



2018 is the centenary of the Representation of the People Act  
that became law on February 6<sup>th</sup> 1918  
and gave the first women the right to vote in the UK

# The Representation of the People Act of 1918

- The 1918 Representation of the People Act was the start of female suffrage in Great Britain. The bill was passed by an overwhelming majority in the House of Commons (385 for to 55 against) – an element of support that surprised the Suffragettes and other suffragist movements.
- The 1918 Representation of the People Act gave women of property over the age of 30 the right to vote – not all women, therefore, could vote – but it was a major start.

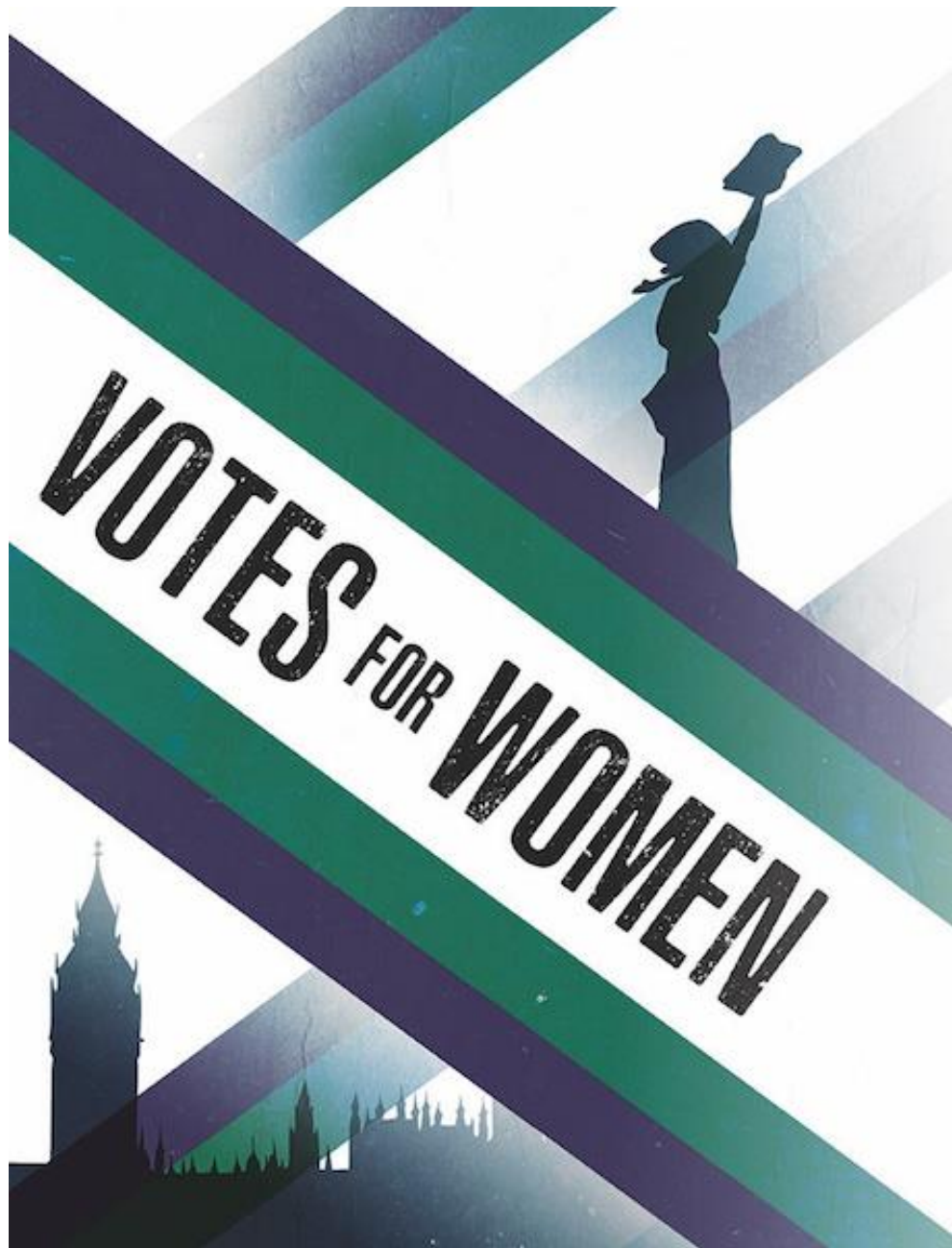


Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847 – 1929) was a leading Suffragist and campaigner for equal rights for women. She led the biggest suffrage organisation, the non-violent (NUWSS) from 1890-1919 and played a key role in gaining women the vote.



# Suffragists

- 1897 - Millicent Fawcett founded the **National Union of Women's Suffrage (NUWS)**.
- Believed in peaceful protest. Any violence or trouble would show men that women could not be trusted to have the right to vote. Her game plan was patience and logical arguments.
- The NUWSS held public meetings, organised petitions, wrote letters to politicians, published newspapers and distributed free literature.
- The main demand was for the vote on the same terms "as it is, or may be" granted to men.
- By 1911 the NUWSS had 26,000 members  
In 1913 the NUWSS had nearly had 100,000 members



# VOTE

♀ 1918-2018

