

Oracy Tasks Activity: W/c 6th July – **Feisty Females!**

Female Firsts - This week has seen a lot of **firsts for women** throughout the ages, including one of the first female political acts! During this week in 1040, Lady Godiva, who had no political voice or vote, rode naked on horseback through Coventry to force her husband, the Earl of Mercia, to lower taxes.

Extreme!

This week also saw the first woman in the British Empire to gain a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1877, the first ever female Olympic champion in 1900 and the first ever black female Wimbledon Tennis champion in 1958.

Interesting fact:

In 2018 Sandra Oh became the 1st Asian female to be nominated for Emmy Award in a leading role - Only 2 years ago!

Fearless Females - Another remarkable event happened during this week in 2013.



[Malala Yousafzai](#), just 16 years old, addressed the United Nations & called for worldwide access to education. Malala was shot in the head by Taliban gunmen - her "crime", to have spoken up for the right of girls to be educated in her native Pakistan. The world reacted in horror, but after weeks in intensive care in England Malala survived. 8 years after being shot, she graduated from the University of Oxford

Watch highlights of Malala's incredible UN speech here: 

Task 1: Did you know that many children across the world have no access to education, especially females? Your education will help you to get a good job. Can you write a *short speech* advocating for all young people to receive an education, wherever they are from? Share it with your classmates!



Feisty Feminists (Pro tip – boys can be feminists too!) – Here we are in 2020, still fighting for equal rights for women and girls! Females can stand up for their rights because of feisty feminists who fought to get them in the first place ([thank you Pankhurst sisters!](#)) Women have the vote today because the Women's Suffrage Movement fought to get it in 1918 but the fight was far from over. It wasn't illegal to discriminate against women until 1975 and it was American feminist activists who led the way.

[Gloria Steinem](#) is an American writer, author, activist and feminist icon, aptly referred to as the "Mother of Feminism," Gloria Steinem led the [women's liberation movements](#) throughout the '60s and '70s—and continues to do so today. At age 85, Steinem says she has no intention of passing on her torch but instead will use it to light others'. She reflects on her unusual upbringing and offers her brief but spectacular take on the women's movement rights below:



Watch this short clip of Gloria Steinem 



See our timeline below for more information on the gains of the feminist movement in the UK.



What have women fought in recent years?

2018 became the year that 'Women fought back'. The #MeToo movement took off and women from all over the world, from many different classes & cultures spoke out about their experiences of sexual assault. It came as shock to many to learn that famous & powerful women had also been victims.



The movement made people realise that the silence of women about these experiences, from embarrassment or fear, had enabled abuse to thrive. The movement led to the **'Time's Up'** campaign, spearheaded in the UK by £1M donation from Emma Watson. Women & girls spoke out and said, 'no more!'

Watch a roundup of 2018 female activism here →



And watch **Viola Davis'** powerful speech on Tarana Burke, a woman of colour and the original founder of the **#MeToo**



Task 2: Is there anything left for women & girls to fight for? Debate this topic with your class/or at home:

"Women have legal equality in the western world so there is no need for a feminist movement anymore in the UK"

Agree or Disagree?

Jameela Jamil is a British actress/presenter and activist for young women. She created an Instagram account called **'I Weigh'** inspired by finding a picture of the Kardashians and their advertised weight.

↓ Please see video below explaining why she set up this campaign:



She raises awareness on the power of social media and airbrushed images setting unrealistic and unattainable standards, and therefore promoting **unhealthy behaviours** such as eating disorders in young people.

She is known for criticising other celebrities who have used their platforms to promote unhealthy body images to millions of young female followers and she herself has faced some backlash to this as always seeming to target other women. HOWEVER her campaigning including the creation of a petition via change.org, titled "Stop

celebrities promoting toxic diet products on social media" has had an effect and *Instagram and Facebook have both changed their policy around advertising to under 18s.*

Task 3: Challenge for positive change

Jameela has spoken out against many celebrities and big companies and challenged them to change. If you could challenge something you see as wrong, discriminatory or unfair to young people – how could you challenge? NOW think of 3 things you would like to challenge and could do to challenge something you see as unfair.

Present your campaign ideas in class and ask teacher to send best ideas to us at Aimhigher! Lucia.byrne@kingston.ac.uk or j.marcham@kingston.ac.uk

Interesting fact:

Jameela now refuses to allow any of her images in the media to be airbrushed as she believes that it's not only harmful to her audience but also to herself and the way she views her



Reproductive rights and sexual health

1866

Abortion has been outlawed by the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

English common law has set the age of consent to between 10 and 12.¹ Diaphragms and rubber condoms are available but rarely used and not available for unmarried women.²

1877

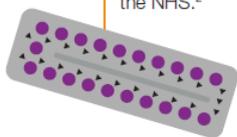
Annie Besant and Charles Bradlaugh trialled for obscene libel after publishing 'The Fruits of Philosophy' a book about contraception.³

1885

The age of consent is raised to 16.⁴

1961

Contraceptive Pill first becomes available on the NHS.²



1967

Abortion Act gives women in the UK (excluding Northern Ireland) abortion rights with certain conditions.⁵

1972

The National Health Service (Family Planning) Amendment Act allows local health authorities to provide vasectomy services on the same basis as other contraceptive services.²

2016

Women in England, Scotland and Wales still need the approval of 2 doctors before they can get an abortion. Women in N Ireland can only have an abortion if they are at risk of dying.

