

315 West 97th St.

To his Excellency the Governor
of the State of New York.

Dear sir:

We address you in the name of ten thousand self-supporting women in the City of New York. As industrial workers, as doctors, as lawyers, as followers of other professions and business careers, members of our league constantly report discriminations against them in the world of work.

In your message on the White Bill, we note that you fully appreciate the importance of the question of equal pay for equal work. With keen insight you insist that it is not a mere local matter, but a principle of grave importance to the State as a whole. The economic question as to the remuneration of women workers, is, indeed one of profound social importance, but one about which adequate information is entirely lacking.

On one side the conviction is held that women perform the same work as men, and should receive equal pay; on the other, that either the work of women is not of just the same grade as that of men, or, if it is, for certain social reasons, it must not receive the same remuneration. Here are important differences of opinion, which, as you point out in your message, demand thorough investigation.

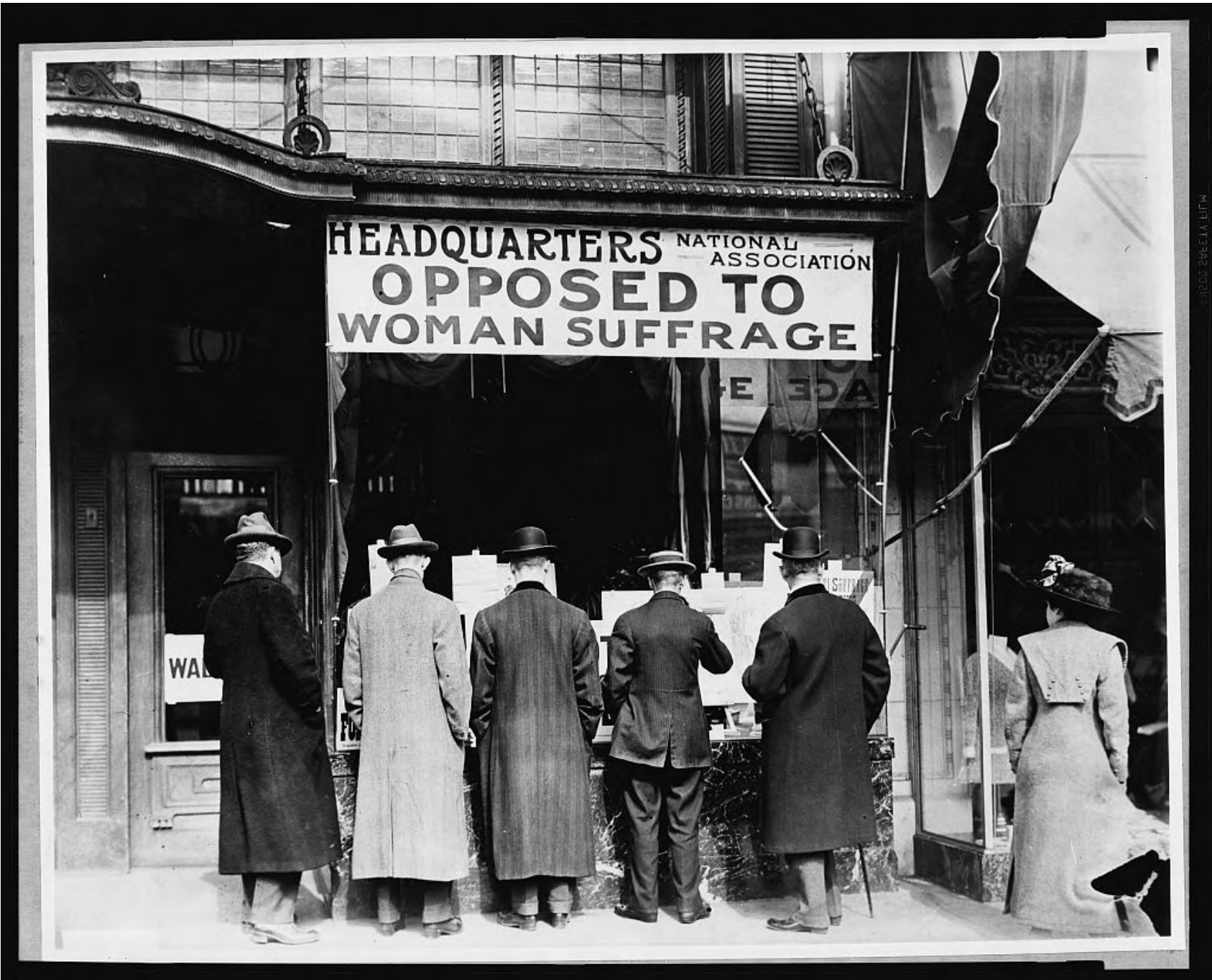
For weal or woe we women are in the world of paid work. In the city of New York alone, we number nearly four hundred thousand. The discriminations against us, we are convinced, are in a large measure due to the attitude of government towards us. The State sets an example of gross inequality and the employer and community at large follow that example.

