

Learning Curve
Education Service Workshops

Key Stage 5

The Suffragettes: Deeds not words



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Teacher's notes

Documents

- **Document: CRIM 1/149/ 3**
Advertisements taken from editions of 'The Suffragette' newspaper, published on 26th December 1913, and 2nd January 1914
- **Document: CRIM 1/139/2**
Letter written by Emmeline Pankhurst to members of WSPU, 10th January 1913, outlining the case for militancy
- **Document: HO 45/10700/236973**
Article from 'Morning Post', 8th May 1913
- **Document: HO 45/10700/236973**
Article from 'The Times', 1st May 1913
- **Document: CRIM 1/149/3**
Article about militancy, taken from 'The Suffragette', 2nd January 1914

Resources

- **Resource 1:** Worksheet for document analysis
- **Resource 2:** [Britain 1906 - 1918](#) - exhibition gallery with documents about the women's suffrage movement in Britain, 1906-1918.

Preparation activity

Students must have completed this activity before the workshop, as they will be discussing their work during the session.

Give students a copy of the advertisements and the two newspaper articles. Ask them to use the worksheet to support their study of the documents. This work will help to form the basis for discussion in the workshop.

The workshop

The workshop will begin with an introduction to the National Archives, and a brief explanation of what we do and keep here.

The education officer will then lead a discussion about the advertisements published in editions of 'The Suffragette' newspaper from the years 1913 and 1914. Students will be asked to consider the readership of this paper and whether or not it can be used as a reliable indication of the type of women who became Suffragettes.

The second part of the videoconference considers the militant tactics of the Suffragettes, and whether or not these tactics were a help or a hindrance to their cause. Students will investigate the authorities' response to militancy, by studying photographs and correspondence taken from Metropolitan Police files. They will then go on to investigate the Suffragettes' arguments for militancy through the study of a letter written by Emmeline Pankhurst to members of the WSPU in January 1913, and through media accounts of Suffragette actions.

Knowledge, skills, and understanding

This workshop enables students to meet subject criteria for history in the following ways:

- Explore the significance of events, individuals, issues and societies in history
- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for studying history by raising their awareness of the opportunities available for researching original documents in archives
- Understand the nature of historical evidence and the methods used by historians in analysis and evaluation
- Assessing the significance of events, individuals, attitudes, ideas and beliefs in their historical context
- Getting hands on experience at using original historical sources of different kinds
- Analysing, evaluating and interpreting original historical sources in their historical context through a series of structured research activities
- Communicating clear, concise and logical arguments substantiated by relevant evidence in discussion and debate with the Education Officer leading the workshop

Examination board specification

Edexcel AS specification

Unit 1, option d – ‘Votes for Women, c. 1880-1918’

http://www.edexcel.org.uk/VirtualContent/48534/GCE_History_syllabus2006_Final_Version.pdf

Useful links

[Learning Curve](#)

[More information on our workshops](#)

[Book a workshop](#)

Document: CRIM 1/149/3/7

Advertisements taken from editions of 'The Suffragette' newspaper, published on 26th December 1913, and 2nd January 1914

Source 1a

Telephone: 5761 CENTRAL. Telephone: 5761 CENTRAL.

ALL PRICES ARE QUOTED FOR ORDINARY SHADES. PALE OR GREY EXTRA.

MAISON ROBERT LTD.
225, REGENT ST., W.
(Opposite Dickins & Jones)

A REMITTANCE AND PATTERN OF HAIR SHOULD ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS.

The Premier House for Hair Work, Tinting, Hair Dressing, Face Massage, Manicure, and Chiropody. Agent for Dr. Dye's Paris Specialities at Paris prices, also for Jane Hading's famous Eau de Jeunesse, and for Roger and Gallet, Piver, Houbigant, &c.