Just 53% of young women are taught about their choices should they get pregnant and only 67% are taught about contraception.⁶

The abortion rate for under 18s is going down, for women aged over 30 it's going up.⁷

Violence against women

1891

The right to use corporal punishment on a wife is removed.

1866

At the point of marriage a husband is responsible for his wife and children and can use force to control them although laws do exist to imprison men who beat their wives too severely.

The concept of rape within marriage does not exist.⁸

1971

The charity Refuge opens the first safe house in Chiswick, west London, for women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

1895

A City of London byelaw makes it illegal to hit your wife between the hours of 10pm and 7am because the noise is keeping people awake.⁹

1994

Rape in marriage is made a crime.⁸

2004

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act makes common assault an arrestable offence.¹²

2015

Coercive control becomes a criminal offence.¹⁴

2016

On average, two women a week are killed each year by a current or former male partner.¹⁵ Reported incidents of domestic violence have increased by 31% since 2013.¹⁶

Over 137,000 women in England and Wales are already living with the consequences of FGM.¹⁷

107,104 violence against women crimes are reported a year.¹⁸

Violence against Muslims is increasing, with Muslim women particularly likely to be targeted.¹⁹

Recl@im the Internet is established to tackle misogyny and sexism online.²⁰

2014

Clare's law is introduced allowing police to disclose details of an abusive partner's past.¹³



Home & family

1921

House of Commons tries to make sexual acts between women outlawed in the Criminal Law Amendment Act but is defeated by the House of Lords.²²

1866

Marriage is defined in law as being between a man and a woman (preventing future same-sex marriages). A married woman and all she owns belong to her husband.²¹

1945

Family Allowances Act introduces child benefit of 5 shillings a week per child. Until the 1940s single parents relied on charity or the workhouse.²⁴

1925

The Law of Property Act allows both husband and wife to inherit property equally.²³

1986

Statutory maternity pay introduced.²⁶ Bastardy Act repealed by the Family Law Reform Act, finally gives children born outside marriage the same legal status as those born in marriage.²⁷

1971

Dads spend 15 minutes per day caring for children. By 1997 this has risen to 2 hours per day, and 2.7 hours in 2011.²⁵

2003

Dads become entitled to 2 weeks paid paternity leave.²⁹

2002

Parliament passes measures allowing gay, lesbian and unmarried couples to adopt children, and equal access to the right to request flexible working first introduced for parents of young or disabled children.²⁸

2014

Shared parental leave is introduced giving a mother the right to transfer periods of leave to father.³⁰

2016

Take up of shared parental leave in the UK predicted to be 8%. In Sweden it's 80%.³¹

Around 54,000 women lose their jobs a year due to pregnancy discrimination.³²

Men are less likely than women to request flexible working and more likely to have a request turned down.³³

Almost 60% of women are working in jobs where they can change their hours.³⁴

25% of the workforce have requested flexible work with an 80% success rate.³⁵



Education

1869

The first women's college, Girton College, Cambridge is founded by Emily Davies.³⁷

1866

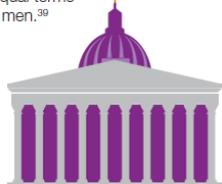
Education is seen as a way of making girls better wives and mothers. Women have no access to higher education.³⁶

1878

The University of London becomes the first university in the UK to accept women on equal terms with men.³⁹

1871

Newham College, Cambridge co-founded by Millicent Fawcett.³⁸



1880

Four women graduate from University of London.⁴⁰

1993

Equality between women and men in higher education enrolment is reached.⁴²

1944

Education Act makes secondary education free, raises school leaving age to 15 and outlaws the marriage bar for teachers.⁴¹

2009

Women aged 17-20 outnumber and out-perform men of the same age in higher education with 37% of men in higher education compared to 49% women.⁴³

2016

45% of academics are female, but are only 22% of professors.⁴⁴

Male graduates continue to earn more (£24 - 27k) than female graduates (£21 - £24k) even when compared to women who did the same subject, went to a similar university and went into the same industry.⁴⁵

2012

Women are just 3% of the 13,280 Engineering apprentices, and 93% of the 25,840 Children's Care apprentices.

