

# Winson Green Prison

*A larp about the women who fought for the right to vote and the men that stood by their side*



*A larp script by Rosalind Göthberg and Siri Sandquist*

Hi,

No matter who you are and why you are reading this, we are glad that you found your way to this script of the larp Winson Green Prison. We are Siri Sandquist and Rosalind Göthberg, two swedish larp designers and feminists who started working on this scenario in early 2016. The history of the women's rights movement has always fascinated both of us and the will to tell the story of the brave people who fought so hard for rights that we today take for granted was our main inspiration when writing this script. However, we do not only see this larp as a story of the past but also want it to raise questions of where we are today and how far we still have to go in the fight for true equality.

Anyone who wants to is free and encouraged to run this larp, anywhere and anytime they want. We do not ask for anything in return (except of course from giving us cred as designers) but instead ask that you consider making a donation to an organisation working with these issues today. Some suggestions of such organisations are:

- MenEngage Alliance - A global alliance that seeks to provide a collective voice on the need to engage men and boys in gender equality, to build and improve the field of practice around engaging men in achieving gender justice, and advocating before policymakers at the local, national, regional and international levels. <http://menengage.org/>
- Women for Women - A non-profit humanitarian organisation that provides practical and moral support for marginalized women in countries affected by war and conflict. <http://www.womenforwomen.org>
- Equality Now - An international human rights organisation dedicated to action for the civil, political, economic and social rights of girls and women. <http://www.equalitynow.org>

We want to thank everyone who in any way has contributed and helped us in this process, especially Susanne Vejdemo and Martin Nielsen for valuable input and editing of this script. We also want to thank all those who have played this larp in the past for being our greatest inspiration of all.

If you are interested in running this larp or have any questions about it, feel free to contact us either on facebook or via email on [rosalind.gothberg@gmail.com](mailto:rosalind.gothberg@gmail.com) or [siri.sandquist@gmail.com](mailto:siri.sandquist@gmail.com)

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# About the larp

Winson Green Prison is a larp about the women who fought for the right to vote in the UK during the beginning of the 20th century. It aims to tell the story of these women and the men who stood in their shadows. The larp wants to open up for a discussion around where we come from and what sacrifices were made to get us where we are today within the fight for gender equality. It is about when politics becomes private and the private becomes political.

## Themes

Politics against privacy, oppression against liberation, fear against love, radicality against conservatism.

## Setting

The setting of the venue is divided in two where one side of the room simulates the prison within which the women are kept and the other side the waiting area where the men responsible for the women are waiting to collect their women against bail. The division is mainly done by the separate lighting and and by the placement of the chairs described in larger detail below.

## World

The larp is set in London the year of 1908. The class divisions, and gender division are to be played as realistically as possible. An overview of the situation in the british society in regards to social and gender equality follows in the workshop.

## Playing style

The playing style of this game is mainly realistic. There are no meta-techniques for violence but the players should feel free to escalate scenes as far as they want. The facilitator acting as the guard will during run time go in and break up any conflicts before they become physical. If certain players want to act out violent acts like slaps or shoving this is ok as long as it is negotiated between the players.

The only diversions from the naturalistic approach of playing style is that the players are asked to be mindful of the other "room" (the other half of the stage) and asked to try and keep their voices down so as to not drown out conversations in the other larp area. The guard will also be able to act as a reminder of this fact during the larp. Also, the male characters are asked to disregard any natural stiffness between british men who do not know each other and start conversations among themselves in the waiting room.

## Structure

The larp is played in three acts.

### Act 1. Prologue “Family and Conflict”

A short scene where each couple plays among themselves. In this scene the two players get to establish their characters and relationship to each other. The scene should not be longer than 5 minutes and contain some kind of conflict. It is to take place during the last time the characters saw each other before the manifestation after which the women were imprisoned.

### Act 2. “Decisions and Waiting”

Act 2 is the main act. The women play this scene inside the prison area and the men within the waiting area. The theme of this scene should be fear and hesitation about what this means, and what will happen after the women are released.

During this act the men has the possibility to discuss the action of their women and what they truly feel about the women's political actions. How will they treat her when she comes out of prison? It is also a meeting between men from vastly different places in society, with only one thing in common, they have a close relationship to a politically active woman.

The women meanwhile has room for contemplation, was it worth it? Have they destroyed their relationship to their men or do the men still support them? What is more important, sisterhood or family? What will they do now, stay in the political fight or leave it? They get to explore the friendship to the other women, see differences and similarities between different social classes and reflect over what price they are willing to pay for their political struggles.

Act 2 ends with the women being released from the prison into the ward of their husbands, brothers and fathers. The second act should not be longer than 1 hour, and you should start to release the women after approximately 40 minutes. The timing can vary based on the dynamic in the play in the different areas.

### Act 3. Epilogue “Truth and Resolution”

Act 3 is played in the form of inner monologues within the couples. The players take turns telling the other character what their character truly think and feel about the relationship and what has happened. The scene ends when all of the players in the couple/trio has held their monologue. This should not be longer than 5 minutes.

# Practicalities

## Size:

Ca 15-25 players  
2 facilitators

## Length:

Ca 4 hours including workshop and debrief

## Venue:

Preferably a black box with possibility to separate the lighting on the right and the left half of the scene. Sound system.

## Props:

- Chairs, same amount as players
- Tape and pen to create name tags
- Handouts for workshop attached to this manuscript
- Character handouts attached to this manuscript
- Pamphlett attached to this manuscript (same as amount of played couples)
- Larp scripts
- Playlist with music

<https://open.spotify.com/user/silly/playlist/2Fh0JwHvd4KzjGVm7jo3ck>

Piano Sonata No.12 In F, K332:2 Adagio - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Reminisecense - Ólafur Arnalds, Alice Sara Ott

# Workshop (1h 20 min)

## Introduction (5 min)

Tell the participants who you are and any practicalities around the day

- How does the venue work
- Basic setup of the day with times
- A very basic run through of the structure of the scenario (eg. three acts no breaks, play in couples man/woman but not only as husband and wife but also for example father/daughter)
- Tell them that the larp is set in 1908, the first year of more violent protests, and one year before the hunger strikes and force feedings starts in british prisons. Set in England. The subject is the women who has been in jail for a week because of some kind of disturbance and the men who are legally responsible for them, waiting to collect them against bail.

## History (5 min)

Run through the setting of the larp and pinpoint the things that is important for the players to understand about the historical context.

- When and where
- What does the women's movement for equality look like
- Society's general attitude towards suffragettes

1832 was the first year that Mary Smith presented a women's suffrage petition to Parliament. In the same year, the Great Reform Act confirmed the exclusion of women from the vote.

In 1872 a National organization for women suffrage was created in England.

Long before that, philosophers and writers such as Mary Woolstoncraft in the late 18th century or even Christine de Pizan in medieval times, had already voiced their opinions on equality between the sexes. However now women were organizing, inspired by similar movements among for example socialists and the working class.

The late 19th century was a time of rapid change. More and more people left the countryside for the cities and the factories and a new rich middle class was created. The society was deeply unfair between the sexes. A new kind of glorified femininity had come in fashion, with the growing new bourgeois class. A woman who was pure, gentle, weak, and kind. A chaste virgin. But at the same time women had to work on the factory floors, and as maids in the family homes. These women did not fit into this new model of ideal womanhood and a dual view of femininity was created were poor women were viewed as more close to nature, raw and animalistic in their sexuality. Whores. This duality in the feminine archetype survives even today and is generally called the Virgin/Whore complex.

The 19th century was also an unfair period for men, only 58% of the male population were allowed to vote in elections until 1918 when the restrictions on economic affluence was removed, much thanks to the first world war and the slogan "One man One rifle

One vote". Many poor men turned to organized socialism to try and bring forth the right for vote in Parliament. Women rights, some said, had to wait until the men were all equal under the law. The husbands burden as provider for the family was among the chief reasons this distinction was made, even in the poor families where women had to work to make ends meet, the man's salary was crucial, women being paid very little. In the growing upper middle class, families could afford to educate and keep the women of the family as homemakers.

By 1903 Women's social and political union (WSPU) was created. Two years later, 1905 the words "Deeds not words" were uttered for the first time and Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kennedy takes the lead. These women were tired of waiting and took to action. The suffragette activists were born. In a time when women just had started to be able to walk outside the door without a chaperon they started to gather, first for meetings, then protests and finally riots.

It is important to remember how far away from the image of what a woman was capable of these actions were, and how completely it broke the social frames of a culture where women could not be violent, should not be loud, and a time when wearing bloomers were seen as scandalous.

## Assigne the characters (20 min)

Start of by explaining that no matter what gender the player identify as, they can choose whichever of the larp's two genders that they prefer to play. After that explain that it now is time to divide the players into the genders they will play during the larp.. Ask those who already know that they strongly prefer to play men to go to one side of the room and those who strongly feel they prefer to play women to go to the other end of the room. Those who has no strong preferences can stay in the middle: distribute these players evenly to the two sides. If there is an uneven number of players, it doesn't matter if there is one more man or one more woman, there are trios written that can be put in use in these occasions, but it cannot vary more than that. If the numbers vary too much, ask the players kindly if anyone can change gender for the purpose of the larp.

