In honour of **CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN**
1872-1937
Edinburgh Graduate and Global Citizen.

Chrystal Macmillan:

From Edinburgh Graduate to Global Citizen

Chrystal Macmillan was the first woman to be awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree at the University of Edinburgh, the first of her many pioneering achievements.



Photo courtesy of Macmillan family

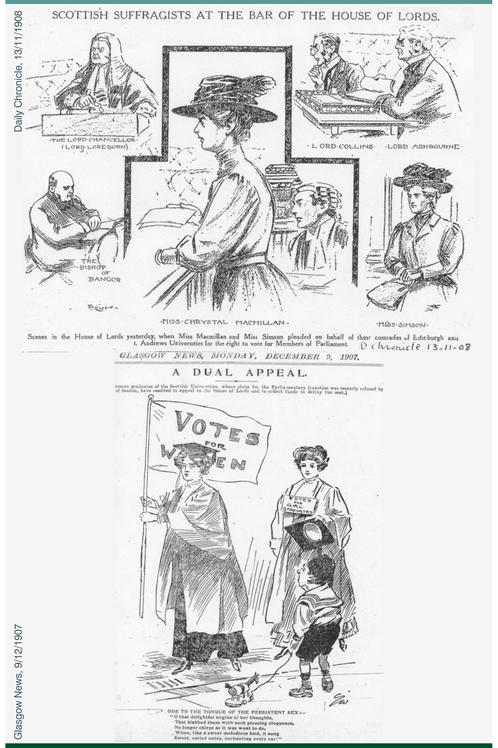
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Making History:

First woman to lobby the House of Lords

Chrystal Macmillan spoke in the House of Lords in the appeal of five women for their right as graduates to vote for MPs standing for election to University seats (those Westminster seats that historically represented Universities rather than geographical constituencies). Although the case was lost, it became a cause célèbre.



Daily Chronicle, 13/11/1908

SCOTTISH SUFFRAGISTS AT THE BAR OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (LORD LOREBURN)
LORD COLLINS
LORD ASHBOURNE
THE BISHOP OF BANGOR
MISS CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN.
MISS SIMSON.

Scenes in the House of Lords yesterday, when Miss Macmillan and Miss Simson pleaded on behalf of their comrades of Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities for the right to vote for Members of Parliament. [Daily Chronicle 13.11.08]

GLASGOW NEWS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1907.

A DUAL APPEAL

women graduates of the Scottish Universities, whose claim for the Parliamentary franchise was recently refused by the Courts, have resolved to appeal to the House of Lords and to collect funds to defray the cost.

ODE TO THE TONGUE OF THE PERSISTENT SEX:—
"O that delightful engine of her thoughts,
That blabbed them with such pleasing eloquence,
Is longer always as it was wont to do,
Power, taken away, unchaining beast, to many
Fewer, talked mutes, enchanting beauty lies!"

Glasgow News, 9/12/1907

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Fighting for the vote:

Local activism and global leadership

NUWSS Summer School, St. Andrews, 1912

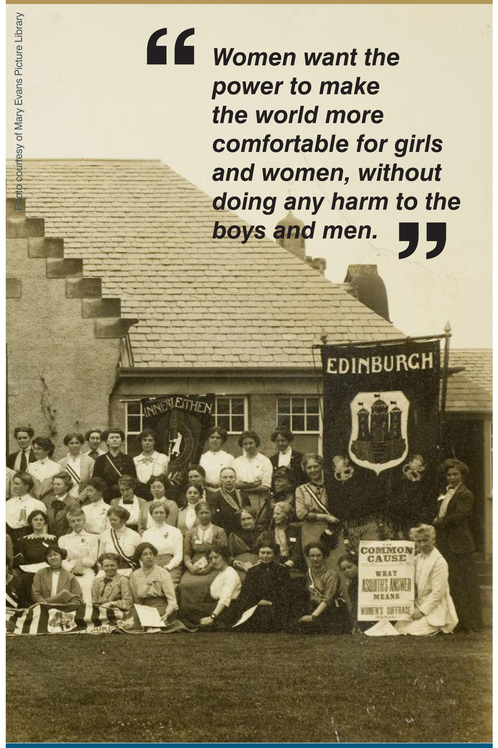


Photo courtesy of Mary Evans Picture Library

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Women's voices for International Peace and Conflict Resolution

During WWI, Chrystal Macmillan organised the International Congress of Women at the Hague.

Delegates at the International Congress of Women, the Hague,1915.



Resolutions adopted by the International Congress of Women, 1915.

Photo courtesy of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Dangerous conditions did not stop twelve hundred women from travelling to attend. Chrystal Macmillan was one of five women delegated to present the Resolutions to heads of neutral and belligerent states, encouraging them to make peace.