New Henna Paste vegetable hair colouring, only genuine, used by the MAISON ROBERT, colours the hair from blonde to black in the most natural shades; has a great advantage over liquid dyes, that it does not give those coppery and unbecoming shades, and lasts longer; is clean and does not rub off. Being purely vegetable, is guaranteed to be a harmless preparation. Applications in our Saloons by experienced artists, under the personal supervision of Mons. Robert. For the entire head, including the dye, £1 5s.; Roots only, 18s. 6d. This preparation, ready diluted for home use, only requires heating. Sold in bottles, 5s., post free.


Please state colour, or send sample of hair when ordering.

Any Style of Transformations, Fringes, Pin Curls, Pompadours, etc.

Catalogues Sent Free on Application.

FEATHERWEIGHT TRANSFORMATION. with side or centre parting and bangs, turned back, as illustration; very becoming, and the latest style. Made on hair lace foundation and hot natural wavy hair. Price 6s. complete, three-quarter size, 5s. Tights only, from 2s. 6d.

A SEMI-PARTED FRINGE, with three curls on forehead, made of best natural wavy hair, 17 inches long. Will keep its curl in any climate. Ear to ear, 22s. 0. Temple to temple, 15s. 0.

Source 1b

COPIES OF PARIS MODEL BLOUSES.



EXCLUSIVE BLOUSE. In rich chiffon velvet, with vest of silver lace edged narrow black fur. In all shades 42/-



CHARMING BLOUSE. An exact copy of a Paris Model, in fine white double net, seams worked with hand sewing, and edged Valenciennes lace 29/6

Debenham & Freebody
Wigmore Street, London, W.
Famous for over a Century for Taste, for Quality, for Value

Document: CRIM 1/149/3/8

Advertisements taken from editions of 'The Suffragette' newspaper, published on 26th December 1913, and 2nd January 1914

Source 1c

Source 1d

DEBENHAM & FREEBODY'S

COMMENCES **SALE** and continues for Twelve Days only.
MONDAY, JANUARY 5.

Exceptional Bargains in all Departments.



EVENING GOWN
In soft satin with overdress of nylon, trimmed diamant embroidery, waistband of taffeta. Original price, 8½ guineas.
Sale price **59/6**



350 FUR LINED COATS
In good plain cloths, chevots, tweeds, and fleecy homespuns. In all the newest colourings. This season's goods, trimmed various fur collars, and lined good quality squirrel lock. Regular price, 5½ to 12 gns. To be cleared at
Sale price **69/6** and **98/6** each.



75 MACKINAW SPORTS COATS.
In new smart check materials perfectly made.
Original price, 40/6.
Sale price, **29/6**



HANDSOME REST GOWN
An exact copy of a Paris model, in rich soft nylon and Silk Velvet Broche, with lace collar and cuffs, lined throughout with silk. All colourings, quite fresh and fashionable. Sale price **98/6**
Also in handsome velvet brocade on gold tinsel ground. Sale price **8½ gns**



NIGHTDRESS
in pure Silk Crêpe de Chine. Simple design, with hand-stitching, and crochet buttons. In ivory, pink, sky, and black. Also in outsizes.
Special price **29/6**



REAL SILK SPORTS COATS.
Rich heavy quality, perfect shapes and quite fresh. All this season's goods. In a beautiful range of colourings.
35/6

WIGMORE STREET, AND WELBECK STREET, LONDON, W.

The East London Federation of the W.S.P.U. and the Kensington W.S.P.U. are organising

A SUFFRAGE SCHOOL
to be held

In BOW, December 29th to January 4th.
In KENSINGTON, January 5th to January 11th.

The sch. of course will include lectures on: *Legal position of the British Wife and Mother; Wages and Conditions of Women Workers; Housing; Poor Law; White Slave Traffic; History of the Suffrage Movement; Forcible Feeding, etc.*

TICKETS: Full course, 10.-; Single week, 7/3; Single lecture, 6d. Tickets and information may be obtained from:
Miss E. JENKINS, 321, Roman Road, E.

Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3/7

Source 1a

Telephone:
5761 CENTRAL

—
ALL PRICES ARE
QUOTED FOR ORDINARY
SHADES.
PALE OR GREY
EXTRA.