As soon as you have the players divided in two equally sized groups (one for those who want to play men and one for those who want to play women), divide the characters randomly between them. Once everyone has gotten a character sheet hand out the instructions for character building (handout no 2) to those playing women. After that ask them to find the one they are playing in a couple with. Their name is obvious from the character sheet and are the only one or two people mentioned by name in the text. Instruct them to sit down in their couples and follow the instructions on the paper they have received.



## Male/Female workshops 30 min

Now one facilitator will hold the workshop for the women and one will hold the workshop for the men. Keep in mind that if you need to do this in the same room the volume can get loud and remind the participants to be respectful of each other.

### Women

#### **Introduction:**

Start by telling the women that their characters belong to the same activist group, a sort of subgroup to the WSPU. They have been organising meetings, protests and political actions together and even though all of the characters might not know all the others extremely well they have all met before, They are also the ones who will end up in prison together.

From 1905 until the beginning of World War I about 1000 Suffragettes were imprisoned due to different kinds of political actions. One of the prisons where many of the Suffragettes ended up in was Winson Green Prison, hence the name of the larp. The conditions in these prisons probably varied a lot due to the women's socio-economic background, as an upper class lady you probably received a politer treatment and more conveniences than a working class woman. This is something the players are encouraged to keep in mind during the game. In 1909, a year later than this larp takes place, a lot of the Suffragettes started a hunger strike when imprisoned, which led to horrible stories about violent and degrading force feedings. Even though this isn't something we will play on during the larp it says something about the atmosphere in the prisons and the relationship between the Suffragettes and the authorities.

#### **Presentation round**

Ask the players to present their character to the rest of the group. While this goes on, pass the tape and pen around and ask them to make a name tag for their character. Tell them to keep it short and concise and tell the others their character's:

- Name
- Class
- Main motivation/reason for wanting the right to vote
- If there's anything the rest of the group should know about the character

#### **Create background**

Now it's time for the players to create some common background. This is a good chance for them to get to know each other, each other's characters and to start thinking as a group. As a facilitator, try to stay in the background as much as possible, only moderating the conversation by asking questions or offer suggestions when needed

- **Action:** The players will first and foremost get to decide what it was that caused them to be imprisoned. Their characters participated in a bigger, more peaceful protest organised by the WSPU that went in a procession through London.

Somewhere during this protest, these characters initiated some kind of political action that caused them to end up in jail. Ask the players questions like:

- What happened?
- Was it a planned action or did it happen spontaneously?
- Were all the characters in on it or are there some who didn't want to participate?
- Were there more activists/friends of yours that got away or ended up in another prison?
- **Organisation:** If there is time you can talk a bit more about the organisation/activist group these women are part of. Ask questions like:
  - How long have you been working together?
  - Are there more members?
  - How are you organised? How often do you meet and what do you normally do at the meetings?
  - Is this the first political action of the group?

## Line exercises

Make sure you have at least five minutes left to do some line exercises (ask a question and tell the players to place themselves in a line/scale according to where they feel their character fit). As a facilitator, feel free to come up with your own questions/statements if you feel something is missing. You may also ask the players for suggestions, but start by using the following:

- What is your role in the political movement? (active-passive)
- How much are you willing to sacrifice for the cause? (whatever it takes-other things in life are more important)
- How long have you been active in the movement? (a few years-recently joined)
- How did you feel about participating in the action? (completely convinced-hesitant)

Lastly ask them to answer the following questions:

- What does your family think about your involvement in the movement? (they support me-they don't support me-they don't know about it)"
- Have you been imprisoned before? (yes-no)

Instruct them to answer the questions as a corner exercise by standing in allocated areas depending on their answers.

## Men

Start of by telling the players about the male involvement in the Suffrage movement and what the opinion of society was at the day by reading them this introduction.

### **Introduction:**

Start of by explaining that you now will tell them more about the male viewpoints of the suffragette-movements. They will not need to memorize what you tell them but this is just to help them get a better image of the social climate in UK during 1908.

As mentioned earlier a great inspiration for the suffrage movement was the socialist movement. But that said, it was by no mean only the lower classes that supported the women fight for vote. Quite opposite, many of the greatest supporters came from the

liberal movement, tying women vote together with the individual's rights and obligations under the law. Many intellectuals spoke up for women's rights and in some instances there were more than just oral support.

**Keir Hardie MP** regularly spoke in the House on the subject, questioned Government ministers on the treatment of suffragette prisoners and attended WSPU events.

**George Lansbury MP** resigned his seat so that he could fight a by-election on the suffrage question. In 1913 he was imprisoned after making a speech at a WSPU rally in support of their campaign of arson attacks.

Some men actively played a part in militant suffragette activity. One man who played a leading role was **Frederick Pethick-Lawrence**, joint editor of the publication 'Votes for Women' with his wife Emmeline. Frederick Pethick-Lawrence was imprisoned, went on hunger-strike and was forcibly fed on many occasions.

In 1903 Christabel Pankhurst decided that men can have no role in the fight for Women's Suffrage. This did not stop them. In 1907 - The Men's League for Women's Suffrage is formed by **Charles Corbett** and **Henry Nevinson**. Key male campaigners included the three men I already mentioned, Pethwick-Lawrence condemned the violence of the Suffrage-movement but provided bail for many of the women who had been arrested and served 9 months in jail for supporting WSPU even if he was opposed of their violent methods..

A majority of men still opposed the idea of women rights to vote, or even equal rights to vote for men. Arguments ranged from women being childlike, uneducated, hysterical, uninterested and incapable.

“recurring phases of hypersensitiveness, unreasonableness and loss of the sense of proportion” - It said in a newspaper of the day

Suffrage was explained as a cause were women with serious 'mental disorders' found outlet for their irrational anger. Suffragettes were “strangers to joy [...] sexually embittered women in whom everything had turned into gall and bitterness of heart and hatred of man.”

Even worse, were women to gain full voting rights, the country would end up being run by 11.5 million women against 10 million men.

### **Presentation:**

Start of by explaining that the larp will need them to not behave like british men would during this time. Instead they will need to interact and talk with each other in the waiting room or they will get very bored. Therefore we will make loads of connections between them that they can use and tie into their game. First they will get to know each other's characters a bit better. While this goes on, pass the tape and pen around and ask them to make a name tag for their character.

Ask the men to sit down in a circle and tell them to present himself for the other by name, social class and a sentence of what the character does for a living, and to describe the relationship to “their” suffragette in a sentence.

### **Speed date:**

Ask them to talk in groups of two or three. They should decide:

- How they met/know each other
- What do they have in common
- What separates them
- How do they talk about politics and women rights when you meet

After a couple of minutes ask them to rotate and do the same with a new group.

### **Four corners exercise**

Explain that we now will do a four corner exercise.

This will work like this, each corner of the area where they are will mean a different thing. You will now come with some statements, and assign each corner with a statement. They should go and stand in the corner that correlates the most to their characters opinion.

#### Social Class:

- Upper class
- Upper Middle Class
- Middle Class
- Lower class

#### View on the Suffragette-movement:

- I fully support women rights
- Yes it is important but there are more pressing things to do
- It's so nice that she has her own little interest
- It's awful and a shame on the whole family

#### The most important thing to me is:

- My family
- My reputation
- Economical security
- My own political struggle

#### My feelings towards the woman in prison:

- Pride
- Disappointment
- Anger
- Fear

### **Speeddating (5 min)**

Gather the participants and ask the men to find their women. Then instruct them to walk around the room in pairs. If they meet a couple where the men knows each other they should stop and greet each other quickly. This should be done by the men introducing the women to each other. The women should remain silent.

Show them how quickly it should be by showing the group with a pair according to this Model:

*Mr Y: - "Good morning Mr X!"*

*Mr X: - "Good morning mr Y, have you met my wife (Name)"*

*Mr Y: - "Now, how lovely (Name) Have you met my daughter (Name Name), I know Mr X from the factory"*

*Mr X: - " Well we should continue"*

*Mr Y: - "Yes, see you on Monday"*

## Mechanics and structure(5 min)

Go through the structure of the larp with the participants. Explain the three acts and how they will move between the different acts guided by the facilitators and the music.

### Structure

The larp will be played in three acts where the second one is the main part of the larp and the first and third function as a sort of a prologue and epilogue.

- Act 1 (in pairs): The last time the characters met before the protest. The scene will revolve around some kind of conflict that is defining for your characters. They should find a place in the room and shortly set the scene together. When they have decided the conflict they should close their eyes and count to ten quietly to themselves. When they open the eyes they should play out the scene. When they have finished they should sit down quietly and wait for the rest to finish. facilitators will dim the lights when there is two minutes left. When the time is up the first music track will start play and then they should freeze their scene and become quiet.
- Act 2 (women-men): The last hour (approximately) before the women are released. Men in the waiting room. The act will end with the women, a few at the time, being released by the guard played by one of the facilitators. They will be brought out, released and reunited with the men who is there to pick them up. They will get to play out the first moments of this meeting in the waiting room and the second act ends when everyone has left the room. Remind the players that they get to play out this meeting but that it takes place in a public space and that the guard will ask them to leave if they take too long or disturb the peace.
- Act 3 (in pairs): The act will be played in the pairs spread out in the room just like act 1. During this scene music will play. They are to sit together and hold a monologue to each other about what their characters truly think and feel about each other. This scene should end when they both have spoken or when the music ends. They should then remain quiet until the larp ends.