**DESPITE
DEBATE
GAINS:
GAINS:**

37% of schoolgirls have been sexually harassed in school and only 14% reported it

1/3 of girls aged 11-21 have faced bullying about their appearance

24% of girls at mixed secondary schools have experienced unwanted physical touching

25% of teachers in secondary school say they witness gender stereotyping & discrimination daily

Approx. 85,000 women are raped in England & Wales every year

1 in 4 girls will self-harm before they leave school and incidents have doubled in last 6 years

Girls as young as 5 are worrying about their weight. By the age of ten 80% of girls will be on a diet to change their body shape.

Teenage girls are now more likely to suffer partner abuse than any other age group. 12.7% of girls aged 16-19 have experienced domestic abuse in the last year alone

Work

1914 - 18

During WWI women's employment reaches 46.7%.⁴⁸

1888

Clementina Black, Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, secures the first successful equal pay resolution at Trades Union Congress.⁴⁶

1,400 women at Bryant & May go on strike in protest of the poor wages and dangerous conditions in the matchstick factory led by Annie Besant.⁴⁷

1939 - 1945

During WWII 90% of single women and 80% of married women are working in factories or on the land.⁵⁰



1920

The Sex Discrimination Removal Act allows women access to the legal profession and accountancy.⁴⁹

1973

Women are allowed to join the London Stock Exchange for the first time.⁵²

1968

Ford Dagenham sewing machinists' strike, leading to the Equal Pay Act 1970.⁵¹

1990

Independent taxation for women is introduced and for the first time, married women.⁵⁴

1975

The Sex Discrimination Act makes it illegal to discriminate against women in work, education and training and implements the 1970 Equal Pay Act.⁵³

1999

The Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations, makes it illegal for employers to discriminate against trans people.⁵⁵

2016

The pay gap now stands at 13.9% for full-time work, at the current rate of progress it will take 50 years to close the gender pay gap.⁵⁶ A female apprentice earns on average £2000 less than a male apprentice over the year.⁵⁷

Just 22% of women will receive the full amount of the new single tier state pension compared to 50% of men.⁵⁸

Occupational segregation remains common – for example, women are 77% of secretaries and only 13% of QCs and 6% of engineers, much higher earning professions.^{59 60}

Women at the top

1922

Dr. Ivy Williams is the first woman to be called to the Bar in England (1922)⁶² and first woman to be awarded the degree of Doctor of Civil Law in Oxford (1923).



1865

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (sister of Millicent Fawcett) is the first Englishwoman to be openly recognized a surgeon.⁶¹

1943

Dame Anne Loughlin becomes the first female president of the TUC.⁶⁴

1929

Margaret Bondfield becomes the first British Female Cabinet Minister (1929).⁶³

1973

Sybil Phoenix is the first black woman to be given an MBE.⁶⁶



1955

Baroness Sharp becomes the first female Permanent Secretary within the Civil Service.⁶⁵

2015

Libby Lane - First Female Bishop to the Church of England (2015).⁶⁸

Bobbie Cheema-Grubb QC becomes the first Asian woman High Court judge.⁶⁹

Major General Susan Ridge becomes the first ever female senior officer in the British Army.⁷⁰

2016

Women make up: 39% of senior civil service roles⁷¹, 14% of police commissioners⁷², 21% of high court judges⁷³ and 12.7% of Officers in the armed forces.⁷⁴

Only 26% of FSTE 100 boards members are women.⁷⁵

Women chair only 12% of all Higher Education Institutions and lead only 17% of them as Vice Chancellors.⁷⁶

1997

Marjorie Scardino becomes the first female FTSE CEO.⁶⁷

Political representation

1907

Under the Qualification of Women Act, women can be elected onto borough and county councils and can also be elected mayor.⁷⁷

1866

1500 signatures are collected for a petition for women's votes which is presented to the House of Commons by John Stuart Mill.

Only some women (normally those paying household rates such as single women and widows) can vote and only in some local and municipal elections. Women cannot vote in national elections.

1919

Nancy Astor is the first woman to take her seat in parliament.⁷⁹

1918

Women over 30, with certain property qualifications, are granted the right to vote in Britain. Constance Markievicz becomes the first woman elected to parliament.⁷⁸

1958

The Life Peerages Act entitles women to sit in the House of Lords for the first time. Baroness Swanborough, Lady Reading and Baroness Barbara Wootton are the first to take their seats.⁸⁰

1928

Women are given universal suffrage on the same terms as men.⁷⁹

1997

All women short lists used for the first time, despite being struck down by an employment tribunal in 1996. They are subsequently legalised in 2002.⁸²

1979

Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female prime minister.⁸¹

2016

29% of MPs are women. The UK ranks 39th in the world for representation of women in parliament.⁸⁴

32% of the cabinet are women.⁸⁵

33% of local councillors women.⁸⁶

15% of council leaders.⁸⁷

2015

Harbhajan Kaur Dheer, becomes the first Asian woman elected Mayor in Ealing.⁸³

