

Case Study: Fathers 4Justice (F4J)

We Are Fathers4Justice®
The Campaign Against a Fatherless Society.

Fathers 4 Justice (F4J) was formed in the summer of 2001 by political activist Matt O'Connor after he was denied access to his two boys in the Family Courts. This followed a difficult separation from his first wife.

Despite resolving the matter and re-establishing a normal relationship with his children, O'Connor pledged to reform family law for the benefit of his two sons whom he feared would suffer the same experience when they became fathers. On 17th December 2002, Fathers 4 Justice staged their first direct action demonstration when 200 Father Christmases stormed the lobby of the then Lord Chancellor's Department.

From Spiderman at Tower Bridge to Batman at Buckingham Palace and the flour-bombing of the Prime Minister in the chamber of the House of Commons, the campaign for justice and equality in family law has captured the public imagination, catapulting the issues surrounding family law to the top of the political agenda, and inspiring thousands of parents and grandparents alike to campaign for equal parenting rights.

Between June 2008 to May 2011, F4J negotiated in good faith with the Conservative Party, securing ten written commitments to reform family law to give fathers the same legal rights as mothers.

In June 2011 the Prime Minister David Cameron broke those commitments. So although the campaign was high-profile and some progress was made they are yet to achieve their aims.



Case Study: The Suffragettes

The title 'suffragette' was given to members of the women's suffrage movement, the group of women who campaigned for the right for women to vote in the UK at the beginning of the twentieth century. At this time women were not permitted to vote and were not seen as intelligent enough to do so.

The action that the suffragettes took tended to be acts of vandalism, self-sacrifice and sometimes violence. Suffragettes carried out such minor offences as chaining themselves to railings and setting fire to the contents of mailboxes.

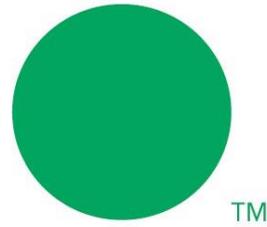
One suffragette, Emily Davison, was killed when she stepped out in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby of 1913. Many of her fellow suffragettes were imprisoned and went on hunger strikes, during which they were restrained and forcibly fed.

During World War I there was a serious shortage of men in the workplace and women were required to take on many of the traditional male roles. This led to a new view of what a woman was capable of doing. Political movement towards women's suffrage began during the war and in 1919 Parliament passed a bill that granted the vote to women over the age of 30 who were householders; Women finally got the vote on the same terms as men in 1928.

Nowadays it would be difficult to comprehend women not being allowed to vote. This is partly down to the action of the suffragettes all those years ago.



NSPCC



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

The National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is a pressure group that exists with the objective of tackling the issue of child abuse. As an organisation they know that child abuse can never be ended however they can do all in their power to tackle the issue. The group aim to tackle the issue in four ways:

1. Changing the Law

The NSPCC lobbies key decision makers such as Government Ministers, MPs and Assembly members to ensure they put in place policies that are best for protecting children and the issue of child abuse is always a talking point.

2. Changing Public Attitudes

To influence attitudes and behaviour towards children, the NSPCC run mass public awareness and education campaigns, using TV advertising other media such as billboards and a wide range of advice material like leaflets.

3. Raising Money to provide help for children who need it

In 2008/2009 countless fundraising ideas went into helping the NSPCC raise just over £129 million. Funds were raised through ways such as donations, shops, events such as concerts and finally challenges such as fun runs.

4. Providing help for children who need it

Events like Children in Need and services such as Childline provide help to children who need it and awareness campaigns contribute to raising awareness about how children should be treated.