**Maison
Robert**
LTD.
225, REGENT ST. W.
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A REMITTANCE
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HAIR SHOULD
ACCOMPANY
ALL ORDERS.

The Premier House for Hair Work, Tinting, Hair Dressing, Face Massage, Manicure, and Chiropody. Agent for Dr. Dys' Paris Specialties at Paris prices, also for Jane Hading's famous Eau de Jeunesse, and for Roger and Gallet, Piver, Houbigant, &c.

New Henna Paste vegetable hair colouring, only genuine, used by the MAISON ROBERT, colours the hair from blonde to black in the most natural shades; has a great advantage over liquid dyes, that it does not give those coppery and unbecoming shades, and lasts London; is clean and does not rub off. Being purely vegetable, is guaranteed to be a harmless preparation. Applications in our Saloons by experienced artistes, under the personal supervision of Mons. Robert. For the entire head, including the dye, **£1 5s.**; Roots only, **18s. 6d.** This preparation, ready diluted for home use, only requires heating. Sold in bottles, **5s.**, post free.

*Please state colour, or send
sample of hair when ordering*

**FEATHERWEIGHT
TRANSFORMATION,**
with side or centre parting and
bandeau, turned back, as
illustration; very becoming, and
the latest style. Made on hair
lace foundation and best natural
wavy hair. Price 6½ Gns.
Complete. Three-quarter size, **5
Gns.** Toupée only, from **2½ Gns.**

***Any Style of Transformations,
Fringes, Pin Curls,
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long. Will keep in curl in any
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Temple to temple, **£ 15 0**

Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3/7

Source 1b

**COPIES OF PARIS
MODEL BLOUSES.**

EXCLUSIVE BLOUSE, in rich chiffon velvet,
with vest of silver lace edged narrow black fur. In all shades **42/-**

CHARMING BLOUSE. An exact copy of a Paris
Model, in fine white double net, seams worked with hand sewing, and edged
Valenciennes lace... .. **29/6**

DEBENHAM & FREEBODY'S
Wigmore Street. London. W

Famous for over a Century for Taste, for Quality, for Value

Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3/8

Source 1c

**COMMENCES
MONDAY,
JANUARY 5.**

SALE

**And continues
for Twelve Days
only.**

Exceptional Bargains in all Departments.

EVENING GOWN

In soft satin with overdress of ninon, trimmed diamante embroidery, waistband of taffeta. Original price, 8.5 guineas.

Sale price **59/6**

350 FUR LINED COATS

In good plain cloths, cheviots, tweeds, and fleecy homespuns. In all the newest colourings. This season's goods, trimmed various fur collars, and lined good quality squirrel lock. Regular price, 5½ to 12 gns. To be cleared at **69/6** and **98/6** each.

75 MACKINAW SPORTS COATS.

In new smart materials perfectly made. Original price, **49/6**. Sale price, **29/6**

HANDSOME REST GOWN

An exact copy of a Paris model, in rich soft ninon and Silk Velvet Broche, with lace collar and cuffs, lined throughout with silk. All colourings, quite fresh and fashionable. Sale price

98/6

Also in handsome velvet brocade on gold tinsel ground, Sale price

8½ gns

NIGHTDRESS

In pure Silk Crêpe de Chine. Simple design, with handstitching, and crochet buttons. In ivory, pink, sky, and black. Also in outsizes.

Special price
29/6

REAL SILK SPORTS COATS.

Rich heavy quality, perfect shapes and quite fresh. All this season's goods. In a beautiful range of colourings.

35/6

WIGMORE STREET, AND WELBECK STREET, LONDON W.

Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3/8

Source 1d

*The East London Federation of the
W.S.P.U. and the Kensington W.S.P.U.*

are organising

A SUFFRAGE SCHOOL

to be held

In BOW, December 29th to January 4th.

