

**WSPU**

The Women’s Social and Political Union is an organization that gained much attention for its activities with members who were first christened suffragettes. The organization was a women only group that was dedicated to getting equal votes for women. Did not have any political party and most often opposed them.

The group had a reputation for the demonstrations they made. This did this by smashing windows, arson, and hunger strike for the suffragettes. In 1913 a women of the group was killed when she threw her self under the king’s horse as a protest at the government not allowing women to vote.

**Her Daughters**

* Christabel became a leading member of the Women’s Social and Political Union
* Was one of the first suffragettes to be imprisoned about interrupting a Liberal Party meeting by shouting for demands for women to vote
* Refused to pay the fine which led to a trial creating much interest in the movement
* More people joined the group as a result

**Personal**

* Born July 14th, 1858 in Manchester
* Went to school in Paris
* Took courses that were considered for males, sciences
* Taught girls book keeping
* When she returned home she took place in her father’s home as a finished young lady
* 1879 married Richard Pankhurst, a lawyer and supporter of women’s suffrage movement
* Her husband wrote the Married Women’s Property Acts of 1870 and 1882
* The acts allowed women to keep earning and property they acquired before and after their marriage
* Emmeline died June 14th 1928

**Impact**

* Emmeline founded the Women’s Franchise League
* She fought to allow married women to vote in local elections
* October 1903, she founded the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU)
* Arrested on multiple occasions
* Went on a hunger strike, resulting in her being force fed
* Was apart of the widow-smashing campaign when the “conciliation bill” looked as though it was going to be derailed
* Pankhurst was arrested and convicted of conspiracy to commit property damage
* Leaders of WSPU (Emmeline and her daughters) called an immediate halt to militant suffrage activism on August 4th 1914, only 2 days after the war began
* The government released all suffragettes from prison in return the group focusing on helping the war effort
* 1962, Pankhurst joined the Conservative Party saying her views had been changed with the impact of the war but many believe this move was a part of a strategy towards equal votes, as the Conservative Party had a large majority of votes after the war
* In 1918 The Representation of the People Act gave voting rights to women over 30, property owners or graduates in a university constituency
* 18 days after her death (June 14th 1928) parliament passed the representation of the People act 1928, giving women equal votes to men

*Emmeline Pankhurts*