The first women's movement
Suffragist struggles in the 19th and early 20th centuries

**Chronology:** The status of women in England

1792  Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women* presents the first clear statement of the need for political and civil equality for women
1832  First female suffrage petition presented to Parliament by Mary Smith
1857  Matrimonial Causes Act sets up divorce courts. Women obtained limited access to divorce, though, unlike men, this could only be obtained on a specific cause other than adultery. Rights of access to children after divorce extended. Women given right to their property after a legal separation or a protection order given as a result of husband's desertion
1867  The Manchester Women's Suffrage Committee was established
1867  John Stuart Mill published speech on *Admission of Women to Electoral Franchise* followed by *The Subjection of Women* (1869)
1872  Local women suffrage societies united to form a Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage
1873  Custody of Infants Act extended access to children to all women in the event of separation or divorce
1882  Married Women's Property Act allowed women to own and administer their property
1884  Married Women's Property Act makes a woman no longer a “chattel” but an independent and separate person
1886  Guardianship of Infants Act
1889  Emmeline Pankhurst (1858-1928) founded the Women's Franchise League
1894  Local Government Act. Women eligible to vote for parochial councils
1897  Foundation of National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, a federation of existing women's suffrage groups under the presidency of Mrs Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929)
1903  Foundation of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) by E.Pankhurst and her two daughters, named the Suffragette Movement
1918  The Representing People Act gave more representation to women (8.5 millions over 30 years)
1928  Equal Franchise Act, universal suffrage was granted to all women
**Chronology:** Woman Suffrage in the United States

1820s In her writings *Course of Popular Lectures* and *Free Enquirer* Fanny Wright's advocated vote for women, birth control, more liberal divorce laws, free secular education

1869 The National Woman Suffrage Association (NSWA) was formed by Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902) and Susan B. Anthony

1870 Lucy Stone, Julia Ward Howe and other leaders formed the American Woman Suffrage Association

1890 Wyoming became the first state to grant women the right to vote

1890 Suffragists came together in a new organisation, the American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

1893 Colorado granted women the right to vote

1896 followed by Idaho and Utah

1910 to 1912 Washington, California, Kansas, Oregon and Arizona followed the lead of the other western states by enfranchising women

1913 Alice Paul founded the Congressional Union and later renamed it the National Woman's Party

1917 New York opened the way to the states east of the Mississippi River in adopting universal suffrage

1918 Woodrow Wilson announced that women's suffrage was urgently needed as a “war measure”

1920 Universal woman suffrage, Nineteenth Amendment

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