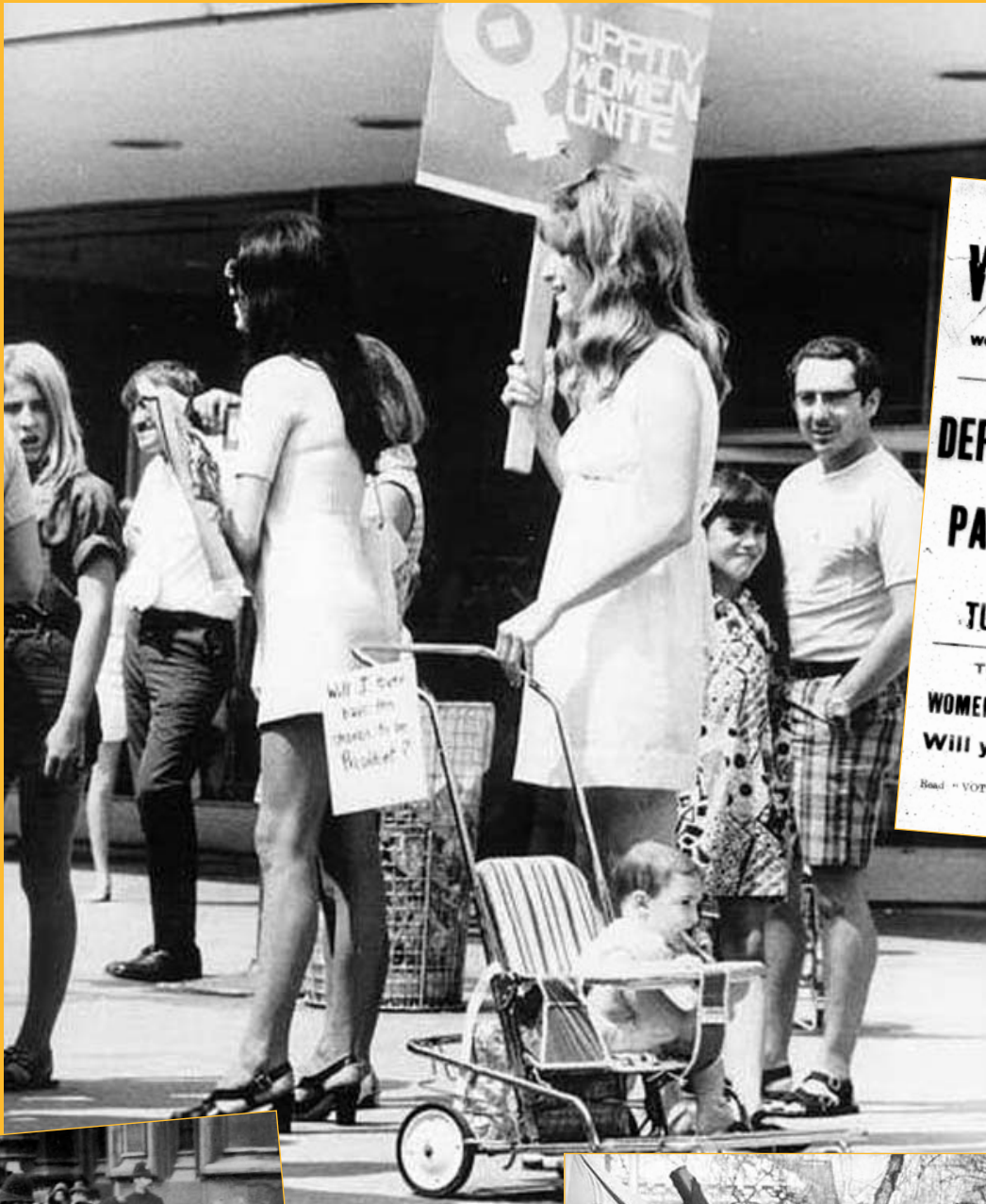


# SEX AND GENDER

Manuscript Sources from The National Archives



Adam Matthew Publications

*"It is wonderful to have this material available. Unpublished Government sources concerning the Women's Suffrage issue have not been fully exploited."*

