended Conciliation Bill (capable of widening amendment) is introduced. It passes its second reading.

29 May 1911	The Government promises that time will be given in the next session for the consideration of a Conciliation Bill capable of amendment, and Asquith writes to Lord Lytton that if it again passes its second reading it will be granted further facilities. Thanks to his pledge the WSPU are now confident of success.
27 June 1911	The WSPU and other suffrage organisations hold a Coronation Procession.
7 November 1911	Asquith announces that a Government franchise bill capable of amendment to include women will be introduced in the next Parliamentary session. Suffragettes and suffragists believe that the Government is using manhood suffrage to defeat the Conciliation Bill.
17 November 1911	Asquith receives a deputation of suffrage societies, including the WSPU. He states that the Government will respect the wishes of the Commons if either the Conciliation Bill or a Reform Bill is approved by a majority. The WSPU remain convinced that the Government is attempting to trick women, although other suffragists think Asquith's pledge is genuine.
21 November 1911	At the Tenth Women's Parliament (held in Mrs Pankhurst's absence in America) the WSPU renew militancy with a deputation to the House of Commons and organised window smashing. Two hundred and twenty women and three men are arrested.
14 December 1911	Asquith tells an anti-suffrage deputation that the enfranchisement of women would be "a political mistake of a very disastrous kind" which further inflames WSPU suspicions of a Government trick.
16 February 1912	Mrs Pankhurst announces an intensification of destructive militancy – in particular window breaking - but says women will only use as much force as is necessary to win.
1 and 4 March 1912	On 1 March Mrs Pankhurst heads an unannounced window-smashing raid in Downing Street. She has twice written to Asquith requesting an interview and been refused. She is sentenced to two months' imprisonment. On 4 March 121 women are arrested after a mass window-smashing raid in the West End and around Whitehall.
5 March 1912	The police raid WSPU headquarters and arrest Mr and Mrs Pethick-Lawrence and Mabel Tuke. Christabel flees to Paris from where she directs the movement and edits the newspaper, <i>Votes for Women</i> .
28 March 1912	The Conciliation Bill comes up for second reading and is defeated.
8 April 1912	Mrs Pankhurst's sentence for window smashing is remitted and she is released on bail. Instead she is to be tried on charges of conspiracy with the Pethick-Lawrences and Mabel Tuke.

15 May 1912	The conspiracy trial opens. It ends on 22 May with sentences of nine months for the defendants. They apply to the judge to be put in the First Division but this is refused. They go on hunger strike in prison in support of this demand and are transferred to the First Division, where they announce they will join the other 79 suffragette prisoners in the hunger strike until they too are granted equal privileges.
22 June 1912	Forcible feeding begins on the hunger-striking suffragettes. Mrs Pankhurst is released on 23 June, but not forcibly fed. Mrs Pethick-Lawrence is released after being forcibly fed once, but her husband is forcibly fed for five days.
12 July 1912	Christabel Pankhurst institutes a campaign of secret arson attacks; the first serious attempt is on anti-suffragist minister Lewis Harcourt's house.
17 July 1912	The Government introduces its Reform Bill which makes no provision for votes for women.
October 1912	The Pethick-Lawrences leave the WSPU. They are unhappy about the increasingly militant tactics and are asked to leave by Christabel and Mrs Pankhurst. They retain ownership of the magazine <i>Votes for Women</i> but sever ties with the WSPU. The WSPU introduces its own magazine, <i>The Suffragette</i> .
17 October 1912	In a meeting at the Albert Hall Mrs Pankhurst announces the split with the Pethick-Lawrences and goes on to direct her followers to intensify the militant campaign: "There is something that Governments care more for than human life, and that is the security of property...I incite this meeting to rebellion."
November 1912	Contents of letter boxes across the UK are destroyed.
January 17 1913	A few days' before the debate on the women's suffrage amendments to the Government Reform Bill on 17 January Mrs Pankhurst calls a truce to militancy. A deputation of working women see Lloyd George and Edward Grey on the day before the debate when Lloyd George insists that Asquith's pledge to provide time for the women's suffrage amendments will be kept. He agrees to meet the deputation again for further consultation after the debate. On the same day the Speaker rules that certain Government amendments not connected with women's suffrage would so change the character of the Bill that a new Reform Bill must be introduced. The news is greeted with anger at a WSPU meeting that night.
January 18 1913	The debate on the women's suffrage amendments to the Reform Bill ends when Asquith accepts the speaker's ruling, agrees that the Reform Bill cannot proceed, and says time will be granted in the coming session for the passage of a private member's bill. All suffrage societies reject this offer.