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Campaigning for human rights and gender equality

Speaking at the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Rome, 1923.
Chrystal Macmillan challenged the law that bound a woman's nationality to that of her husband.



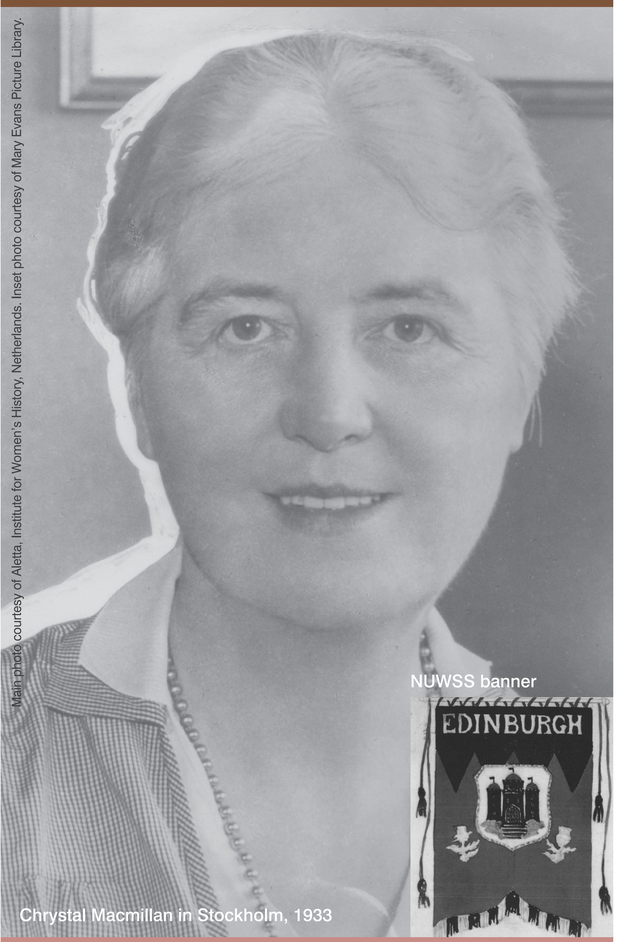
Photo courtesy of Aletta, Institute for Women's History, Netherlands.

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A prominent voice for social justice

We would recognise Chrystal Macmillan today as a human rights activist and as a feminist social scientist.
She campaigned on a range of social justice issues including human rights, gender equality, global citizenship and international peace and justice.



Main photo courtesy of Aletta, Institute for Women's History, Netherlands. Inset photo courtesy of Mary Evans Picture Library.

NUWSS banner

Chrystal Macmillan in Stockholm, 1933

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Honouring the past and looking forward

Following in the footsteps of Chrystal Macmillan: SPSS staff and students in 2009 taking part in the re-enactment of the historic Scottish suffrage march through Edinburgh - known as The Gude Cause - on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

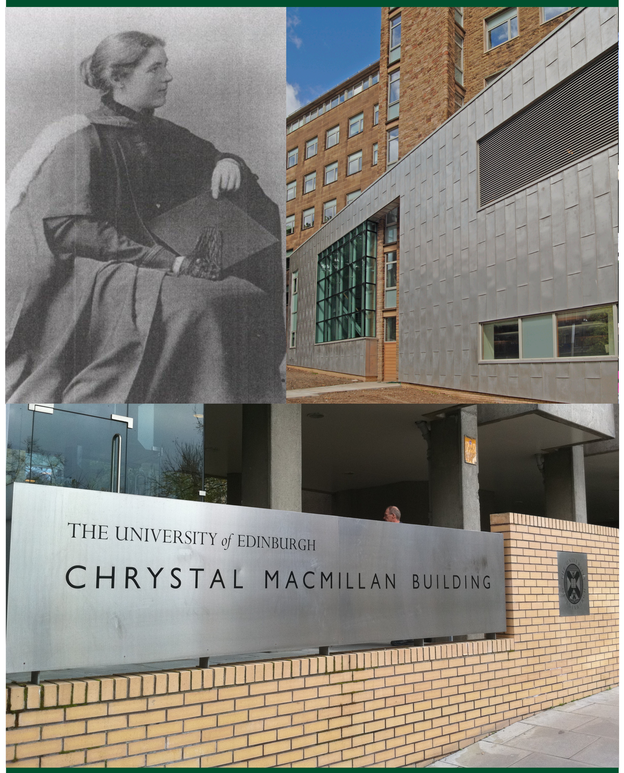


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In honour of **CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN**
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Welcome to the School of Social and Political Science

The School of Social and Political Science warmly welcomes you to browse an exhibition of Chrystal Macmillan, the remarkable woman after whom we named our building.

