SUFFRAGE TIMELINE

1866 first mass women’s suffrage petition to Parliament

1867 first debate on women’s suffrage in Parliament led by John Stuart Mill

1897 National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) founded; Millicent Garrett Fawcett becomes president in 1907

1904 WSPU slogan ‘Votes for Women’ used for first time by Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney when they interrupted a meeting led by Edward Grey; both were arrested

1905 WSPU ‘mud march’; NUWSS ‘mud march’; WSPU splits and Women’s Freedom League founded

1906 WSPU HQ moved to London Clements Inn; ‘suffragette’ used in the Daily Mail for the first time

1909 first hunger strike by Marion Wallace-Dunlop

1912 Emmeline Pankhurst arrested at Buckingham Palace

1913 Cat and Mouse Act; Women’s pilgrimage to London

1914 The Representation of the People Act passed in Parliament. This gave women over the age of 30 who owned property, as well as all men over the age of 21, the right to vote

14 December 1918 8.5 million women over 30 vote in a general election for the first time; 40% of women in the UK

1919 The first woman to be elected to the Commons was Constance Markievicz, as a member of Sinn Fein she did not take her seat. The first woman who took her seat was Nancy Astor, after a by-election in December 1919

1928 The Equal Franchise Act enabled women to vote on an equal basis with men