23 January 1913	Lloyd George is asked to make good his promise to receive the deputation again after the amendments debate, but says he will only meet a few women privately. On 23 January a deputation led by Mrs Drummond sets off for the House of Commons; she is treated with brutality by the police and 30 arrests are made.
27 January 1913	Asquith announces the withdrawal of the Reform Bill. The WSPU truce ends in unprecedented militancy. Telephone wires are cut, works of art destroyed, boat houses and sports pavilions burned, the tea house in Kew Gardens is burned and three orchid glass houses smashed and the plants torn up, empty houses are set on fire, and golf courses vandalised.
18 February 1913	A house under construction at Walton-on-the-Hill for Lloyd George is destroyed by fire.
24 February 1913	In a meeting in Cardiff Mrs Pankhurst accepts responsibility for militant acts and declares, "We have blown up Lloyd George's house!" She is arrested the next day and charged with having "counselled and procured" the people who destroyed Lloyd George's house. The case is to be heard on 1 April at London Central Criminal Court.
25 March 1913	In the meantime the Government rushes through The Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act – the notorious Cat and Mouse Act. Under this Act, hunger strikers if certified to be unfit to remain in prison by prison doctors are to be released on licence to recover from their hunger strike and then rearrested when they are well enough to continue their sentences. The power to forcibly feed prisoners is retained.
2 April 1913	Mrs Pankhurst is tried for incitement to commit a felony and sentenced to three years' penal servitude (which usually meant hard labour). In fact, she only served six weeks of her sentence. She was released on special licence (the Cat and Mouse not being in operation yet) after nine days' hunger strike. The pattern of her hunger (and later thirst) strikes and release on licence is to be repeated over the coming months.
8 April 1913	Annie Kenney is arrested and charged with incitement. After several adjournments of her case she is discharged (with Mrs Drummond) to face more serious charges.
15 April 1913	The Home Office bans WSPU open-air meetings.
30 April 1913	The police raid WSPU headquarters and arrest more WSPU personnel, seize copy prepared for <i>The Suffragette</i> , and two days later arrest the manager of the printing company.
2 May 1913	Annie Kenney, Mrs Drummond and the staff arrested in the 30 April raid are put on trial for conspiracy to commit malicious damage.

5 May 1913	The Private Members' Bill which Asquith had suggested on 18 January 1913 as an alternative to the Reform Bill is defeated.
4 June 1913	Emily Wilding Davison is injured when she throws herself under the king's horse at the Derby. She dies on 8 June 1913.
5 June 1913	Civil actions for damages by over 93 firms are taken against Mrs Pankhurst, Mr and Mrs Pethick-Lawrence, and others, in connection with window breaking between November 1911 and March 1912. The claims are upheld.
17 June 1913	The conspiracy trial of Annie Kenney and others ends; sentences range from 12 to 18 months. The prisoners embark on a cycle of hunger strikes followed by release and rearrest under the Cat and Mouse Act.
26 July 1913	The Suffrage Pilgrimage organised by the NUWSS ends with a mass meeting in Hyde Park. The Pilgrimage had been going on for some weeks as people marched on London from across the country.
July to December 1913	<p>Mrs Pankhurst, WSPU leaders, and rank and file suffragettes are in and out of prison under the Cat and Mouse Act. Mrs Pankhurst introduces the thirst and sleep strike, and evades arrest when she can. In August she and Annie Kenney join Christabel Pankhurst in Paris, and in October Mrs Pankhurst goes on a fund-raising tour in America. She is rearrested on her return to the UK on 4 December 1913.</p> <p>Meanwhile militancy continues. Mansions are destroyed, pillar boxes attacked, tennis courts and golf courses damaged with acid, "dummy" bombs left on the underground and in public buildings, real bombs manufactured and used in arson attacks, and church services interrupted. One estimate puts the value of damage by arson in 1913 at £510,150.</p> <p>At the same time, other organisations campaign against the Government's repressive measures. A Cat and Mouse Act Repeal Committee is established; male supporters hire meeting places so that women can speak at them; and Keir Hardie and others form a Free Speech Defence Committee.</p>
December 1913	A performance of the opera Jeanne d'Arc by Raymond Roze attended by King George and Queen Mary is interrupted by suffragettes.
January 1914	<p>Since it is impossible to petition Government ministers Mrs Pankhurst decides to petition the King and writes to him requesting an audience. The request is refused.</p> <p>Sylvia Pankhurst, who has been campaigning independently in the East End of London, is asked by her mother and sister to leave the WSPU because of her involvement in socialist politics.</p>