Professor Harold L Smith, Department of History, University of Houston-Victoria



**Parts 1 & 2** of this project examine the lives of women in the twentieth century - in Africa, in Asia, in Australasia and in Europe. The material provides a wonderful resource for gender studies courses doing comparative work. It includes detailed documentary evidence concerning issues as diverse as:

- ♦ footbinding in China
- ♦ female circumcision in Kenya
- ♦ women's rights in Cuba
- ♦ brothel keeping in Hong Kong
- ♦ prostitution and the white slave trade
- ♦ witchcraft in Uganda
- ♦ the political views of women in Egypt

One of the great appeals of this project is that it draws upon a wide range of classes from The National Archives at Kew, with complete documents taken from the AR, CAB, CO, DO, FO, HO, LAB, LO, PREM, T and WO classes. Much of this material will be unfamiliar and has been underutilised.

There is excellent detail on the social conditions of women and children throughout the Empire and on the implementation of social welfare programmes. Nationality and identity are important themes.

Another major theme covered is women's suffrage. New Zealand was the first country to give women the vote and there is important material here on discussions to extend the franchise in India, Palestine, South Africa and other territories. There is also material by Annie Besant on Dominion Status for India.

A substantial section of material is devoted to UN Commission on the Status of Women. There is a strong focus on Human Rights issues, records of meetings and many questionnaires with good responses regarding Tanganyika, Gambia, Nigeria, the Cameroons and other African countries

**Parts 3 & 4** are an ideal source for anyone studying the rise of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s and the push for equal pay and equal opportunities.

Once again, the material is drawn from a host of classes at The National Archives at Kew:

- ♦ There are detailed discussions of European legislation on equal pay, 1962-1963.

There are the papers of the Ministry of Labour's Working Party on Equal Pay, 1964-1966.

There is important material on sex discrimination in recruitment and employment in the armed forces, and proposals for the employment of women, 1964-1967.

We include Barbara Castle's Cabinet Papers on Equal Pay from 1969, Papers on the Equal Pay Bill of 1970, and Baroness Sear's study of the Bill and its impact on the employment of women.

There is also material for earlier periods, covering the political debates of the early 20th century and developments during and following the First World War. These include:

- ♦ The Committee of Enquiry into women's wages in relation to men, 1917-1918.
- ♦ The National Whitley Council Report of 1920 on the position of women in Britain.
- ♦ Papers on the Married Women (Employment) Bill, 1927.
- ♦ Papers on women factory inspectors.
- ♦ Papers on women working in the National Health Service.
- ♦ Cabinet correspondence on the post-war position of women in industry and the professions, 1942.
- ♦ Cabinet Papers of the Royal Commission on Equal Pay, 1944-1950.
- ♦ Papers of the International Labour Office Conference in Geneva, 1950, on equal pay.



These manuscript papers track the progress of Trade Union activity, the work of campaign pressure groups and committees, the Royal Commission on Equal Pay, political debates, government legislation and amendments, the Treaty of Rome and EC directives. This project will open up a wide array of

documentary evidence allowing scholars and researchers scope for many new avenues of exploration and analysis. The files are rich in statistical data on the full spectrum of jobs, trades and professions.

This is a vital resource for studying women's rights and the status of women in twentieth century society.

## SEX AND GENDER

Manuscript Sources from The National Archives

**Part 1:** Empire and Suffrage (AR, CAB, CO and DO files)

**Part 2:** Empire and Suffrage (FO, HO, LAB, LO, PREM, T and WO files)

**Part 3:** Equal Opportunities and Pay (ADM, AIR, BL, BN, CAB, CO, ED, FO, HO, LAB, LCO, MAF, MEPO, MH, MUN, PIN, PREM and T 1 files)

**Part 4:** Equal Opportunities and Pay (T 162, T 163, T 171, T 172, T 189, T 214, T 215, T 217, T 273, T 275, T 328 and WO 32 files)

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