Explain that there will be no breaks between the acts. The facilitators will provide the players with new instructions but unless there is something you really don't understand try to stay focused and avoid talking out of character between the acts. All of these instructions will be repeated during the game.

### Play style and game mechanics

Explain the following to the players:

During the second act you will be limited to the room where you're waiting to be released, or to the waiting room. We don't have any particular technique for conflicts and violence other than escalating-deescalating. If you initiate a conflict with another player and they answer by escalating it you can keep on doing the same but if the player backs away don't push it any further. Don't be afraid to play out big emotions, if the scene seems to be getting out of hand we will use our guard characters to calm it down. During the second act there will also be a freeze mechanic. At some points during play, the light will go down either in the prison or the waiting room. When the light goes out on your side of the stage, freeze your larp and listen in to what is happening in the other room. Your characters does not hear this but you as player should use this as inspiration when they continue to play as the light goes up.

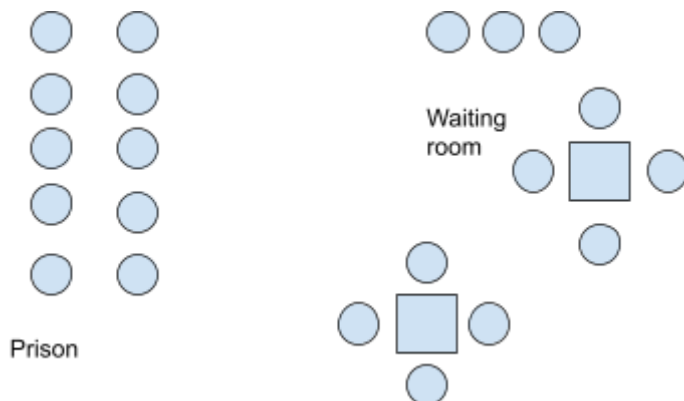
**Note. If it is impossible to rig the light so it can be turned on and off on half of the stage, this can be done by lights of different colour. In these cases make sure to show the players what colour will signal what room.**

If you for any reason feel unsafe during play the door is open and you can always leave the room if you need to. You can also use the safety word "Cut". If anyone says "Cut" everyone should stop playing their characters and the organizers will take care of the situation.

## Last minute questions (10 min)

Finally ask one of the players in the women's group to tell the players of the men about what they decided about the manifestation during the women's workshop. Ask if anyone has any last questions. Otherwise this is a good place to have a small break.

During the break reorganise the chairs into the prison area and the waiting room area, a suggestion is seen below but feel free to use the room and the chairs as you seem fit. :



The tables in the waiting room is optional but highly recommended. Feel free to place some of the pamphlets from the first act in the waiting room.

# The Larp (ca 1h 10 minutes)

The running time of the larp is adaptable during the second act. Here you as a facilitator need to feel how the dynamic and energy in the two groups is working, and adjust the playtime accordingly.

## Act 1

Give every couple a copy of the pamphlet and explain that this can be used as a prop during the first scene.

Facilitator 1:

*“In pairs, find your own place in the room. You will now play out the last time your characters met before the protest and imprisonment of the women. The scene should revolve around a conflict that is defining for your characters relationship. If you want to you can use the pamphlet as a prop. Take a few moments to decide what the scene should be about and then close your eyes and count to ten. When you reach ten, open your eyes and start playing. When you feel like the scene is over, sit down and stay quiet. If you haven't finished by the time the light dims you need to start wrap the scene up. When the music starts playing you need to freeze the scene and listen to further instructions.”*

Facilitator 2:

When 4 minutes passed, start to dim the light slightly. After 5 minutes start playing [Piano Sonata No.12 In F, K.332: 2. Adagio – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Maria João Pires](#) Let the music play softly in the background as you turn up the light again.

Facilitator 1:

*Take place in the respective women/men areas. The women have been imprisoned for a week and during that time they have had no contact at all with the outside world.*

Facilitator 2:

*“The militant suffragettes have openly avowed their intention of making themselves a nuisance and in this course they have magnificently succeeded. Last Saturday they carried their campaign through London and created such a disturbance that it was turned into a bellowing pandemonium. With a few peaceful interludes a score of women were ejected with more force than chivalrous regret and on one occasion there was very nearly a free fight. There could be no doubt that the whole disturbance was a carefully organised affair. The police force eventually managed to take control over the situation and a few of the most disorderly suffragettes were taken into custody and sentenced to seven days in prison. “*

As you finish the last sentence fade out the music.

## Act 2

During this act one facilitator should be sitting at the light and sound system. The other one should sit close to the players and listen in to their play. When a scene seems like it would be interesting for the other side to listen into this facilitator should signal the facilitator manning the lights to dim one side of the stage. It is this facilitator who also are in charge of intervening as a guard should either side get too loud and drown the other side's game, or anyone play towards violence. We recommend trying to let the sides take turn listening into each other and that this should be done between three to five times. However trust your own judgements. After about 40 minutes of playtime you

should have a short discussion about who to start bring out to the men. Be mindful of both the energy and dynamic in the prison and the waiting room when you choose and bring them out one to three people at a time.

Always leave the lower class characters until last to show the class difference between the different women.

When the last couple leave the stage start to play  
[Reminiscence – Ólafur Arnalds, Alice Sara Ott](#)

### Act 3

As the following text is read:

*“In pairs, find a spot in the room and sit down opposite to each other. If it feels right you can hold each other's hands. Take turns holding a monologue where you as your character get the chance to express what you think and how you feel about the person in front of you in the form of an inner monologue. When both of you are done, close your eyes and stay quiet. If the music stops it means you need to finish the sentence you are saying and then quiet down to hear the last instructions”*

After ca 5 minutes fade out the music if the players haven't already finish.



## Debrief (around 20 minutes)

Facilitator 1:

*“Now, the larp is over. The first thing we want you to do is to, together with your co-player, discuss what happened to your characters and how this event affected their relationship. If you can, try to form a common story but it is also ok to have different views on what happened.”*

After five minutes ask the players to gather in a circle, tell them that if they need to talk more they should take some time to finish their conversation afterwards.

### Round

Start by asking them to “do a round”, that is to one at a time in the circle say something about what they are feeling, any thoughts about the game or similar they feel like sharing with the others. If they don't feel like talking they can just pass the word onwards in the circle.

### Information

Tell the players that they soon will be free to leave but that you first want to tell them a little bit about what happened afterwards. Read some of the following information. All the dates regarding the british history are written in **blue letters**. If there are any historical dates or information that is relevant to your own country, feel free to add them to the list below or just chose what dates you will prefer to read for your participants. You can take turns as facilitators when reading these dates.

1906

Militant activism is started in the UK, Finnish women gain the vote.

1908

At a mass rally in Hyde Park, 300,000 to 500,000 activists attend. The Liberal Prime Minister Herbert Asquith does not respond. To get his attention, suffragettes smash windows in Downing Street, using stones with written pleas tied to them. Some protesters chain themselves to railings.

1909

The start of hunger strikes and force-feeding. The Scottish WSPU member Marion Wallace Dunlop becomes the first hunger striker. An increasing number of more militant WSPU members are imprisoned.

1910

The Conciliation Bill, which would give some women the vote, succeeds in the Commons but Asquith does not carry it through. The WSPU starts protests, including those called “Black Friday” in which many women are injured, some permanently and later fatally, and are sexually abused by police.

1913

A ruling by the Speaker wrecks hopes of an amendment to include women in the Reform Bill. Militant bomb and arson campaigns and increasing arrests culminate in the passing of the “Cat and Mouse” Act, under which hunger strikers are temporarily released then rearrested to prevent them dying in police custody.

Emily Wilding Davison, arrested nine times and force-fed 49 times, decides to draw attention to the suffrage cause and disrupt the Derby. She steps in front of the King's speeding horse Anmer, possibly to attach a WSPU banner of suffragette colours to its bridle. She dies four days later of a skull fracture and internal injuries. Her funeral is attended by thousands of women and tens of thousands lined the streets of London as her coffin passed by.

1914

The outbreak of the first world war leads the suffragettes to step down and join in the war efforts.

1918

End of World war I. The Representation of the People Act is passed in the UK, allowing men over 21 and women over 30 to vote.

1919

Swedish women gain the vote

1925

British women can continue to own property after marriage

1928

Amendment of the Representation of the People Act entitles everyone in the UK over the age of 21 to vote

1945

French women gain the vote

1952

Women in Lebanon gets the right to vote if they have had elementary education, a condition not placed on the male population

1964

The Married Women's Property Act in the UK entitles british women to keep half of any savings she has made from the allowance she is given by her husband.

1965

Afghani women gains the right to vote

1970

The Equal Pay Act makes it illegal to pay women lower rates than men for the same work in the UK. The act covers indirect as well as direct sex discrimination. It is a direct result of women's strike action of Ford machinists and pressure from the women's movement.

1971

Women in Switzerland gains the right to vote

1984

Women in Lichtenstein gain the right to vote

1990

Independent taxation for women is introduced in the United Kingdom. For the first time, married women are taxed separately from their husbands.

1994

Rape in marriage is made a crime in the United Kingdom after 15 years of serious campaigning by women's organisations

1996

Afghani women loses their right to vote but get's it back 5 years later in 2001

2002

The twentyfifth amendment narrowly get's voted down in Ireland, it's purpose to even further decreasing women's right to abortion. It would have removed the threat of suicide as a grounds for legal abortion in the state, as well as introducing new penalties for anyone performing an abortion It is still illegal to have an abortion in Ireland.

