

Emmeline Pankhurst's speech

My friends. In spite of His Majesty's Government I am here tonight.

I know the sacrifices you have made to be here. Many of you, I know, are estranged from the lives you once had. Yet I feel your spirit tonight.

For fifty years we have laboured peacefully to secure the vote for women. We have been ridiculed, battered and ignored. Now we have realized that deeds and sacrifice must be the order of the day.

We are fighting for a time when every little girl born into the world will have an equal chance with her brothers. Never underestimate the power we women have to define our own destinies. We do not want to be law breakers, we want to be law makers.

Be militant. Each of you in your own way. Those of you who can break windows, break them. Those of you who can further attack the sacred idol of property, do so. We have been left with no alternative but to defy this government.

If we must go to prison to obtain the vote, let it be the windows of government not the bodies of women that shall be broken.

I incite this meeting, and all the women in Britain, to rebellion!

I would rather be a rebel than a slave!

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