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Part of a (reasonably accurate) 'Positive Events for UK Women UK' timeline

1867 The London Society for Women's Suffrage is formed to campaign for female suffrage.

1870 The Married Women's Property Act allows married women to own their own property whether married, divorced, single or widowed.

1902 A delegation of women's textile workers from Northern England present a 37,000 signatory petition to Parliament **demanding votes for women.**

1903 The Women's Social and Political Union is founded in Manchester by Emmeline Pankhurst, her daughters Christabel and Sylvia, and Annie Kearney.

1906 The National Federation of Women Workers is set up by Mary MacArthur.

1907 The Qualification of Women Act means women can be elected onto borough and county councils and can also be elected mayor.

1909 The National Federation of Women Workers campaigned to induce the Liberal government to pass the Trade Boards Act, an attempt to fix minimum wages in certain of the most exploitative trades, usually the ones in which women predominated.

1915 The first Women's Institute in Britain is founded in North Wales.

1918 Women over 30 are granted the right to vote in Britain.

1918 The Parliamentary Qualification of Women Act is passed, enabling women to stand as MPs.

1920 The Sex Discrimination Removal Act allows women access to the legal profession and accountancy.

1922 The Law of Property Act allows both husband and wife to inherit property equally.

1923 The Matrimonial Causes Act makes grounds for divorce the same for women and men.

1928 All women in Britain gain equal voting rights with men.

1929 The first general election in which women are allowed to vote occurs.

1929 Women become 'persons' in their own right, by order of the Privy Council.

1948 The introduction of the National Health Service (NHS) gives everyone free access to health care and not just the insured, usually men,

1956 In Britain, legal reforms say that **women teachers and civil servants should receive equal pay.**

1956 The Sexual Offences Act defines rape under specific criteria e.g., incest, sex with a girl under 16, no consent, use of drugs, anal sex, impersonation.

1958 The Life Peerages Act entitles women to sit in the House of Lords for the first time.

1964 The Married Women's Property Act entitles a woman to keep half of any savings she has made from allowances given by her husband.

1965 Barbara Castle is appointed Minister of Transport, becoming the first female minister of state.

1967 Labour MP David Steel sponsors an Abortion Law Reform Bill, decriminalising abortion in Britain on certain grounds. (Danger of death)

1967 The contraceptive pill is available through Family Planning Clinics.

1967 The NHS (Family Planning) Act permits health authorities to give contraceptive advice regardless of marital status.

1968 Britain's first national Women's Liberation Conference is held at Ruskin College.

1968 The Equal Pay Act makes it illegal to pay women lower rates than men for the same work.

1968 The Miss World Competition is interrupted by feminist protestors claiming the contest is a cattle market.

1971 Over 4,000 women take part in the first Women's Liberation march in London.

1972 Erin Pizzey sets up the first women's refuge in Chiswick, London.

1974 Contraception becomes available through the NHS.

1975 The Sex Discrimination Act makes it illegal to discriminate against women in work, education and training.

1975 The Employment Protection Act introduces statutory maternity provision and makes it illegal to sack a woman because she is pregnant.

1976 The Equal Opportunities Commission comes into effect.

1976 The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act is introduced to protect women and children from domestic violence.

1976 International Women's Day is an annual event formalized by the UN

1976 The first Rape Crisis Centre opens in London.

1978 The Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland established, challenging domestic violence in Northern Ireland. It currently provides support to over 10,000 women every year.

1978 The Organisation of Women of African and Asian Descent is set up.

1978 Britain has her first female prime minister.

1980 Lesley Abdela forms the **300 Group** to push for equal representation of women in the House of Commons.

1980 Women can apply for a loan or credit in their own names without the signature of a male guarantor.

1981 Baroness Young becomes the first woman leader of the House of Lords.

1982 30,000 women gather at Greenham Common Peace Camp.

1982 The Court of Appeal decides that bars and pubs are no longer able to refuse to serve women at the bar as this constitutes sex discrimination.

1983 London has her first woman 'Lord' (!) Mayor.

1984 The national **Black Feminist Conference** is held.

1985 The Equal Pay (Amendment) Act allows women to be paid the same as men for work of equal value.

1986 The Sex Discrimination (Amendment) Act enables women to retire at the same age as men. It also lifts the legal restrictions which prevent women from working night shifts in factories.

1987 Diane Abbot becomes the first black woman member of the Westminster Parliament.

1987 Elizabeth Butler-Sloss becomes the first woman Law Lord when she is appointed an Appeal Court Judge.

1990 Independent taxation for married women is introduced.

1993 United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women affirms that violence against women violates their human rights.

1994 The UK starts its first 'Take Our Daughters to Work' Day.

1994 Rape in marriage is made a crime.

1994 A House of Lords ruling gives **equal rights to part-time workers.**

1997 The general election sees 101 Labour women MPs elected.

1997 Southall Black Sisters secure a first ever conviction of a husband of marital rape in the Asian community

1998 The European Union passes the **Human Rights Act**, guaranteeing basic principles of life for everyone.

1998 A new **law on parental leave** enables both men and women to take up to 13 weeks off to care for children under age five.

2000 Opportunity 2000 is launched to push for more women in commerce and public life.

2000 Betty Boothroyd becomes the first female Speaker in the H of C.

2000 UK's Immigration Appellate Authority launched its *Asylum Gender Guidelines* for use in the determination of asylum appeals. The guidelines note that the dominant view of what constitutes a 'real refugee' has been of a man and this has meant that women asylum seekers in the UK may not benefit equitably from the protection offered by the Refugee Convention.

2000 The Female Genital Mutilation Act. For the first time, it is an offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to carry out female genital mutilation abroad, or to aid, abet, council, or procure the carrying out of female genital mutilation, even in countries where the practice is legal.

2004 Pauline Campbell organises protests outside HM Prisons Brockhill, Holloway and New Hall to raise public awareness about the alarming death toll of women in British prisons.

And the work goes on.....!

Since the awards event the following noteworthy positive events for women in the UK have been added to the above list:

2014 The Church of England synod votes in favour of allowing women to be appointed as bishops.