2013

An Indian amendment states, "Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape"

2015

Women in Saudi Arabia gain the right to vote, in certain elections.

January 21, 2017

Over 500 000 people join the Women's march in Washington, a protest following the inauguration of Donald Trump to advocate legislation and policies regarding women's and overall human rights. The protests is replicated in many other US cities as well as all around the world and the overall worldwide participation is estimated to five million.

Thank you, for playing Winson Green Prison

# Handouts

To run this larp you will need the same amount of pamphlets as players, and the same amount of instructions for workshop as couples in play.

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MARCH and MASS-MEETING

SATURDAY  
JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>

EMBANKMENT, 3 o'clock  
ALBERT HALL, 4-30



Route: Northumberland Avenue, Cockspur Street,  
Waterloo Place, Piccadilly, Knightsbridge,  
Albert Hall.

Tickets for the Albert Hall Meeting, from 2s. to 5s. to  
be obtained National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies,  
25, Victoria Street, Westminster.

Begin with making sure you've read your own character properly. When you're done follow the instructions together:

- 1) Introduce your characters to each other. If you want to you can give your character a first name
  - 2) Develop your characters relationship by answering the following questions together:
    - What does the characters relationship look like? Is the foundation relationship positive or negative? In which ways are the characters similar/different?
    - What do they agree on/what do they fight about? Who has the final say in a conflict? Do they share everything or do they have secrets from each other?
    - Are there any other people who are important for both of the characters with some sort of influence on their relationship (for example children, a sibling etc.)?
    - What is the character's attitude towards the suffrage movement? Is it something they discuss and in that case how?
  - 3) What do you as players need to know about each other? Is there anything in particular you wish to play on or want to avoid? What are your physical boundaries?
  - 4) Create one or a few memories that are defining for your characters and their relationship. If you want to, you can do this in-character, starting with a phrase like "do you remember the time when..." and then taking turns retelling the memory together. Remember to talk primarily from your own characters point of view and to listen to each other's suggestions.
- 

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# Characters

## How to use them

There are 24 couples written for the game and two groups of three. If there are an even number of players all the couples should be played as well as Mrs Wesley and Mr Grayson. If there is an uneven number of players one of the trio's should be used instead. Bartland, Bartland and James if there are more women than men and Grayson, Wesley with Mr Wesley added if there are more men.

The larp is scaleable and you are free to remove and add as many of the characters as you want to but for sake of keeping the game balanced both in the prison and in the waiting room this is our recommended priority, where 1 is first priority to remove in case of too few players, 2, is second priority to remove and so forth.

1. Bradshaw
2. Connor
3. Knight
4. Middleton
5. O'Brian
6. Dawson
7. Archer
8. Lewis/ Elliot

Less than 10 players is not recommended.

## **Mrs Archer**

### *Lower class*

**Motivation:** It was actually her husband who inspired her to become politically active in the first place. He made her see all of the injustices in society and his own activism made her see that it could be possible to change things if you are willing to work hard for it. But while his activism made him a socialist, her led her to the suffrage movement. It's not that she doesn't see that other groups than women are being unfairly treated but how could she ever be a part of that struggle if she doesn't even have the same rights as the men she's supposed to fight for. Equality between men and women needs to come first, after that they will be able to work together for a brighter future.

**Relationship:** It was definitely her husband's never fading fighting spirit she first fell in love with. They have always been able to have long, political discussions and she used to appreciate the fact that he listened to her and valued her opinion. However, since she became active in the movement that has changed. He doesn't see the importance of working for women's rights, he refuses to listen to her and she is starting to grow tired of him being so self-absorbed.

**Fear:** The longer she works for it, the more she is willing to give up for her cause. She can't imagine a better purpose for her life than devoting herself to the Suffragettes. But she has to admit she is starting to worry about what the political differences are doing to her marriage. Will they ever be able to reconcile or will they eventually be forced to choose between each other and their beliefs?

*"I do not wish them [women] to have power over men; but over themselves."*  
*-Mary Wollstonecraft*



## **Mr Archer**

### *Lower class*

**Motivation:** He understands what it's like to fight for equality against an unjust society. He has been doing that himself his whole life, as a socialist. But why fight for women's right to vote when so many men, proletarians are still treated as second-class citizens? There are much more urgent issues to be dealt with, that the Suffragettes fail to notice. When capitalism has been overthrown he will gladly stand by their side and fight for women's rights as well but now there are still more important battles to be won.

**Relationship:** He admires his wife, a lot due to her political engagement. He sees the same fire in her as he feels in his own heart, he just wishes he could make her see things his way. She would be a great asset to the socialists as well, apart from being a woman she is a proletarian too and they should be fighting together instead of against each other as they seem to be doing more and more lately.

**Fear:** His political engagement is the most important thing in his life. That and his wife. Their more and more growing differences is however starting to worry him. They are both so passionate and dedicated to their cause but what about their marriage? Will they ever be able to reconcile or will they eventually be forced to choose between each other and their beliefs?

*"Proletarians of all countries, unite!"*

*-Karl Marx*

## **Mrs Bradshaw**

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** She doesn't think that she is asking for that much. The right to vote, to be a part of the democratic system of her country and the right to make her own decisions about her life and not be dependent on a man. When she was younger she used to wish that she'd been born a boy but as she grew older she realised that wasn't what she really wanted, what she wanted was to change the unjust life she and all other women of the world are living. She doesn't consider herself to be particularly rebellious but she won't hesitate to use the means necessary to make her dream come true.

**Relationship:** If someone would have suggested when she was younger that she would marry a police officer some day she would have laughed at them but when she met Mr Bradshaw it just seemed like everything fell into place. He is the first and only man she's ever met that she could bare the thought of spending her life with and even though they don't always agree with each other she's pretty happy with their marriage. That occupation of his has actually been quite useful for her and the other suffragettes, she knows that he has risked quite a lot by helping and covering for them.

**Fear:** The movement she's involved with is becoming more radical than it used to be with more and more illegal actions. That's fine with her but she knows that it puts her husband in a difficult position. She still trusts him, or at least she think she does but she knows some of the other women are doubting his loyalty. He knows more about them than he should and if he ever were to betray them to his colleagues he would be causing the whole movement a lot of damage.

*"How wrong is it for a woman to expect the man to build the world she wants, rather than to create it herself?"*

*-Anaïs Nin*

## **Mr Bradshaw**

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** For some time now, he has been using the fact that he works in the police force to help his wife and the rest of her movement. Small things like making sure to keep his colleagues away from places he knows meetings are being held at, warn people in the movement about a coming police raid and so on. Things no one would ever notice. He doesn't always agree with the Suffragettes methods, even though he thinks women should have the right to vote he is convinced that it could be achieved without having to break the law, but he would still do anything to support his wife.

**Relationship:** Mrs Bradshaw and himself are pretty different, they don't always agree on things but they enjoy eachothers company and have a good and solid marriage. Sure, he sometimes wishes she would calm down a bit and stop being so rebellious but he gave up the idea of trying to change her a long time ago. After all, one of the things he loves about her is her passion and her ability to fight for what she wants without letting anything stand in her way.

**Fear:** He is really torn between his loyalties, towards his wife and towards the police force and the law he is sworn to maintain. He fears that he'll eventually be forced to choose one over the other. His wife would probably never forgive him if he betrayed her and her movement but could he really take the risk of losing his job and his identity as a dutiful citizen by continuing to give her his support and assistance?

*“Liberty is the right of doing whatever the laws permit”*  
*-Montesquieu*

## **Mrs Connor**

### *Lower class*

**Motivation:** Her whole life she's been feeling trapped and powerless, like everything has already been decided for her. She has always been taking care of people, trying to create the best conditions possible for herself and those around her. Her mother died young so it fell upon her to look after her younger sisters when their father had to work double shifts at the factory. Since she got married she's been taking care of her husband and their home at the same time as she's been working as much as she can to help provide for their future family. To join the suffrage movement wasn't really a choice for her, it was something she needed to do to make sure the next generation of women, her younger sisters and potential daughters, will have all the possibilities she never got.

**Relationship:** She's been very lucky to have found such a good husband. He is kind, responsible, neither drinks or gambles and she knows he loves her very much. But he doesn't understand her. She's been trying so hard to explain to him why she needs to do this, why the cause is so important to her but he just doesn't see it. He doesn't want her to go to the meetings and she hates seeing the wounded look in his eyes when he realises she's defied him again but what else can she do?

**Fear:** She loves her husband and the last thing she wants to do is hurt him but he is making her feel more and more suffocated in their marriage and she is not sure how much longer she'll be able to take it. She fears that they will both end up unhappy if she doesn't find a way to get through to him soon.

*"They came to her, naturally, since she was a woman, all day long with this and that; one wanting this, another that; the children were growing up; she often felt she was nothing but a sponge sopped full of human emotions"*

*-Virginia Woolf*

## **Mr Connor**

### *Lower class*

**Motivation:** He knows his place in life. He's a worker and there's no point in trying to change anything about it, all you can do is try to make the best out of what's been given to you. Everything used to be so simple, a decent job, a wonderful wife and a family to look forward to but then those women appeared and started to poison his world, filling his wife's head with stupid ideas. Politics is something for the rich men, not for workers and definitely not for women. Anyone who believes otherwise is foolish and deluded. Just look at those socialists, angry, violent and dangerous. Now they seem to have infected the women too, turning them into unnatural beasts and encouraging their outbursts of hysteria.

