

# WOMEN OF THE WORLD

## KATE SHEPPARD

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### **The process of organising the Women's Suffrage Petition.**

Having this bill passed was a challenge. Women have been kept in homes for so long to cook, clean and care for children. As Kate Shepard argued, “We are tired of having a ‘sphere’ doled out to us, and of being told that anything outside that sphere is ‘unwomanly’.” So once setting foot into New Zealand, her eyes were set on the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU).

At first, she joined the WCTU to help fight the abuse of alcohol and its effect on women and children since the age to drink was relatively low. During this time, Sheppard was already supporting New Zealand’s women’s suffrage movement. ‘Householders’ which are all adult women, their voices were only heard if it was about school committees and education boards.

### **The challenges faced by the suffrage movement.**

There was a lot of backlash, infamously Henry Smith Fish who practically *bought* votes and went against women’s suffrage. He was pretty much aggressively being sexist, making an utter fool of himself. Stating that women were too emotional for politics and that if women weren’t solely at home, it would destroy family structures and create a social upheaval.

### **The impact of the Electoral Act 1893.**

On September the 19th 1893, their governor, Lord Glasgow had passed the bill for women to have a right to vote in parliamentary elections. Thankfully, the woman who led this was none other than Kate Sheppard. She was so influential for both the women in Aotearoa and politics overall, even earning her face on the ten dollar bill.