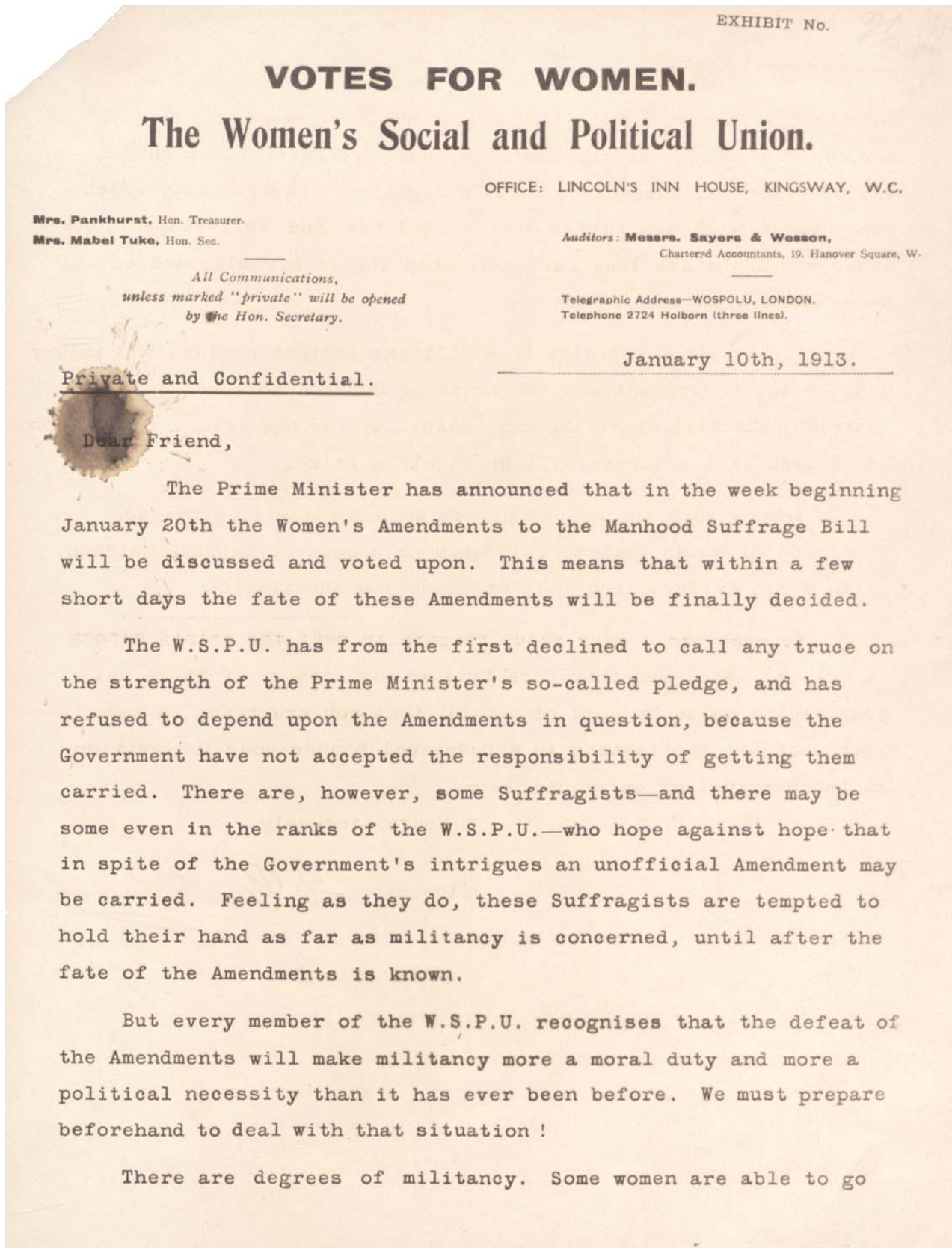
In KENSINGTON, January 5th to January 11th.

The school course will include lectures on: *Legal position of the
British Wife and mother; Wages and conditions of Women
Workers; Housing; Poor Law; White Slave Traffic;
History of the Suffrage Movement; Forcible Feeding; etc.*

TICKETS: Full course, 10-; Single week, 7/6; Single
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Miss E. JENKINS, 321, Roman Road, E.