**Relationship:** When they got married he thought she was the most perfect wife a man could ever ask for. She is beautiful, kind and considerate and he couldn't have imagined a better mother to his future children. Now, everything has changed and he doesn't know what to do about it. They had such a good life, why couldn't that be enough for her?

**Fear:** He has tried his best to reason with her, even forbidden her from going to those meetings but she hasn't been listening. He is frustrated and desperate, the last thing he wants is to be the kind of husband who controls his wife's every move, tells her what she can and can't do but what other choice does he have if this continues? After all he is her husband and she owes him some respect.

*"It is often necessary to know how to obey a woman in order sometimes to have the right to command her. "*

*- Victor Hugo*

## **Miss Dawson**

### *Middle Class*

**Motivation:** She always lived a sheltered life, but sometimes being sheltered is the same as being imprisoned. Her father has always been her hero, the one who kept her safe, bought her toys, kissed her goodnight every night before she went to bed. She was 15 the first time she understood that there was more to wish for in the world than her sheltered life. She was visiting one of daddy's factories, and saw a poor woman being beaten by one of the foremen. When she asked her father about it he shrugged it off. Soon she saw them everywhere, the poor, the hungry, the miserable. And she saw that even if the cage was golden it was still a cage. She asked to go to university but daddy would not allow it. She started to wish for more. And when she heard of the Suffragette movement she realized it was the only way she would be able to be truly free, to educate herself. To help those who were suffering.

**Relationship:** Her father Mr Dawson is her hero and she loves him more than anyone else in the world. Except for the fact that he does not understand her yearning for an education. He keeps saying that she does not need it, that she will marry soon, and that a good wife don't need to worry herself with newspapers. She knows he is just trying to protect her from the horrors of the world. Keep her safe. But she is growing more and more frustrated with him.

**Fear:** So far he has given her some leeway. Let her go to a couple of meetings, since she told him it was a sewing circle. Before the protest he confronted her about her late evenings and she promised to be better, he calmed down a bit. This will all end now she is sure. What will she do if he decides to prohibit her from leaving the house unaccompanied now? How will she stand to be even more protected and limited?

*"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community better than you found it."*

*-Marian Wright Edelman*

## **Mr Dawson**

### *Middle Class*

**Motivation:** All he ever wanted was to keep his precious girl safe. Make sure that she never had to see any of the ugly and dark things in the world. When she was a child he would tell her not to run so that she would not fall and scrape her knees. When she fell he would comfort her. After her mother's death he came to love her even more. She was his only family, and he will do whatever it takes to make sure that she is always happy. She has such a sensitive heart. Now she has started lying to him? Sneaking out, behaving irrationally! He is heartbroken. How can he have failed her so, that his precious little girl has turned into a monster? It is the fact that she has grown up without a female role model? He blames himself for failing her. He will have to do better, be harder, save her from destruction and sin. Even if it pains him to deny her anything.

**Relationship:** His daughter is his whole world, and he is aware that he has spoiled her, but he loves her more than the sun. After her mother's death she has been his whole family and he thought that he had been enough for her, that his love was enough. He is now sad and disappointed to see that this is not the case.

**Fear:** That he has failed his daughter, that he is to blame for her acting up, her criminal tendencies, lying and deceit. Maybe she is sick? This can ruin her whole future. How will he be able to protect her from herself?

*“A daughter is a treasure, and cause for sleeplessness”*

*-Ben Sirach*

## Miss Lewis

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** She has sworn to herself that she will never give any man the power over her life. Her father, the only man she has ever respected, raised her to be a self-reliant woman in every way and when he died she decided that she would never get married. There are so many other things she wants to do with her life than spending it serving some man. She is a teacher at a girls' school and very much determined to teach her students how to be independent and self-confident as well as the basic skills as reading and writing. All of her spare time is dedicated to the suffrage movement, she is convinced that their struggles will succeed and that one day the rest of the world will realize that women are capable of performing the same tasks as any man.

**Relationship:** Unfortunately being a single woman isn't always that easy and she has sometimes been forced to live with her sister and her family to avoid ending up on the street. That would have been fine, if it weren't for her insufferable brother-in-law, Mr Elliott. She has never met anyone so egocentric and narrow-minded and besides from the fact that he is controlling her sister's life he also seems to think he has something to say about hers.

**Fear:** Her sister, nieces and nephews are the only family she has since their parents past away and they are very important to her, especially due to the fact that she will never have any children of her own. Without them she would be completely alone but if Mr Elliott keeps interfering with her life she might have to stop seeing them altogether. He is, of course, against the suffrage movement and has more than once told her that if she doesn't end her involvement she will not be welcome in his house anymore.

*"I value my own independence so highly that I can fancy no degradation greater than that of having another man perpetually directing and advising and lecturing me, or even planning too closely in any way about my actions."*

*-Elizabeth Gaskell*



## **Mr Elliott**

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** That women should have the right to vote might be the dumbest things he's ever heard. Women aren't created to rule a country, their job is to take care of their homes and children and should therefore leave all things concerning politics to men. Besides, they are already represented by their husbands, any decent man will of course always protect the interests of his wife as well as his own. Those who try to work against this natural order of the world, the whole foundation of society are nothing but delusional and they need to cease all of this rebellious nonsense before they manage to do any real damage.

**Relationship:** He is married to the most perfect woman, the ideal image of a wife and mother. Her sister, Miss Lewis on the other hand is a completely different story. She has not a trace of any female virtue in her body, has chosen to spend her life as an old maid instead of getting married and as if that weren't enough she is one of those obnoxious suffragettes. He would happily have lived his life completely ignoring her existence but she is family after all and since she doesn't have a husband of her own he feels some responsibility for her. He has agreed to help her when she's been needing some money or a place to stay, for his wife's sake.

**Fear:** He sees how much Miss Lewis actions are hurting her sister and it makes him furious that his lovely wife, and himself for that matter, should have to be associated with someone like that. He is now determined to do anything in his power to get her out of that movement while there's still a chance for her to become some sort of honorable woman. Otherwise he will have no other option but to exclude her from the family, he certainly can't trust a suffragette to be around his wife and children.

*"The women's entire education should be planned in relation to men. To please men, to be useful to them, to win their love and respect, to raise them as children, care for them as adults... these are women's duties in all ages and these are what they should be taught from childhood"*

*-Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

## **Mrs Wesley**

### *Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** When she was young she never really realised there was a big difference between her and her brother. As they were growing up it slowly became clearer that they were to be prepared for very different lives. He was supposed to take over the family company while her task was to learn how to be the perfect wife and finally get married to some man with a good fortune and the right connections. Even though it all seemed so unfair she accepted her faith, when the right man proposed she said yes and continued doing everything that was asked of her. As far as anyone could see she was the perfect woman she'd been trained to be. Under the surface however, her frustration grew and when she heard about the Suffragettes she started going to their meetings as a final, desperate attempt to take some kind of control over her life.

**Relationship:** Her brother, Mr Grayson, is the only one in her life she's really close to. He is her best friend and the only one she actually trusts. He is also the only one who knows about her involvement in the suffrage movement and he has been helping her to keep it a secret, even though he doesn't seem to understand why it's so important to her.

Mr Wesley, her husband, might not be the kind of man she dreamed of marrying as a young girl but she knows she could have done a lot worse. He is kind, caring and gives her a lot of freedom but she feels as even though they are married she doesn't really know him. They never have any deep, meaningful conversations, she doesn't have any idea how he would react if he should find out that his wife is one of the Suffragettes.

**Fear:** Her double life has been working out fine so far, she has been very careful and with the help from her brother she tried her best to avoid any suspicions from her husband. She has however been taking more and more risks lately and she knows that Mr Grayson disapproves. Even though she trusts him she can't help but wonder what would happen to her if he suddenly decided to tell everyone?

*I love man as my fellow; but his scepter, real, or usurped, extends not to me, unless the reason of an individual demands my homage; and even then the submission is to reason, and not to man*

*-Mary Wollstonecraft*

## **Mr Grayson**

### *Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** He has always done what was expected of him, trying to fill the role in society he was borned to. According to him, that's what all people should do. The world would be so much calmer if everyone just knew their place and stayed there. Of course the more privileged has a responsibility to help the less fortunate but all of this revolutionary talk is something he has never understood and frankly is growing quite tired of. Especially these Suffragettes, how can they not see what an important role the women already fill in society? What would they need the right to vote for? Unfortunately, his beloved sister is starting to become more and more involved with them and if she doesn't come to her senses soon he will need to do something about it.

**Relationship:** His sister, Mrs Wesley, is his best friend and the most precious thing he has in his life. He doesn't have a family of his own yet, he's been too focused on his work and taking over the family company. Growing up, they spent all their waking time together and he must admit that he misses her a lot now that she is married and has a new home. Perhaps that's why he's been condoning her behaviour lately, her involvement with the Suffragettes. He has even been keeping it a secret from her husband and the rest of the family, hoping he will be able to talk her out of this before anyone has to find out.