8 February 1914	Mrs Pankhurst, who has spent January with Christabel Pankhurst in Paris, returns to England and announces her intention to speak from the balcony of 2 Campden Hill Square where she is staying. A women's bodyguard armed with clubs is there to protect her, and an attempt to arrest her fails. A few days later she makes a similar address from another location, and again evades arrest.
9 March 1914	Mrs Pankhurst is at last arrested at St Andrew's Hall in Glasgow, and despite the attempts of her bodyguard to protect her is violently treated by the police.
10 March 1914	Mary Richardson slashes the National Gallery's Rokeby Venus by Velasquez as protest against the arrest of Mrs Pankhurst who is being "slowly murdered by a Government of Iscariot politicians".
14 March 1914	Mrs Pankhurst is released after a hunger strike. She is still recovering from bruises received during her arrest in Glasgow.
4 April 1914	The Ulster Unionist Militants organise a demonstration in Hyde Park. To protest against the refusal to allow the WSPU to hold meetings there, WSPU members march to the Park and interrupt Ulster speakers as police struggle to suppress them. Mrs Drummond is arrested and tried for obstruction; she refuses to cooperate with the court and talks all the way through the trial.
5 and 6 May 1914	A private member's bill brought by Lord Selborne in the House of Lords which would have enfranchised women municipal voters is defeated.
21 May 1914	<p>Mrs Pankhurst leads the last great WSPU militant deputation, which is to the King. Thousands of police are brought in to repel them. The violence exceeds that of Black Friday. Sixty six women and two men are arrested. Mrs Pankhurst is amongst the arrested and promptly goes on hunger and thirst strike.</p> <p>On the morning of the deputation police raid a flat where WSPU organiser Nellie Hall is staying with her mother and sister. They discover gunpowder, fuses, flints, fuses and hammers, and arrest the women.</p>
22 May 1914	<p>During the appearance of the people arrested outside the Palace at Bow Street Police Court (when they create disturbances in the court) pictures are slashed at the National Gallery, a mummy case broken at the British Museum, and a portrait of the King in the Royal Scottish Academy is damaged. Christabel announces that the King is to receive the same treatment as a Cabinet Minister. He is accused of being a "Russian Tsar" at a matinee at His Majesty's Theatre; suffragettes chain themselves to the railings outside Buckingham Palace; and at a court function a woman asks him to stop forcible feeding.</p> <p>Also on 22 May Annie Kenney is arrested at Lambeth Palace when she attempts to take sanctuary with the Archbishop of Canterbury. She returns to the Palace after a six day hunger strike, and when the Archbishop refuses to admit her lies down outside the gates. The next day she goes to Fulham Palace to interview the Bishop of London, where she stays until late evening.</p>