Document: CRIM 1/139/2

Letter written by Emeline Pankhurst to members of WSPU, 10th January 1913, outlining the case for militancy.



Document: CRIM 1/139/2 (continued)

Letter written by Emeline Pankhurst to members of WSPU, 10th January 1913, outlining the case for militancy.

further than others in militant action and each woman is the judge of her own duty so far as that is concerned. To be militant in some way or other is, however, a moral obligation. It is a duty which every woman will owe to her own conscience and self-respect, to other women who are less fortunate than she is herself, and to all those who are to come after her.

If any woman refrains from militant protest against the injury done by the Government and the House of Commons to women and to the race, she will share the responsibility for the crime. Submission under such circumstances will be itself a crime.

I know that the defeat of the Amendments will prove to thousands of women that to rely only on peaceful, patient methods, is to court failure, and that militancy is inevitable.

We must, as I have said, prepare to meet the crisis before it arises. Will you therefore tell me (by letter, if it is not possible to do so by word of mouth), that you are ready to take your share in manifesting in a practical manner your indignation at the betrayal of our cause.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

E. Pankhurst

Transcript: CRIM 1/139/2

VOTES FOR WOMEN

The Women's Social and Political Union

Mrs. Pankhurst, *Hon. Treasurer*
Mrs. Mabel Tuke, *Hon. Sec.*

OFFICE: LINCOLN'S INN HOUSE, KINGSWAY, W.C.

*All communications,
unless marked "private" will be opened
by the Hon. Secretary*

*Auditors: Messrs. Sayers & Wesson
Chartered Accountants, 19. Hanover Square, W.
Telegraphic Address-WOSPOLU, LONDON
Telephone 2724 Holborn (three lines)*

January 10th, 1913

Private and Confidential

Dear Friend,

The Prime Minister has announced that in the week beginning January 20th the Women's Amendments to the Manhood Suffrage Bill will be discussed and voted upon. This means that within a few short days the fate of these Amendments will be finally decided.

The W.S.P.U. has from the first declined to call any truce on the strength of the Prime Minister's so-called pledge, and has refused to depend upon the Amendments in question, because the Government have not accepted the responsibility of getting them carried. There are, however, some Suffragists-and there many be some even in the ranks of the W.S.P.U.- who hope against hope that in spite of the Government's intrigues an unofficial Amendment may be carried. Feeling as they do, these Suffragists are tempted to hold their hand as far as militancy is concerned, until after the fate of the Amendments is known.

But every member of the W.S.P.U. recognises that the defeat of the Amendments will make militancy more a moral duty and more a political necessity than it has ever been before. We must prepare beforehand to deal with that situation!

There are degrees of militancy. Some women are able to go further than others in militant action and each woman is the judge of her own duty so far as that is concerned. To be militant in some way or other is, however, a moral obligation. It is a duty which every woman will owe to her own conscience and self-respect, to other women who are less fortunate than she herself is, and to all those who are to come after her.

If any woman refrains from militant protest against the injury done by the Government and the House of Commons to women and to the race, she will share the responsibility for the crime. Submission under such circumstances will be itself a crime.

I know that the defeat of the Amendments will prove to thousands of women that to rely only on peaceful, patient methods, is to court failure, and that militancy is inevitable.

We must, as I have said, prepare to meet the crisis before it arises. Will you therefore tell me (by letter, if it is not possible to do so by word of mouth), that you are ready to take your share in manifesting in a practical manner your indignation at the betrayal of our cause.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. Pankhurst

Simplified transcript: CRIM 1/139/2

[Extra explanations are in square brackets]

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Telephone 2724 Holborn (three lines)

January 10th, 1913

Private and Confidential

Dear Friend,

The Prime Minister has announced that in the week beginning January 20th, the Women's Amendments to the Manhood Suffrage Bill will be discussed and voted upon [Asquith planned to introduce amendments giving the vote to women when the Bill was discussed by the House of Commons].