Mr Wesley, his sister's husband, is a good man. A bit naive perhaps, but kind and ambitious and he couldn't have wished for a better brother in law. Helping Mrs Wesley go behind her husband's back makes him feel a bit ashamed but at the same time a part of him is quite pleased with the fact that she still chooses to confide in him, her brother, rather than her husband.

**Fear:** She's starting to become more and more reckless and if she's going to continue like this he won't be able to cover for her anymore. He doesn't want to betray her but if that's what it takes to ensure her safety and future happiness, he will. He needs to make her see what would happen to her and their whole family if she were to be exposed as a Suffragette before it is too late!

*Nature herself has decreed that woman, both for herself and her children, should be at the mercy of a man's judgement*

*-Jean-Jacques Rousseau*

## Mr Wesley

### *Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** It's clear to everyone that he has done well in life. A good fortune, a thriving business and a beautiful home and family. He has what many people only dream of and if it was up to him his life would stay like this forever. Maybe that's why he hasn't confronted his wife about her involvement in the Suffragette movement yet. He has suspected it for a while, noticed her sneaking out at night and even found pamphlets among her things but so far he has chosen not to talk to her about it. It's probably harmless anyway, no need to start a fight if it's nothing more than a little hobby of hers.

**Relationships:** He considers Mrs Wesley to be the perfect wife. Sure, their marriage isn't based on love but there has always been a great deal of respect and some kind of warmth between them and that is all that he has ever asked for. There are so many things that are more important than passion and as long as she takes care of their home and they can share some pleasant dinner conversations he is perfectly happy with their relationship.

Mr Grayson is his wife's brother and he finds it kind of strange how close the two of them are. There's nothing wrong with Mr Grayson, he is a good man and they get along fine, but he really should get a family of his own instead of visiting his sister all the time. To be honest Mr Wesley has sometimes felt a bit jealous that Mrs Wesley always seems to confide in her brother instead of him but at the same time it means that he never has to hear things he might be better off not knowing.

**Fear:** He keeps hearing more and more disturbing things about these Suffragettes, how they are organizing loud protests and violent protests all over London. He doesn't believe his wife to be capable of something like that, she probably just attends quiet, orderly meetings but if it continues she could get dragged into something worse. Maybe he has to talk to her anyway, before it's too late? After all he could never risk anything that would ruin their perfect life.

*I profess not to know how women's hearts are wooed and won. To me they have always been matters of riddle and admiration*

*-Washington Irving*

## Miss Heartfield

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** It is a disgrace that she is not allowed to be in charge of her own life. After her father died three years ago she is under the guardianship of her younger brother. A man who has never had a serious thought in his life and who is wasting the family fortune on frivolities! She has tried to speak to him, tried to reason him in to give her an allowance, so she can save up money and make her future more secure, so that she doesn't have to marry for wealth, but he refused and instead paid the fees to a boarding school and shipped her off to France. Well, if her brother won't give her what should be hers she will rewrite the law! Women right to vote first, and then soon after that right to inherit and right to own property. Properly!

**Relationship:** Her younger brother is weak of constitution, he is far too interested in drinking and gambling and pretty horses. Even when their father was alive her brother's tendency to waste the family fortune was obvious, it did not do anything to change the old man's heart though and since the father's death their relationship has been cold and distant.

**Fear:** She does not like to admit it but a part of her is afraid of what will happen to her reputation. She never imagined she would be so heavily involved in the movement and now the stakes are getting ever higher. It would be devastating if her brother found out, he might cut her already very meager allowance, and what will she do to survive then? Marry?

*"My own sex, I hope, will excuse me, if I treat them like rational creatures, instead of flattering their fascinating graces, and viewing them as if they were in a state of perpetual childhood, unable to stand alone." - Mary Woolstonecraft*

## Lord Heartfield

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** It is true that he spend a lot of money, caring for the estate, and the house in London, and keeping up appearances, it is all costly business. However his elder sister does not seem to understand that they have an obligation to move in society. She always begs him for money, but it is not good for a lady to worry her head with affordances, that is a man's job, and he know that nothing is more important to the family name than to keep up a life och luxury and leisure in society. To keep up a strong name, a clean reputation. His elder sister though seems hard beant on not only making a fool of herself and their family name but to constantly criticize his own hard work when it comes to making sure the Heartfield name is not overlooked in high society. She shows no thankfulness at all for his sacrifices.

**Relationship:** His elder sister is a bore, or at least she always was. But now when the old man is dead at least he doesn't have to live with her judging eyes and snide comments everyday. He felt bad about shipping her off to a boarding school in France, but is was for her own good. She is getting a bit too old to be unmarried and a longer and more advanced education might help her on the market.

**Fear:** That his radical sister shall do something to disrupt his lifestyle and bring shame too the family name. He is constantly working so hard, and he even have a young miss he has been courting lately from a very rich family. But knowing his sister, her being in France is probably not enough to ensure safety from her tantrums.

*“Appearance matters a great deal because you can often tell a lot about people by looking at how they present themselves.”*

*– Lemony Snicket, The Miserable Mill*

## **Mrs Knight**

### *Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** Ever since she was young she has been yearning for freedom, to have the power over her own life and not being the property of a man. For a long time, she didn't intend to marry at all but society isn't that kind to an unmarried woman and when she met Mr Knight she finally gave in. She knows that she has been extremely lucky in finding a husband that supports and listens to her but that's not enough. Society needs to change and she will not stop fighting until it has, her daughters will grow up in a world that gives them the right to control their own lives without having to answer to any man.

**Relation:** She loves and appreciates Mr Knight a lot, they have an open and honest marriage and can talk about almost everything. He even agrees with her concerning women's suffrage and so far he has supported her in her struggles. However, even though he always does his best to be there for her but she can't help but to feel that there are some things he'll never understand no matter how hard he tries.

**Fear:** Her husband is starting to lose business because of her actions in the suffrage movement and she knows it. She also knows that his support is one of the main reasons she has been able to fight so hard and she is now terrified that she's going to lose it.

*"I declare to you that woman must not depend upon the protection of man, but must be taught to protect herself, and there I take my stand."*

*- Susan B. Anthony*

## **Mr Knight**

*Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** He has always tried to be a supportive husband. He also agrees that women should have the right to vote and has never been ashamed of the fact that he through his wife's actions has been associated with the suffrage movement, although he never participated actively in it. He loves her and their daughters and truly want the best of worlds for them when they grow up. However, his main task in life is running his business and thereby supporting his family. Now Mrs Knight's activities have started to become a threat to his own duties though. Sales are dropping and people are whispering behind their backs. He is no fool, he knows it is his wife's political activities that is making people to question his reputation as an honest man. He does not enjoy it but he is starting to feel like his wife is behaving a bit selfish. Surely she will not continue down this road now that she has seen how violent it has turned, she is a sensible woman and she loves their family more than this political fight. He just needs to explain to her that she is hurting their security and she will surely come around.

**Relation:** He loves Mrs Knight very much and wishes to be there for her at all times. They have always had an open and honest marriage based on communication and sensible discussions and they hardly ever fight.

**Fear:** Lately he has noticed that the rumors going around about him and his wife has actually started to damage his business. He is losing both money and customers because people are refusing to trade with with a Suffragette supporter. He is torn and doesn't really know what to do now, but surely the family must go first and Mrs Knight wouldn't want all of this to be at the expense of their daughters and the family name, right?

*Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked and never well mended*  
*-Benjamin Franklin*



## **Mrs Middleton**

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** She finds her life as an upper class lady dull and uneventful. These endless tea parties, dances and garden strolls bore her, she yearns for some excitement and the possibility to do something of actual importance. Perhaps that's why the suffrage movement fascinates her so much. Of course she agrees with the parts about women's rights and the injustices of society but the movement is also a chance for her to experience something new and forbidden. She has become more and more involved lately, now she's one of the most enthusiastic when it comes to recruiting new members. What she doesn't understand is why there still are women who are sceptical to the cause, and why so many of those who believe in it seems so afraid of fighting for it.

**Relationship:** She and her husband has never had a particularly close relationship. It was an arranged marriage and though she finds him mostly agreeable he has never been much more than a dinner company to her. Whenever she has tried to connect with him on a deeper level it has just made her angry, he doesn't seem to be interested in anything she has to say and dismisses her as an unintelligent, fragile woman. They spend most of their time apart and she has no idea about how he would feel about her political involvement. The safest thing would probably be if he never found out.

**Fear:** The Suffragettes has given her life a new spark, a purpose. She has never felt as alive as she does now and she is so afraid of losing that. One risk is of course that her family might discover her secret but she has also felt that not all of the women within the movement are overjoyed by her presence. Some people seems to think that she is spoiled, privileged and that she doesn't know what real struggle is but she is determined to prove them all wrong.

*I hate to hear you talk about all women as if they were fine ladies instead of rational creatures. None of us want to be in calm waters all our lives.*

*-Jane Austen*

## **Mr Middleton**

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** He has always preferred the company of books to that of other people. Even as a child he has spent most of his time reading whatever he could get his hands on, especially anything concerning politics, philosophy and theories about freedom and equality. He is the first born son of a wealthy and prominent family and has because of that been forced to take over and run the family company but he still reads as much as he can and has begun to write different kinds of political columns that he has published under false name. Lately he has been writing a lot about the women's rights movement which he supports wholeheartedly, how could there ever be a completely equal society without completely equal rights?