We, therefore, urge upon your consideration the need for a full governmental inquiry into the work and pay of women in the State of New York. And we would appreciate the courtesy if you would appoint a time when a delegation of self-supporting women might lay before you their reasons for asking such an investigation.

Signed on behalf of the
Equality League of Self-Supporting Women
by

(Signed)	HARRIOT STANTON BLATCH
"	ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN
"	ANNA GARLIN SPENCER
"	WINNEFRED J ALLEN
"	ANNIE S DANIEL. M.D.
"	FLORENCE KELLEY
"	LILIAN D WALD
"	ROSALIE LOEW WHITNEY

NEW YORK JUNE 8, 1907.



MLJN VT342.100203





THE AWAKENING



Look forward, women, always; utterly cast away
The memory of hate and struggle and bitterness;
Bonds may endure for a night, but freedom comes with the day,
And the free must remember nothing less.

Forget the strife; remember those who strove—
The first defeated women, gallant and few,
Who gave us hope, as a mother gives us love,
Forget them not, and this remember, too:

How at the later call to come forth and unite,
Women untaught, unprotected, alone and apart,
Rank upon rank came forth in congressed night,
Each one answering the call of her own wise heart.

They came from toil and want, from leisure and ease,
Those who knew only life, and learned women of fame,
Girls and the mothers of girls, and the mothers of these,
No one knew whence or how, but they came, they came.

The faces of some were stern, and some were gay,
And some were pale with the terror of unreal dangers;
But their hearts knew this: that hereafter come what may,
Women to women would never again be strangers.

Alma Dear Miller.

Being Fed Through Nostrils Is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette

Inventor of Hunger Strike Tells How British Prison Physicians Keep Life in Women Who Won't Eat or Wear Clothes.

London, Dec. 9.—Miss Alice Paul, of Philadelphia, the suffragette who was arrested November 9th and sentenced to a month's hard labor for her share in the suffragette demonstration at the Lord Mayor's banquet at the Guildhall, was released from Holloway jail this morning on the completion of her thirty days. She left the prison in a cab, accompanied by two wardresses, and went to the home of friends. A doctor was immediately called to attend her there, owing to her weakened condition.

Miss Paul, who was the inventor of the suffragettes' "hunger strike" and practiced it during her latest term in jail, was cheerful, and said she did not regret her conduct, and was prepared to repeat it again if necessary. She said she was unable to undergo the ordeal of an interview, but later she sent your correspondent a statement by a friend. On previous convictions, Miss Paul was able to gain her freedom by refusing to eat, but her tactics were futile this time.

Miss Paul said she was the granddaughter of a New Jersey judge, and a master of arts of the University of Pennsylvania. She had done a great deal of settlement work during the last four years, and came to London in September, 1908, to study economics. After saying that she was first struck by the contrast between the academic interest in woman suffrage in America and the lively character of the movement here, Miss Paul told this story of her prison life.

"I practiced a hunger strike until November 11th. After that date they fed me twice a day by force, except on one day when I was too ill to be touched. I have no complaints against the Holloway officials. I spent the whole time in bed, because I refused to wear prison clothes.

Each day, I was wrapped in blankets and taken to another cell to be fed, the food being injected through my nostrils.

"During this operation the largest Wardress in Holloway sat astride my knees, holding my shoulders down to keep me from bending forward. Two other wardresses sat on either side and held my arms. Then a towel was placed around my throat, and one doctor from behind forced my head back, while another doctor put a tube in my nostril. When it reached my throat my head was pushed forward.

"Twice the tube came through my mouth and I got it between my teeth. My mouth was then pried open with an instrument. Sometimes they tied me to a chair with sheets. Once I managed to get my hands loose and snatched the tube, tearing it with my teeth. I also broke a jug, but I didn't give in."

Miss Paul lives alone in London. Her friend told me with great gusto how Miss Paul had eluded the vigilance of the police at the Lord Mayor's banquet. It seems she and Miss Amelia Brown, her partner in the escapade, dressed as charwomen, went to the Guildhall at 9 o'clock in the morning. Every time they met anyone they asked the way to the kitchen. They had many hairbreadth escapes, and once, seeing a policeman close at hand, they knelt down to escape notice. In the dark the policeman actually put his cape on them. Finally they succeeded in getting to the gallery overlooking the banquet hall, where they shrieked and threw stones through a stained glass window.

Miss Lacy Burns, the other American suffragette, is following Winston Spencer Churchill around the country, making it as warm as possible for the President of the Board of Trade.



<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a07285>

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov/teachers