

## Lady Rhondda Workshop Plan

by Mab Jones

[www.mabjones.com](http://www.mabjones.com)

(5 mins) Introductions.

(10 mins) What can't young people do that adults can? Discuss these can and can'ts and their relative value e.g. alcohol is forbidden, but in France children sip it at meals; voting is only for adults, but don't children have a voice as well?

**Make lists of can'ts in 2 x groups and discuss.**

(5 mins) Is it right that some groups have less rights than others? What kinds of groups might have/have had fewer/different rights?

**Discuss black rights movement, women's rights, disabled people's rights, etc.**

(5 mins) What is 'suffrage'?

**Discuss.**

(5 mins) Look at what women were unable to do

100 years ago that they can do now. Legalities and conventions.

What happened in 1914 to change this?

(10 mins) Look at anti-suffrage pamphlet. This plays on the stereotype of a woman as 'just a housewife'. What other stereotypes exist for women?

**Brainstorm.**

E.g. women are:

Home-makers (cleaning lady)

Mothers – nurturing, caring

Ladies

Cooks

Arm candy

Fashion dolls

# A BIRD IN A CAGE

[www.abirdinacage.org](http://www.abirdinacage.org)

(15 mins) What are the 'rules' for a Lady? Using an illustration of a typical lady of that time, we make two draft pages of an anti-suffrage pamphlet.

**Group activity – pin 2 x large pictures of a typical lady, labelled 'should' and 'shouldn't', to wall/whiteboard and each person writes something on each.**

(15 mins) Look at the suffrage movement and the lives of various suffragettes inc. Lady Rhondda – were they any of these things?

What kinds of things did they do that were unexpected of 'a lady'?

(10 mins) Read suffrage verse/songs – The March of the Women, Shoulder to Shoulder, Rise Up Women!, The Women's Battle Song.

Where would women be singing these? On marches and protests.

**Stand up and read/sing one while marching around the room.**

(5 mins) What factors do they have in common?

**Rhyme, rhythm, stirring language.**

**Verses and chorus.**

Choose a title for our song.

(10 mins) Does the chorus contain this slogan? How many lines should it be?

Write chorus as a group.

(15 mins) What will verses be about? Choose three topics or themes, then divide into three and write these. How many lines?

(5 mins) Share what we have written.

Any editing to be done? How is the rhythm?

(5 mins) Add chorus and read together.