**Relationship:** He got married because it was expected of him, the marriage was arranged by his family and he never even met his wife until the day they got engaged. He is overall content with her as a wife and enjoys the fairly small amount of time they spend together but he has never made a real effort to actually get to know her. Why would he bother, it's not like they would ever be able to do something interesting, like discussing politics, anyway.

**Fear:** Despite his passion for politics and his strong opinions on the matter he has never been very vocal about it, he prefers hiding them in writing protected by pseudonyms. To be honest, he is a bit scared of one day having his identity revealed, especially now when the suffrage movement seems to be growing more aggressive every day. One of the reasons is that he knows how it would hurt the family name if it were to be connected with the movement and the rest of the family would never forgive him if that happened. He should be safe, as long as he makes sure not to surround himself with Suffragettes in his everyday life.

*Under whatever conditions, and within whatever limits, men are admitted to the suffrage, there is not a shadow of justification for not admitting women under the same*  
*-John Stuart Mill*

## **Miss James**

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** She knows that the society is not ready for someone like her. That her feelings, her love for Mrs Bartland is too different for this society but she has never let it stop her. In the safety of being Mrs Bartlands Lady Companion has she been able to be in Mrs Bartlands life, and stay there. That is more of a marriage than many men and women have! She knows that her feelings just like her words and passions are manly. That is why her essays are published under a male pseudonym, but she is no longer ashamed of it because it is what makes her the person she is. What gives her the burning idealism, her tireless work to better the position of women. Women like her, unmarried and not fitting into the society as it is today.

**Relationship:** Mrs Bartland is her life companion and the love of her life. They have been inseparable since they went to school together. When Mrs Bartland decided to marry a man she first thought her heart would break, but then she realized that there still was a place in their life for her. Since then their relationship has grown so much stronger. Mrs Bartland is the one who made her understand that the suffragette movement was the space where she could work to help herself and women like her.

Mr Bartland, ironically met Mrs Bartland through her. He was a publisher and she was a writer. He could have been the one who stole all her happiness, instead he became a friend and a confidant. He never tried to end the bond between herself and Mrs Bartland, but invited her to their honeymoon. His acceptance of their closeness has given her the courage to keep writing, keep up the political work, and keep living with the woman she loves. She appreciates all this but still want Mrs Bartland for herself, the more she thinks and writes about women rights the more she feels that they are living a lie, and that they should instead be in the front row, not only in words but in actions.

**Fear:** Lately she has noticed that Mr Bartland has become more quiet and withdrawn, she is both sorry since she care for him and love him in a fashion, but also because she knows what power he has over Mrs Bartland. What if he withdraws his blessing of her and Mrs Bartlands closeness? She would be powerless.

*A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed*

*-Henrik Ibsen*

## **Mrs Bartland**

### *Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** Sometimes she cannot believe her luck, she has everything she ever wanted. Her dear Miss James by her side, and a husband who accepts and loves her unconditionally. Her marriage to Mr Bartland made her comfortable, affluent enough to hire miss James as a Lady companion. She knows that the feelings she and miss James have for each other is wrong in the eyes of the society. Mr Bartland has never stood in their way though, and she loves him for it. Still, it angers her that she had to marry for safety, that a man is her only way to social advancement and comfort. Miss James and she has long been evolved in the suffrage movement, Miss James by her writing and herself by meetings and protests.

**Relationship:** Miss James and she met at school and she instantly came to love her. As they became older and she realized that she had to marry for security. The thought would have been abhorrent if it was not for Mr Bartland. Ironically they met through Miss James, he was her publisher. As their acquaintance became more developed she grew to admire and love him for his mind, his kindness and his strong belief in fairness. The day he asked her to marry him she still doubted it. Her relationship with miss James was so important to her, she could not think to live without her. However, as he invited miss James to come live with them as her lady in waiting, yes, to even come along on their honeymoon, she understood that he knew, and accepted her for all that she was. In her mind she is equally married to both of them, and where her feelings to miss James are those of passion, her love and admiration to Mr Bartland is more akin to that of a close friend and confidant.

**Fear:** She knows it is a problem, that she loves them both, and she knows that Miss James is growing more possessive, more jealous. However she would never dare to leave him. She loves him, and respects him too much, also, the thought of the scandal, the social repercussions, it all scares her too much. She wishes that Miss James would see that Mr Bartland is protecting them, but lately their arguing has grown worse.

*“If there is such a thing as a good marriage it is because it resembles friendship rather than love”*

*- Michel de Montaigne*

## **Mr Bartland**

### *Upper middle class*

**Motivation:** He is an intelligent man, and he has made it his business. Through his publishing company he publishes Miss James's writings, and others like her, both men and women who make thoughts and words their occupation. Who with their pen helps shape society. He admires that with Miss James, and even if he lacks the words himself he is proud to be a part of the movement in his own right. He truly believes that women and men are each others equals, so why should he not support them in their endeavours? However the situation between him and his wife and her companion is a source of concern to him. He loves his wife, and has never had a reason to doubt her love for him, she has always been an ideal wife, and is both loyal and clever. However her strong connection to Miss James has never been a secret between the two of them and it is starting to become a worry, especially with the horrible curses that people tend to throw in the faces of suffragettes. He does know deep inside that his wife is fulfilling every one's nightmares when it comes to the suffragettes, and that makes him believe that she and Miss James should keep low profiles politically. To protect their common reputation as a family as well as the reputation of the suffragette movement.

**Relationship:** He loves his wife Mrs Bartland and respects her immensely. When it was clear that a marriage to her would always include Miss James in some shape or form he readily accepted it. Miss James is a close friend, just as his wife and any rivalry between the two has mostly been kept under wraps. Lately though he senses a new hostility in Miss James that worries him.

**Fear:** That the rumour of their unconventional family arrangement will come out and hurt not only his honor but the whole suffragette movement that is already under attack from puritans, religious and conservatives.

*"It is not the broken heart that kills, but the broken pride"*  
- Gilbert Parker

## **Mrs Norris**

### *Lower class*

**Motivation:** Life has never been fair to her. Brought up in the shadiest parts of town, lower class and on top of that a woman she quickly learnt that she would never get anything in life without a fight and she refused to just sit down and accept her place. Among the Suffragettes she finally got to know what it was like to fight side by side with others, towards a common goal and she wouldn't give that up for anything

**Relationship:** She married Mr Norris when they both were very young and it didn't take long for them to realise they had made a mistake but by then it was too late, the first child was already on it's way followed by three more. She considers the children to be the only good thing that has ever come out of their marriage and it's only for their sake she endures the endless arguments, mostly over her political involvement.

**Fear:** She and Mr Norris have been having terrible fights lately, one of them ending with him telling her that if she ever embarrassed herself, and him, again he would take the children away from her. She is now terrified that he will go through with his threats, except for the political cause the children are the only thing in her life she really loves.

*I'd rather be a rebel than a slave*  
*-Emmeline Pankhurst*

## **Mr Norris**

### *Lower class*

**Motivation:** He has always worked hard, day and night, to make the best out of his situation and provide for his family. Everything would have been perfectly bearable if his wife hadn't ruined everything. In spite of his vain attempts to get her to stop this Suffragette nonsense word got out about her involvement. When it reached his manager he got fired and now he's standing there with no money, no job and four children to feed.

**Relationship:** He has been against Mrs Norris political involvement from the beginning, time and time again he has told her that she is embarrassing not only herself but their whole family and now she has really taken it too far. He can't believe how incredibly selfish she is being. How can she not realise the damage she is doing, how much she is hurting their children by her immature actions?

**Fear:** All he ever wanted was a decent life for him and his family but he is starting to realise that will be impossible as long as his wife keep acting like this. He is desperate, he needs to get a new job soon but he's afraid that no one will want to hire a man with a criminal for a wife. Apart from that he is scared that her behavior will influence the children and make rebels out of them too. He has threatened to take them away from her before and if he can't get her to listen, that's what he will have to do.

*That is the thankless position of the father in the family, provider of all and enemy of all*  
*- August Strindberg*

## **Mrs O'Brian**

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** Sometimes a woman needs something that is just hers- and that is what her political engagement has been. A space where she can be herself. Even though she lives in fear that her husband will find out she still can't help but involve herself in the movement. She hates the way she and other women are like cattle, without power of their own life or the lawmakers that control society. She sees the violent struggle between Ireland and England and can't help but sympathize with the Irish, fighting for an independence not unlike the one she herself fight for in secrecy. She would never dare say anything in that regard to her husband of course, he would throw a fit! Thankfully he travels a lot to Ireland, overseeing their property there and then she has more freedom to engage in political activism. As long as she can keep her name out of the papers it should be fine.

**Relationship:** There is no love between her and her husband. Their marriage had the pretence of courting but everyone involved knew she was sold like a breeding horse, and english Lady for the Irish gentleman to establish him in England and London. In the beginning she did fancy him, but that quickly faded and as it is she can hardly stand him, nor his temper. He get's angry and violent and she always look forward to when he is gone with great anticipation. Her marriage is in many way a prison, and she blame the law for that.

**Fear:** She is deeply afraid that her husband will find out what she has been up to, she dare not think of what he might do if he found out. Beat her most likely, but what more? She feel like a trapped animal in their marriage, and the only way out is to gain the vote, get granted a juridical identity free from that of her husband. But she is terrified about what will happen if he ever find out what she is doing.