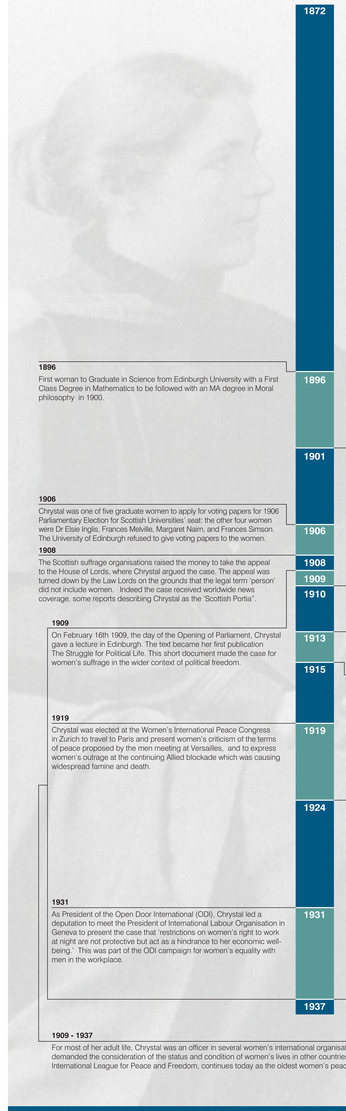


We mark Chrystal Macmillan's inspirational career as a focus for the School's work on social justice: including human rights, gender equality, peace and conflict resolution and global citizenship.

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Chrystal Macmillan: From Edinburgh Graduate to Global Citizen



1872
Born in Edinburgh where she lived with her parents and eight brothers at Corstorphine Hill House which was sold in 1913 by the family to Edinburgh Zoological Society

1896
First woman to Graduate in Science from Edinburgh University with a First Class Degree in Mathematics to be followed with an MA degree in Moral philosophy in 1900.

1901 - 1910
Activist in the suffragist movement in Scotland: Highland campaign tour by caravan with Eunice Murray of Women's Freedom League to Aviemore, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Pitlochry and Perth. She spoke in Edinburgh, Campbeltown and Orkney, and campaigned in Dundee and Dumfries with Elsie Inglis.

1906
Chrystal was one of five graduate women to apply for voting papers for 1906 Parliamentary Election for Scottish Universities' seat: the other four women were Dr Elsie Inglis, Frances Melville, Margaret Nairn, and Frances Simson. The University of Edinburgh refused to give voting papers to the women.

1908
The Scottish suffrage organisations raised the money to take the appeal to the House of Lords, where Chrystal argued the case. The appeal was turned down by the Law Lords on the grounds that the legal term 'person' did not include women. Indeed the case received worldwide news coverage, some reports describing Chrystal as the 'Scottish Portia'.

1909
On February 16th 1909, the day of the Opening of Parliament, Chrystal gave a lecture in Edinburgh. The text became her first publication The Struggle for Political Life. This short document made the case for women's suffrage in the wider context of political freedom.

1913
Chrystal was joint author of the publication 'Woman Suffrage in Practice', which is a careful collection of relevant information on the current status of women's suffrage around the world.

1915
She showed her capabilities when she became one of the organisers of the International Women's Congress at The Hague, when 1200 women met for three days during World War One. She was elected one of the delegates who then travelled to 14 countries, speaking with all the Heads of State to encourage the neutral states to facilitate a mediation conference.

1919
Chrystal was elected at the Women's International Peace Congress in Zurich to travel to Paris and present women's criticism of the terms of peace proposed by the men meeting at Versailles, and to express women's outrage at the continuing Allied blockade which was causing widespread famine and death.

1924
Speech by Chrystal to the International Law Association on question of whether married women should lose their citizenship on marriage to foreign men: she argued that 'women should have the same right as men to choose their nationality'. She chaired several committees and was member of Women's Consultative Committee of League of Nations on the Nationality of married Women in 1930-31

Having been admitted to Middle Temple in 1920, Chrystal becomes the fourth woman to be called to the Bar in Great Britain.

1931
As President of the Open Door International (ODI), Chrystal led a deputation to meet the President of International Labour Organisation in Geneva to present the case that 'restrictions on women's right to work at night are not protective but act as a hindrance to her economic well-being.' This was part of the ODI campaign for women's equality with men in the workplace.

1937
Chrystal dies prematurely in Edinburgh after a short illness aged 65 years.

1909 - 1937
For most of her adult life, Chrystal was an officer in several women's international organisations. For short periods she served on UK committees but her outlook demanded the consideration of the status and condition of women's lives in other countries. The organisation she helped set up at The Hague in 1915, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, continues today as the oldest women's peace organisation in the world.

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