The WSPU has always refused to call a truce [agreement to stop fighting] on the basis of the Prime Minister's promise and has refused to depend upon the Amendments in question. The government have not told us that they will become law. There are some Suffragists, and possibly some Suffragettes, who hope that an unofficial Amendment may be turned into law. They think that they can stop any militant acts until the fate of the Amendments is known.

But every member of the W.S.P.U knows that the defeat of the Amendments will make militancy a moral duty. It will be a political necessity. We must prepare ourselves now.

There are different levels of militancy. Some women are able to go further than others. To be militant in some way is a moral obligation [a duty]. Every woman owes this to her own conscience and self-respect, and to future generations of women.

If any woman does not take part in militant action, she shares in the crime of the Government [by not enabling Female Suffrage].

I know that the defeat of the Amendments will show thousands of women that militancy is inevitable. Peaceful methods fail.

We must prepare for this now. Tell me by letter, or by word of mouth, that you are ready to take part in militancy.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. Pankhurst

Document: HO 45/10700/236973

Article from the 'Morning Post', 8th May 1913

BOMB AT ST. PAUL'S.

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO WRECK CHANCEL.

SUPPOSED SUFFRAGIST OUTRAGE.

An explosive machine was found near the Bishop's Throne in the chancel of St. Paul's Cathedral yesterday morning a few minutes prior to the celebration of early Communion, and there is no doubt in the minds of the authorities that the contrivance was designed and placed there by someone associated with the militant Suffragist movement. The "bomb," as it is described by the police, was carefully wrapped in brown paper and in part of a recent issue of the militant newspaper *The Suffragette*.

An expert stated that while such a bomb as that found at St. Paul's would have done relatively little damage to that building because of the great air spaces which exist within it, a similar machine in Westminster Abbey, owing to the crowded condition there, due to the many memorials and the form of the interior, might result in irreparable injury to an historic structure.

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Simplified transcript: HO 45/10700/236973

[Extra explanations are in square brackets]

BOMB AT ST.PAUL'S

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO WRECK CHANCEL

SUPPOSED SUFFRAGETTE OUTRAGE

A bomb was found near the Bishop's Throne in the chancel [part of the church containing the altar] of St. Paul's cathedral yesterday morning, just before early Communion. The authorities have no doubt that the bomb was designed and placed in the cathedral by someone associated with the militant Suffragists. The bomb was wrapped in brown paper and in part of a recent issue of The Suffragette newspaper.

An expert said that the bomb would have done little damage to St. Paul's because of the height of the space. However, if the bomb had been placed in Westminster Abbey, it would have caused great damage to the building, due to the number of memorials [stone objects built to honour a person or an event].

Document: HO 45/10700/236973

Article from 'The Times', 1st May 1913.

SEIZURE OF SUFFRAGIST
HEADQUARTERS.

SIX WOMEN ARRESTED.

A WARNING TO THE PUBLIC.

Shortly after 11 o'clock yesterday morning the police entered the offices of the Women's Social and Political Union in Kingsway and made six arrests. The defendants, who are charged with conspiracy, were afterwards brought up before Mr. Curtis Bennett at Bow-street Police Court and remanded in custody, bail being refused. Mr. Bodkin, who appeared for the prosecution, made an important statement. He said that the *Suffragette* newspaper must be put a stop to, and he gave public warning that if any printer after that warning printed and published the literature of the union he might find himself in a very awkward position. Proceedings would be taken immediately against any person who made a speech in encouragement of the union's course of conduct, and any persons who subscribed to the union's funds might also find themselves in a very awkward position.

