

# On the road to gender equality

## **Scene one**

### ***In the street***

**Everybody**

Hey!

**Alicia**

There's a meeting tonight!

**Liséa**

At four o'clock!

**Marika**

At Emeline's place!

**Meg**

It's about women's rights!

**Mya**

It's about our lives!

**Gabriela**

But shhh! Don't tell you husbands!

**Naomi**

Tell your girl friends!

**Gaëtane**

Come on!

**Everybody**

Join us!

**Mya**

We're waiting for you!

**Perrine**

We need you! I'm Emeline Pankhurst!

**Alicia**

My name's Emily Davison!

**Naomi**

I'm Constance Lytton!

**Gabriela**

And I'm Ethel Smyth!

**Perrine**

Well, do you know the reasons why we are here tonight?

**Alicia**

We are not allowed to claim any property!

**Gaëtane**

Not even that of our children!

**Perrine**

We have to obey our husbands!

**Liséa**

We're expected to take care of our families!

**Naomi**

We can work!

**Mya**

But we can't keep our money!

**Meg**

Our earnings do not belong to us!

**Alicia**

We cannot make our own decisions!

**Alicia and Perrine**

And we're not allowed to vote!

**Perrine**

So, today...

**Everybody**

We need to make things change!

## ***Marching to the Houses of Parliament***

### ***The Suffragettes' song (extract)***

Shout shout, up with your song  
Cry with the wind for the dawn is breaking March,  
march swing you along  
Wide blows our banner  
And hope is waking

**Gaëtane**

White!

**Meg**

Purple!

**Liséa**

Green!

**Gabriela**

White for purity!

**Alicia**

Purple for loyalty!

**Marika**

Green for hope!

### ***In front of Parliament***

**Perrine**

Please, we'd like to take part in politics!

**Everybody**

We need the right to vote!

***MPs' laughter (voice-over)***

**Perrine**

We've been peaceful!

**Alicia**

We've been polite!

**Mya and Naomi**

But we've been rejected!

**Liséa, Meg and Gabriela**

Excluded!

**Everybody**

Humiliated!

Now my friends, we will fight for equality

Equality between men and women!

**Alicia + Perrine**

And we must do the work ourselves!

**Everybody**

Deeds not words! - Deeds not words! Deeds not words!

Bang! Ouch! Splash!

***Policemen putting them in jail (voice-over)***

**Alicia**

Oh no!

**Perrine**

England is at war!

**Alicia**

We Must help the country!

**Everybody**

Yes! Yes of course!

## ***In a factory***

Splash! Zip! Bang ! Whiz! Hiss! Chuck! Phew!

## ***End of war (voice-over)***

**Gabriela**

The war is over, and we've been given the right to vote!

**Everybody**

Yeah! Great! Wow!

**Shout shout, up with your song**

## **Scene two**

### ***In a meeting room in London***

**Perrine**

Listen up everybody, wherever you are...

Hey! There's a meeting today! Join me!

Nowadays, even though women are allowed to vote, they are still treated as inferior human beings.

**Liséa**

I'd like to say something about the consequences of gender inequality.

There's still a huge gender pay gap.

Women are still paid less than men. The pay gap in the UK is 9.1%!

Can you believe it?

A study concluded that, if wage growth continues, the difference between men and women's earnings will not even out until 2109.

**Naomi**

It isn't fair because women work as hard as men. There are so many stereotypes about men and women!

**Mya**

Women in the kitchen cooking dinner and men on the sofa watching a football match on TV with a beer!

**Alicia**

Even kids are victims of stereotyped behaviours, both at home and in class.

Girls are given dolls and soft toys and boys are offered cars, robots or puzzle games.

It's not just boys who need to play with toys that develop self-esteem and imagination.

**Gabriela**

When you're a girl people often comment on your body or on the way you dress: you're too fat, you're too skinny, you're showing too much skin, you look too casual!

**Alicia**

And this can have deep and long-lasting consequences on children's emotions.

Girls are more likely to internalise their emotions and this can lead to depression.

Boys are more likely to externalize their emotions and this can lead to aggression.

You know, less than 5% of the prison population is female, so when you are born a boy, you are more likely to end up in prison.

Do you think it's fair?

Why do people put others in boxes?

**Meg**

People can exclude you from a group because of your physical appearance.

If you're wearing a short skirt or a crop top you're vulgar.

If you're wearing a sweatshirt you are too masculine or you're hiding your body.

**Mya**

If you like blue, you're a tomboy.

**Meg**

And when you're a boy, if you wear makeup you're gay!

**Perrine**

As if being gay were a bad thing!

## **Alicia**

Women are inevitably sensitive, weak and easily upset.

They are encouraged to apply for clerical or care jobs.

On the other hand, men have to work in dangerous industries like construction or manufacturing.

Men have to be strong, brave, intelligent and of course they should never cry!

## **Mya**

I want to apologize to all the men  
I have called strong  
before I've called them sensitive or sweet  
I am sorry I made it sound as though  
something as simple as what you're born with  
Is the most you have to be proud of  
When your strong spirit has navigated oceans  
From now on I will say things like,  
*you are understanding*  
*or, you are sensitive*  
Not because I don't think you're strong  
But because you are so much more than that!

## **Perrine**

Do you know about Alex Skeel's story?

Alex is a young Englishman who was abused by his girlfriend, Jordan Worth.

Yes, it really happened.

Well... it all began with a teenage romance. They met in high school, and they had two children. They seemed to be a pretty happy family! But they only looked like it... 'cause Jordan became completely crazy and started to hurt Alex really badly.

When the neighbours called the police because they heard weird noises, Jordan always said that everything was okay and Alex didn't protest.

## **Gabriela**

When you're a man who's been abused by a woman people tell you that you're weak or a coward, or that you're the man in the relationship and that you shouldn't have let it happen!

When you're a victim of violence people always ask you: Why didn't you leave? But maybe you're just too scared or something is holding you back and for Alex it was his kids...

**Perrine**

One day a police officer went into Alex's house and found him lying on the stairs suffering horribly.

Jordan was arrested and sentenced to 7 years in jail.

With no prejudice, let's respect people, whoever they are, and treat them equally.

Shout, shout, up with your song  
Cry with the wind for the dawn is breaking  
March, march, swing you along  
Wide blows our banner  
And hope is waking