

Gude Cause

1909 - 2009

... maks a strong arm

10 October 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of the Women's Suffrage Movement Procession along Princes Street in Edinburgh. Hundreds of women dressed in Green, White and Violet, the colours of the suffragette movement, took part in the procession with colourful displays, music, floats and banners, marching for women's right to vote. Thousands more turned out to cheer them on.

Plans are well underway to re-enact this memorable event on 10th October 2009 to pay tribute to the struggle of women in Scotland to obtain their right to vote and to celebrate women's activism over the past 100 years.

This will be a special day that all women can participate in as we deliver a history lesson on the streets of Edinburgh. The day will provide an energising focus and raise the profile of women's activism today as it demonstrates the force of women's contribution to society, culture and all aspects of public and private life in 21st Century Scotland.

Some groups will be getting together to make banners: others will be writing plays and stories based on local history. There will be lots of singing and music on the march; songs will be available for groups who want to practice. If you want help/advice on planning an activity, let us know. Even if you don't need advice we'd like to hear from you so we build up a picture of what is happening across the country.

What You Can Do On the Day

Although the event will be in Edinburgh we hope women will come from all over Scotland. Come on your own – but even better come as a group with a banner or with a theme. The March will be in 3 parts:

- **Walking Timeline 1909 – 2009**, with costumes, banners, and information marking the passage of decades, and the achievements towards equality.
- **Representing the Present** e.g. unions, professions, local and national activists in Women's Movement, voluntary organisations, Scottish Parliament and Local councils.
- **Representing the future** - What still needs to change, and some of the new challenges for feminism, the women's movement and equality campaigners in Scotland and around the world.

What You Can Do During the Year

- Hold a local Meeting/Conference on the Gude Cause Theme
- Research the suffrage movement in your area
- Organise a Practical Workshop – on music, banner making, how to search local newspaper reports for suffrage action in 1909
- Ask your local council to support 'Gude Cause' e.g. by holding an exhibition in library or museum.
- Ask your local newspaper to cover the event – esp. if you can provide them with some local historical connection (suffragette great aunts, grandmothers).

Look out for notices about Registration for the Gude Cause Procession on 10 October 2009: regular updates will shortly be posted on the website www.gudecause.org.uk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Email gudecause@peaceandjustice.org.uk.

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