Mr. Bodkin conducted the case on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions. He said that the proceedings were taken with a view to putting down what had become a danger to the civilized community. The defendants were all active members of the Women's Social and Political Union, under whose auspices and by means of whose encouragement an enormous number of crimes, involving damage to property, risk to life and limb, and a vast amount of inconvenience to the public, had for months past been brought about almost daily. The defendants were among the ringleaders of that organization, which had continued to carry on its nefarious practices notwithstanding repeated warnings. The seriousness of the crimes he had referred to had increased. The organization had furthered its unlawful objects in three ways—first, by means of violent and inflammatory speeches addressed to large numbers of emotional females; secondly, by an organ known as the *Suffragette*, which week by week contained articles approving and praising those who fortunately had been detected by the police in the act of committing crimes; and, thirdly, by money, which was necessary for an extensive organization of this kind. The *Suffragette* newspaper must be put a stop to, as the dissemination of writings of the kind it contained was a danger to society. Large sums appeared to have been obtained from sympathizers with the criminal objects of the union.

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Simplified transcript: HO 45/10700/236973

[Extra explanations are in square brackets]

SEIZURE OF SUFFRAGETTE HEADQUARTERS

SIX WOMEN ARRESTED

A WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

Just after 11 o'clock yesterday morning, police entered the offices of the Women's Social and Political Union, and made six arrests. The defendants [those accused of doing something illegal] were charged with conspiracy [secretly planning illegal activities]. They were brought before Mr. Curtis Bennet at Bow Street Police Station and refused bail. Mr. Bodkin, for the prosecution, said that the Suffragette newspaper must be stopped. He warned that any printer printing this newspaper, or anyone who made a speech in support of the WSPU or gave money to the movement, would have proceedings taken against them [legal action would be taken to prosecute them].

Mr. Bodkin led the case for the Director of Public Prosecutions. Those arrested were all members of the Women's Social and Political Union, and the movement had committed an enormous number of crimes, involving damage to property, risk to life, and inconvenience to the public. This had been going on for many months and was occurring almost every day. Those arrested were ringleaders and had continued with their actions, despite repeated warnings. The seriousness of the crimes had increased. The WSPU promoted its cause by giving violent and inflammatory [intended to cause anger or hate] speeches, using the Suffragette newspaper to praise those who had committed crimes in the name of the cause, and by generating funds. The Suffragette newspaper must be stopped, as it was a danger to society. Money was obtained from those who supported these criminal actions.

Document: CRIM 1/149/3

Article from 'The Suffragette', 2nd January 1914

Source 5a

ONE YEAR'S MILITANCY ENDS.

ENORMOUS DAMAGE DURING 1913

Mansion Gutted at Bath.

SERIOUS FIRE AT CHELTENHAM.

Valuable Yacht Destroyed.

£40,000 DAMAGE.

Many Haystacks in Flames.

It is impossible to estimate the enormous amount of damage which has been attributed to Suffragettes during the year 1913. Several newspapers have calculated that the result of some of the more serious attacks on property alone amounts to £510,150. Large though this total is, it by no means represents the full cost of the women's campaign against property, for it does not include hundreds of the devastating fires which have marked the past year, nor the many minor attacks that have been made on property.

Several serious fires have been recorded during the last ten days, notably the burning of a large house at Bath and the destruction of Lord Inverclyde's valuable yacht, the Beryl, which was valued at £40,000.

**SERIOUS FIRE ON
LANSDOWN.**

House Gutted.

A BEACON TO ALL BATH.

During the early hours of Saturday morning, December 20, Westwood, Fonthill Road, an unoccupied house on the heights of Lansdown, was completely gutted by fire, and as a copy of the current number of the SUFFRAGETTE, together with other Suffrage literature, was found in the grounds, it is believed that the outbreak was the work of Suffragettes. Further, one of the front windows which still remained had all the appearance of having been forced.

Beyond the main walls very little was left standing. The roof had completely disappeared, and practically all the interior except just a portion of the kitchen and some of the adjoining windows. The house is situated in its own grounds slightly off the road and hidden by some tall trees and a high hedge of evergreen, and a more secluded spot could hardly be imagined. Once ablaze, however, it acted as a beacon light to practically all Bath, and reports came from Odd Down, Weston, Widcombe, Wellsway, and the centre of the city of the fire having been observed at different times.