*“Why is it that men can be assholes and women have to wear pearls and smile? “*

*- Lynn Hecht Schafren*



## **Mr O'Brian**

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** Sometimes he wonders how he and his wife came to be such strangers. When they courted she had seemed like a perfect woman, sweet and gentle. But as the year added to their marriage he found a stubbornness in her that is most unladylike, a defiance, and spitefulness bordering to hate. He does not mean to get cross with her, but if she insists on behaving like a child and defy him he have to treat her like a child. He always deeply regrets when he hurts her. That is not the sort of man he want's to be, but she makes him so angry and he feels so alone in their marriage. He always apologizes as soon as he calms himself, and things gets better for a while. And for a moment he dares to be happy, dare to believe that she has matured, and understood. Until she ruins it all again. He spends more and more time in Ireland, he does not trust himself with her.

**Relationship:** He thinks he loves her still, despite it all, but he does not know her. Does not understand this person whom he shares his life with. She seem to be bent on doing anything provoke him. All he wanted from her was consolation, someone to share his life with, to better his prospects together with. Instead she seem to hate him, doing anything in her power to ruin them both. He does not see what he could ever have done to deserve that from her.

**Fear:** He is terrified that his place in society will be threatened by his wife's actions and would do anything to protect them both from her childish rebellions. He is acutely aware of how dependent he is on her to keep a clean surface towards their acquaintances but he feels like he cannot trust her.

*“Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured”*

*- Mark Twain*

## **Mrs Parker**

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** She has been burning for the suffrage movement her whole life. Her mother was a part of the movement and organized a lot of fundraisers that she took part of as a child. The belief that women need the right to vote because the politics needs female values has always been a part of her. Women are caring, they don't make war but think of how to help a country grow, like a child, a people need to be nurtured and educated. Had women the vote, these issues would become more important. It was clear early on that she was a good speaker and so she often came to be the one holding the speeches, Her class protecting her from shame. Her husband is her biggest supporter, always putting her and the fight for the vote in front of his own wishes and pleasures. However lately she has been feeling poorly. Her doctor says it's her heart and that she need to rest. However, the movement needs her, and her husband want's her to stay agitating, fighting, he knows how important she are for the fight, for keeping the others going.

**Relationship:** She loves her husband very much and put a lot of faith in his judgement. He has always supported her advanced position in the suffrage movement, helped with money, and pushed for her right to do what she wants. He is a burning activist himself. She don't want to disappoint him but her poor health is making her tired and weak. She has to power through for his sake though. After all his sacrifices he deserves her devotion.

**Fear:** She fear that her poor heart will lead her to collapse in a middle of a speech or even more likely a riot. She believes in the fight, but is it worth her sacrificing her life? Is that what is waiting for her if she keeps pushing on despite her doctor's recommendation? Will her husband be disappointed in her if she steps back from the front line?

*"They never fail who die in a great cause"*

*-Lord Byron*

## **Mr Parker**

### *Upper class*

**Motivation:** He has always been on the women's side in the suffrage movement. Growing up with 4 sisters, all equal to himself in intelligence and logic but so unequal to him in opportunity has firmly set his position on women's right to vote. It was through the movement he met his wife, and it is in the movement their relationship has grown strong. She is in many ways his idol, he is aware of her superiority as a public speaker, the fierceness that drives her is personal and therefore more effective. That is why he constantly support her choices to keep fighting politically. Even now when she is sick. Maybe more now than ever before it is important that she stays firmly in the front line. They are so very close!

**Relationship:** He loves his wife with a fiery devotion, and respects and admire her skill as an agitator. He is of course worried about her health, recently their doctor told them that his wife has a weak heart. However he would never want to be in the way of her life work, the fight for voting rights. Especially now, she needs to depend on his strength and unwavering support.

**Fear:** He secretly is afraid that she will give up the fight. He knows how close they are to make a breakthrough and how important Mrs Parker is for the movement. In the same way he also fears that her heart is too weak to stand the pressure of the fight. Could he love her if she gave up the political fight for selfish reasons? Is not their mutual unselfish sacrifices for the suffrage movement what has always tied them together?

*"Love is sacrifice"*

*- David Oyelowo*

## **Mr Smith**

### *Low class*

**Motivation:** He strongly believe in women rights. It was through his activism within the socialist party he met his wife, and the two of them have been married two years. She is his strongest reason to continue the political fight. She is one of the most clever people he ever met, she would make a better Prime minister than any man he knows, and still she is a child under the law. It makes him angry, but also motivated to stand by her, help her, encourage her and even sometimes pressure her when she gets cold feet. She is the one who needs to be in the frontline, this is her war, all he can do is help and support her in any way he can.

**Relationship:** He loves his wife more than anything in the world and admire her immensely. Lately he have started to worry though, she is not as close to him as she used to be and seem occupied. Maybe it is the politics, and the disappointments and setbacks taking a toll on her. He needs to be strong and positive for her, help her find the strength to continue on.

**Fear:** Deep inside he fear that his wife settled for him. That she never loved him as much as he loves her, is that why she has been so distracted lately? What will he do? How can he make her see how much she means to him?

*“I think God made a woman to be strong and not to be trampled under the feet of men.”  
-Little Richard*

## **Mrs Smith**

### *Low class*

**Motivation:** She is passionate about the suffrage movement, of course! She has listened to speeches and even held some. She went to protests, she created a social club, and she even organized within the socialist movement to try and make them push for women right. That is where she met her husband. She used to think that the right to vote, to independence was the only thing that truly mattered to her but lately she have been having doubts. she went to the doctor the other day, and found out that her suspicions were correct, she is with child. She has not dared to tell her husband yet. There is no room in their life for a child, They have no money, no time, no security. And can she really continue on in the suffrage movement as a mother? Putting herself and her child in danger?

**Relationship:** She loves Mr Smith, with all her heart. He is her hero, he is kind, supportive and loving. Maybe too supportive. She feels like it puts a burden on her in a way. A need to not be less than he thinks that she is. To not disappoint him. Maybe that is why she have not told him that she is pregnant, because she know how it will change everything, but she does not know how.

**Fear:** She seem to be only fear lately. She is afraid of losing the baby, afraid of having the baby. Afraid of what her husband might say, and what he might not say. Afraid of the responsibility, afraid of her fear.

*“To be a good mother, a woman must have sense, and that independence of mind which few women possess who are taught to depend entirely on their husbands”*

*-Mary Woolstonecraft*

## Miss Fay

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** She has always yearned for education, the opportunity to go to university, and the chance to actually make a career for herself. She was lucky enough to be born into a family who listened to her and allowed her to follow her dreams. Even though they lived in a small town on the countryside they let her apply to the University of London and when she got admitted they arranged for her to move in with her uncle who lived in the city. She felt like a whole new world suddenly opened up for her and she finally knew there would be more to her life than just making some man a good wife one day. When she came in contact with the suffrage movement she found another goal in life, to fight for a world where all women would be able to get the same opportunities as herself.

**Relationship:** When she came to London, meeting a man and falling in love was the last thing on her mind but when Mr Spencer one day appeared on the same suffrage meeting as herself she just couldn't help it. He was not like any other man she had ever met, no one had ever taken her as seriously and listened to her as an actual equal before. He asked her to marry him a few months later and she said yes, in spite of her general hesitation towards marriage. She knows that he would never try to change her or prevent her from fulfilling her dreams.

**Fear:** She is very passionate about the cause and truly believes in it, but she never imagined the impact it could have on her life. She has noticed that people are starting to whisper about her at the university. Now she's scared that this will interfere with her education, she even fears it could get her kicked out of the university. Is all of this really worth to risk her own future and everything she's worked so hard for?

*"You must get an education. You must go to school, and you must learn to protect yourself. And you must learn to protect yourself with the pen, and not the gun. "*

*-Josephine Baker*

## **Mr Spencer**

### *Middle class*

**Motivation:** He has always been a firm believer in equality. He thinks that all people should have the same opportunities in life regardless of their economical background and gender and he dreams of a world where these thoughts could become reality. He hadn't heard much about the suffrage movement until he started his studies at the university but when he did it immediately caught his interest. He started going to meetings and seminars about the subject and the more he got involved the more passionate he became. The thought that all of these intelligent, competent women should not have the same privileges as himself, the right to vote or the chance to participate in ruling the country seemed more and more absurd and even though he is fully aware that people are mocking him for it and laughing behind his back he will not stop until the rest of the male population feels the same way!

**Relationship:** He met his fiancée miss Fay during on of his earliest suffrage meetings. Afterwards they wandered around the town all night talking about politics, philosophy and of course equality and women's rights. He fell in love with her right away and a few months later they got engaged. She is the most amazing woman, no - person, he has ever met. He admires her intelligence, knowledge and courage deeply and can't wait to spend the rest of his life with her.

**Fear:** He has been encouraging Miss Fay to get deeper involved with the movement, taking part in more meetings and protests. At the same time he can not ignore the stories about violence of the movement and suffragettes being imprisoned and treated horribly. The thought of his beloved fiancée having to go through something like that scares him. Would he ever be able to forgive himself if that would happen?

*“Equality, citizens, is not the whole of society on a level, a society of tall blades of grass and small oaks, or a number of entangled jealousies. It is, legally speaking, every aptitude having the same opportunity for a career; politically all consciences having the same right.”*

*-Victor Hugo*