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## Sisterhood and After: the Women's Liberation Movement Oral History Project

### Teachers' notes

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## Politics and Legislation

### Mary McIntosh on Women's Budget Group

Understanding the text - Discussion points

*"... they should do a gender assessment before they made a political decision."*

- At the time of the interview, why was the Fawcett Society taking the Treasury to court?
- Apart from gender issues, what does Mary McIntosh believe should be at the core of everyone's political thinking?
- Does it seem that politicians are now listening to women's needs?

### Activity

In small groups, find out more about the Fawcett Society. Look up their history, recent and previous campaigns. Discuss your findings with each other and then share them with the rest of the class. What is interesting to you? Give reasons for your answer – and try to follow up those interests.

### Lesley Abdela on sex discrimination pre-legislation

Understanding the text - Discussion points

*"I'm awfully sorry but our client wouldn't like a woman."*

- What happened when Lesley Abdela applied for an advertised job?
- How did Lesley Abdela feel about this incident at the time? Would she respond differently now? Why might that be, do you think?
- Is there any type of work that you think should only be done by men or by women? Give reasons for your answer.

**Activity – Create your own campaign poster**

In small groups, pairs or individually, choose a theme about the fair treatment of women in the workplace. This could be a campaign that has been led by the Fawcett Society, such as equal pay, or pregnancy legislation. Think of a slogan. Create an image for your poster (if you think it needs one – sometimes words are enough).

You could also make up your own song, or choose a piece of music written and performed by women. Choreograph a dance routine to match your choice and present it to the rest of the class.

After your presentation – note how you felt about yourself. Did you feel energised, empowered – ready for action? Change has only happened because people have fought for it!