23 May 1914	Police raid WSPU headquarters and arrest General Secretary Grace Roe. She is charged with conspiring with the Halls. Nellie's mother and sister are released and she and Grace Roe are put on trial. They refuse to cooperate with the court, and are refused bail. They are forcibly fed for seven weeks before their case is heard. Grace Roe attempts to smuggle an emetic into prison to induce vomiting after forcible feeding in an effort to secure her release; this reflects badly on the WSPU hunger strikers. Both women are sentenced to three months' imprisonment.
26 May 1914	Mrs Pankhurst is released from Holloway.
11 June 1914	The hunger-striking suffragettes are debated in the Commons; summing up the methods of overcoming militancy McKenna says, "The first is to let them die. That is, I should say, at the present moment, the most popular." Other methods considered are deportation, treating them as lunatics, and giving them the franchise. McKenna concludes that none of these methods will be adopted, but that he will consider taking civil and criminal action against WSPU subscribers.
20 June 1914	A deputation of working women organised by Sylvia Pankhurst is received by Asquith who says he agrees with them that if women are to have the vote it should be on the same terms as men.
4 August 1914	Britain declares war on Germany.
10 August 1914	All suffragette prisoners are released. Mrs Pankhurst suspends WSPU activities. The NUWSS drops all suffrage work and turns itself into a Women's Active Service Corps, while a breakaway group form the Women's International League. The United Suffragists (formed earlier in 1914 to unite militant and non-militant suffragists) continue with suffrage work and produce <i>Votes for Women</i> which Mr and Mrs Pethick-Lawrence have donated to them. The Women's Freedom League continues suffrage work.
8 September 1914	Christabel has returned to England and speaks at the London Opera House: her subject is The German Peril. Mrs Pankhurst tours the country making recruitment speeches and handing out white feathers.
16 April 1915	<i>The Suffragette</i> reappears after a short break. On October 15 it is reborn as <i>Britannia</i> , a pro-war paper.
13 March 1915	At a conference of women's organisations called by the Board of Trade to encourage women to register for war work, many suffrage societies demand this be linked to equal pay and the vote. However, the NUWSS and Women's Liberal and Conservative Associations promise unconditional cooperation. The WSPU does not attend.

7 July 1915	The WSPU, calling itself the Women's Party, calls for compulsory national service for war work by women and organises a procession in support of the demand which is paid for by Lloyd George from Government funds.
5 November 1915	As the demand for the enfranchisement of the men at the Front grows, the Government responds by delaying the general election for eight months. On 5 November a private member's Service Franchise Bill is introduced, but the Government says it will deal with the matter itself. Amidst rumours that a Franchise Bill is to be introduced those suffrage societies that are still active write to Asquith to remind him of the women's claims.
January 1916	A conference of suffrage societies called by Sylvia Pankhurst is unable to reach agreement on a programme of pressing for adult suffrage.
March 1916	A Consultative Committee of Constitutional Women's Suffrage Societies is formed in response to the Government's proposed changes to the electoral register.
April 1916	The Liberal and Unionist War Committees demand a vote for all soldiers in the trenches. Sylvia Pankhurst calls another conference of suffrage organisations, which is held in June 1916.
2 September 1916	At a second conference of suffrage organisations a National Council for Adult Suffrage is established.
14 August 1916	Asquith converts to women's suffrage! He is persuaded, he announces, by the argument that if "a new class of electors, on whatever ground of State Service" is formed then women who "have rendered as effective service in the prosecution of the War as any class of the community" also have a claim.
1 October 1916	At a meeting in Queen's Hall Mrs Pankhurst repudiates Asquith's statement and suggests he is using women to prevent soldiers and soldiers from being enfranchised. She and Christabel demand votes for soldiers, not votes for women.
12 October 1916	A Speaker's Conference is established to report on electoral reform. Its recommendation, delivered in January 1917, is the granting of the vote to women over 30 or 35 who are local government electors or wives of local government electors, and university graduates over 30 or 35. There is no property qualification for men, who can vote from 21. Even so, many suffrage organisations, including the NUWSS, accept these terms.
7 December 1916	The franchise reform bill passes its third reading, having decided to settle the age limit at 30 not 35.
January 1918	Mrs Humphry Ward leads an anti-suffragist deputation to the House of Lords saying that the women's suffrage should not be introduced without a referendum.

6 February 1918	The Representation of the People Act is passed granting the Parliamentary vote to women over 30 who are occupiers or wives of occupiers of land or premises of not less than £5 annual value, and women who are university graduates over 30.
1918	Under The Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act women can now stand for Parliament. Seventeen women do so, including Christabel Pankhurst, who is unsuccessful.
23 December 1919	Under The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act women are no longer barred from civil or judicial offices (including judge, barrister and solicitor), from any profession, or from membership of any incorporated society.
2 July 1928	The Equal Franchise Act gives women the vote on the same terms as men.