

Chronology - women's rights

1659 Anna Maria von Schurman: **The Learned Maid; or, Whether a Maid May Be a Scholar.**

1694 Mary Astell: "A Serious Proposal to the Ladies for the Advancement of Their True and Greatest Interest."

1792 Mary Wollstonecraft: **A Vindication of the Rights of Woman**

1803 Methodist conference bans women from preaching.

1813 Jane Austen: **Pride and Prejudice.**

1818 Mary Shelley: **Frankenstein.**

1823 John Stuart Mill jailed for distributing pamphlets on birth control.

1825 Anna Wheeler/William Thompson: **Appeal of One Half of the Human Race.**

1832 **First Reform Act**

1837 Grimke: **Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Women.**

1839 Child Custody Act (now possible for a mother to be given custody of her children under seven).

1840 Judge upholds a man's right to lock up his wife and beat her in moderation.

1842 Ashely's **Mines Act** (women and children excluded from the mines).

1843 Mrs. Hugo Reid: **A Plea for Woman, Being a Vindication of the Importance and Extent of her Natural Sphere of Action.**

1844 **Factory Act** (women and children).

1847 first leaflet on female suffrage published

1847 & 1850

Factory Acts (women and children restricted to 10 1/2 hour day).

1848

Queen's College, London, established for women who intend to teach.

1849

Bedford College for Women founded.

Charlotte Brontë: **Shirley.**

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Harriet Taylor: "The Enfranchisement of Women."

Women's Suffrage Petition presented to the House of Lords.

1851 Founding of Sheffield Association for female franchise

1852

Judge rules that a man may not force his wife to live with him.

1855

George Eliot: "Margaret Fuller and Mary Wollstonecraft."

Stephen Fullom: **The History of Woman, And her Connexion with Religion, Civilization, and Domestic Manners, from the earliest period** (denounced by George Eliot).

Mrs. Gaskell: **North and South.**

Harriet Martineau: **Autobiography.**

1856

Caroline Frances Cornwallis: "The Property of Married Women."

Bessie Parkes: **Remarks on the Education of Girls.**

1857

Association for the Promotion of the Employment of Women established.

Matrimonial Causes Act (legally separated wife given right to keep what she earns; man may divorce wife for adultery, whereas wife must prove adultery aggravated by cruelty or desertion).

1859

George Eliot: **Adam Bede.**

1860 George Eliot: **The Mill on the Floss.**

1863 **Contagious Diseases Acts** (women living in certain garrison towns liable to be declared prostitutes and forcibly examined for venereal disease).

1866 First women's suffrage petition presented to parliament. First London public meeting on women's franchise

1866

Barbara (Leigh Smith) Bodichon: "Reasons for the Enfranchisement of Women."

1867 Second Reform Act : J S Mill's amendment to include women defeated

1867 Campaign to get women's names on electoral register

1868 Josephine Butler: **The Education and Employment of Women.**

1868 National Society for women's suffrage

1869

First women's college at Cambridge founded (Girton College).

Extension of municipal franchise (right to vote) to women ratepayers.

John Stuart Mill: **On the Subjection of Women.**

1870

First Married Woman's Property Act.

Ladies National Association for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts founded by Josephine Butler.

Education Act (right of women to serve on School Boards).

John D. Milne: **Industrial Employment of Women, in the Middle and Lower Ranks.**

1870 Women's Suffrage Journal published.

1870 Quaker women had property confiscated for refusing to pay taxes

1872 Secret Ballot

1874 First Manchester Suffrage meeting

1875 First female Poor Law Guardian elected

1881 Women in the Isle of Man get the vote

1882 Married Women's Property Act

1884 Third Reform Act

1890 Women's franchise league

1892 Women's emancipation league

1893 First women factory inspectors appointed

1897 National Union of Women's Suffrage societies

1902 Education Act

1903 Women's Social and Political Union

1905 Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney arrested for causing a disturbance

1906 Government refuses to support an amendment to give vote to some women

1907 Women's freedom league
1907 First women's parliament established by WSPU

1907 Women's Suffrage Bill rejected

1908 Women's Suffrage Bill passed first reading

1908 First window smashing and chaining to railings

Common Cause published

1909 Women's suffrage bill passed second reading but abandoned by government

1909 Hunger Strike; first forced feeding

1911 Boycott of census

1912 mass window smashing; attempted arson; letter box damage

NUWSS-Labour Party alliance established

1913 Golf courses ruined; telegraph wires cut; arson attacks

protest chanting in churches

1913 Emily Davison dies under King's horse on Derby Day

1913 Suffragette published

1913 Cat and Mouse Act

1913 Government Franchise bill introduced universal male suffrage but an amendment to enfranchise women was declared unconstitutional

1914 Rokeby Venus slashed; suffragette demonstration to Buckingham Palace

1914 Militancy ceases when war is declared

1918 Representation of the People Act (Enfranchised all men over 21, and all women over 30).

1928 Equal Franchise Act (Equal voting rights for both men and women).

