Emily was a suffragist and peace campaigner. During the First World War she helped women and children in need by organising supplies of food and clothing, and to rebuild their lives after the war ended.
Explainer: Suffragists

It was not until 1928 that all women in Britain over the age of 21 were given the right to vote (suffrage). For more than 50 years before this, women had campaigned for suffrage using different methods. Suffragists like Emily Hobhouse preferred peaceful means of demanding change, such as processions and producing leaflets, whereas suffragettes (such as the Pankhurst family) opted for more direct action including chaining themselves to railings, causing disruption and damaging property.
Choose to Challenge: Betty Tebbs

Betty campaigned for equal pay for women, and was involved with the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). She was a peace activist throughout her life, even hiring a mobility scooter so she could attend protests.
Explainer: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

In August 1945 the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This marked the start of a new atomic era, where many nations including Britain developed their own nuclear weapons.

Whilst some people supported this, others showed their opposition by joining organisations such as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). Launched in 1958, the CND continues to campaign peacefully for a ban on nuclear weapons.
Choose to Challenge: Margaretta Lemon

Margaretta was a co-founder of the all-female organisation that later became the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). Renowned for her public speaking, she spoke out against the fashion for wearing feathered hats.
Explainer: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

The RSPB is one of many charities to have been founded by pioneering women, starting as the Society for the Protection of Birds in 1889. Interestingly, the RSPB fought against suffragettes like Emmeline Pankhurst, who wore feathers in their hats to support their cause. Etta Lemon was against women having the vote, saying it would ‘work irrevocable mischief to human progress, to the British Empire, and to women themselves.’
Flora was the only British woman to serve as a soldier in the First World War. She joined the Serbian Army and achieved the rank of Sergeant Major during the war, earning several medals for her service.
Explainer: Women in the services

In the two world wars, British women could only serve in the military in auxiliary roles (non-combatant, supporting the armed forces). This ranged from nursing to driving, and mechanics to cooking, amongst many others. However, women still operated close to the front lines and so faced danger.

Other nations, including Russia and Serbia, allowed women to carry weapons and go into battle.

It was not until 2018 that all restrictions on women fighting in the British armed forces were lifted.
Choose to Challenge: Jane Staffieri

Jane was arrested for damaging the fence at RAF Greenham Common during the anti-nuclear protests. She refused to pay a fine, and was taken away for a week in Holloway prison leaving behind her three-year-old daughter.
Explainer: RAF Greenham Common

In 1981 a group of women, angered by the decision to site nuclear missiles at RAF Greenham Common Air Base near Newbury in Berkshire, set up what became known as the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp.

Between 1981 and 1983 the protesters attempted to disrupt construction work at the base. Their methods included blockading the base and cutting down parts of the fence. Many women like Jane faced court cases, fines and sometimes imprisonment for their actions.

The missiles were removed between 1989 and 1991, but the Peace Camp remained until 2000 as a continuing protest against nuclear weapons.
Choose to Challenge: Lilian Bader

Lilian was one of the first black women to join British forces in the Second World War. She worked in the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force repairing aircraft instruments, which was a new role for women.
Explainer: Women’s Auxiliary Air Force

The Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) was founded in June 1939 to free up men in the Royal Air Force for front line duties. WAAFs undertook a variety of roles, including compiling weather reports, maintaining aircraft, serving on airfields and working in intelligence. By 1943, the WAAF had 182,000 members.
Choose to Challenge: Miriam McLeod

Miriam was a young girl when her brothers left London to fight in the Spanish Civil War in 1936. As an adult, she was active in the peace movement and took part in anti-nuclear activities, including at Greenham Common.
Explainer: Spanish Civil War

In 1936, Nationalist army officers tried to overthrow the elected Republican government in Spain – this started a civil war. Thousands of people joined the fight to support the Spanish Republic, including volunteers from Britain and Ireland. The war ended in 1939 when the Nationalists took full control, and General Franco became Dictator.

In the photo of Miriam, she is making the fist symbol of Communism, to show her support for the Republican fighters.
Choose to Challenge: Mossband Swifts Football

Women working at HM Factory Gretna created their own football team in the First World War, despite their managers thinking that it wasn't a suitable sport for women.
Explainer: Women and Football

During the First World War, more than 900,000 women worked in munitions factories, like HM Factory Gretna. Because the work was tiring and could cause illness, most factories employed a welfare officer to monitor the workers' health and wellbeing. Sport was encouraged and many munitions factories developed their own ladies football teams, like Mossband Swifts.

At the end of the war, many women had to leave their jobs and some of the teams disbanded. Between 1921 and 1971, women were not allowed to play on Football Association pitches. Women's football has grown in popularity since then, with record numbers watching the Women's World Cup in 2019.
Choose to Challenge: Noor Inayat Khan

Noor, born of Indian and American parents, joined the Special Operations Executive in the Second World War. She was the first female agent sent to France, and worked as a wireless operator until she was captured.
Explainer: Special Operations Executive

Special Operations Executive (SOE) was a secret British organisation created in July 1940. Agents were sent into enemy-held territories such as France, and helped local resistance movements by passing on key information, providing weapons and fighting back against the Nazi occupiers.

If discovered, agents risked arrest, torture and execution - life expectancy was only 6 weeks. Noor was betrayed and on 13 September 1944 she was shot. She was posthumously awarded a George Cross Medal in 1949.
Choose to Challenge: Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II)

Elizabeth became the first female member of the Royal Family to serve in the armed forces. In 1944, she trained as a driver and mechanic with the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS).
Explainer: Auxiliary Territorial Service

The Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) was formed in 1938, to free up men for front line service. Initially, the only jobs available were cooks, clerks, orderlies, store women or drivers. But eventually there were over a hundred different roles in the ATS, including serving in anti-aircraft batteries. More than 250,000 women served in the ATS during the Second World War, making it the largest of the women's services.