Source 5b

**HOUSE FIRED AT
CHELTENHAM.**

STAIRCASE DESTROYED.

TWO WOMEN ARRESTED.

A serious outbreak of fire was discovered at Alstone Lawn Manor, an unoccupied house at Cheltenham, in the early hours of Sunday morning, December 21. The fire brigade was promptly summoned, and succeeded in saving the house from complete destruction, though damage to the extent of about £400 or £500 was done.

Suffragette literature was found near the building, and later in the day two women were arrested, and were charged before the local bench on the following day.

Source 5c

Precautions.

Apparently Suffragettes were at once suspected, for the second division of the brigade was ordered back to the fire station, because of the possibility of another outbreak elsewhere.

It is a well-known fact that officers in command of fire brigades throughout the country have received advice always to leave sections on duty at their fire station, it being believed that when Suffragettes intend to make an attack on property they will probably create a small fire elsewhere as a ruse whereby to distract the attention of the fire fighters.

The first division of the brigade worked hard, and though the flames had taken a big hold on the staircase, the conflagration was kept within these limits, and after about half an hour's hard work it was well under subjection.

Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3

Source: 5a

THE SUFFRAGETTE

January 2, 1914.

ONE YEAR'S MILITANCY ENDS.

ENORMOUS DAMAGE DURING 1913

Mansion Gutted at Bath

SERIOUS FIRE AT CHELTENHAM

Valuable Yacht destroyed.

£40,000 DAMAGE.

Many Haystacks in Flames.

It is impossible to estimate the enormous amount of damage which has been attributed to Suffragettes during the year 1913. Several newspapers have calculated that the result of some of the more serious attacks on property alone amounts to £510,150. Large though this total is, it by no means represents the full cost of the women's campaign against property, for it does not include hundreds of the devastating fires which have marked the past year, nor the many minor attacks that have been made on property.

Several serious fires have been recorded during the last ten days, notably the burning of a large house at Bath and the destruction of Lord Inverclyde's valuable yacht, the Beryl, which was valued at £40,000.

SERIOUS FIRE ON LANSDOWN.

House Gutted.

A BEACON TO ALL BATH

During the early hours of Saturday morning, December 20, Westwood, Fonthill Road, an unoccupied house on the heights of Lansdown, was completely gutted by fire, and a copy of the current number of the SUFFRAGETTE, together with other Suffrage literature, was found in the grounds, it is believed that the outbreak was the work of Suffragettes. Further, on of the front windows which still remained had all the appearance of being forced.

Transcript: CRIM 1/149/3 (continued)

Beyond the main walls very little was left standing. The roof had completely disappeared, and practically all of the interior except just a portion of the kitchen and some of the adjoining windows. The house is situated in its own grounds slightly off the road and hidden by some tall trees and a high hedge of evergreen, and a more secluded spot could hardly be imagined. Once ablaze, however, it acted as a beacon light to practically all Bath, and reports came from Odd Down, Weston, Widcome, Wellsway, and the centre of the city of the fire having been observed at different times.

Source: 5b

HOUSE FIRED AT CHELTENHAM
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Suffragette Videoconference

You have copies of documents from files at the National Archives, created by the Home Office and the Police.



Activity 1:

Look at CRIM 1/149/3. These advertisements are taken from an edition of the *Suffragette* newspaper, published on 26th December 1913 and 2nd January 1914. Study the advertisements carefully. What can they tell us about the readership of the *Suffragette*?

Activity 2:

Study the following documents. Decide whether each document supports, or is against, militant action. Record the various responses to militancy.

	Case FOR militancy	Case AGAINST militancy
Document 1: Letter written by Emmeline Pankhurst to members of WSPU, 10th January 1913		
Document 2: Article from <i>Morning Post</i> , 8th May 1913		
Document 3: Article from <i>The Times</i> , 1st May 1913		
Document 4: Article from the <i>Suffragette</i> , 2nd January 1914		

Discussion

- To what extent did militancy hinder, rather than help the Suffragette cause? Use evidence from the documents to support your argument.