

## “Direct Action”

**ALL:**

We are not here to be lawbreakers,  
We are here to become lawmakers!

Direct action is what we did,  
We took to the streets in a mighty bid,  
To get our message heard loud and clear  
"Votes for women" United, we cheer!

We are not here to be lawbreakers,  
We are here to become lawmakers!

Smashing windows shattered and crash,  
At illegal demos the police we did clash,  
Handcuffed ourselves to railings with chains,  
The publicity was high and the support we gained

We are not here to be lawbreakers,  
We are here to become lawmakers!

Buildings were set alight in the night,  
Disrupting postal services with all our might,  
Attacking churches and small bombs were planted  
"Deeds not words" is what we all chanted.

We are not here to be lawbreakers,  
We are here to become lawmakers!

Hunger strikes, we painfully endured,  
It tested our strength that is for sure,  
Our message will be heard far and wide,  
Until every Politician could no longer hide!

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We took to the streets in a mighty bid,  
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**PEGGY:** I told you that she'd be ere, didn't I?

**MAUD:** We were supposed to be here at 6.15 on the dot. Not twenty-five minutes past.

**MOLLY:** I'm sorry. I got held up.

**MAUD:** Cream tea and cumber sandwiches, was it?

**MOLLY:** Giles' mother was insisting upon formalising the dress code for the engagement party.

**MAUD:** Surprised you could tear yourself away then.

**PEGGY:** Ignore Lady Grumpy there. You're here now and that's the main thing.

**GILES:** They had all met in a quiet back street just off one of the main roads. There were a group of them all looking rather shifty, gearing themselves up as if they were about to go into battle.

**FRANKIE:** It was a coordinated affair.

**GILES:** Planned to the very last detail.

**FRANKIE:** Perfectly timed to make the maximum impact.

**GILES:** Everyone was ready.

**FRANKIE:** Suddenly Harriet approached them wearing a long coat and hat grasping a clipboard.

**HARRIET:** Long or short sentences?

**MOLLY:** Sentence?

**HARRIET:** Oh Molly, dear, you didn't expect to be sleeping in the comfort of your own bed tonight, did you?

**MAUD:** (*Sarcastically*) Ah, the Blessie, doesn't have a clue.

**SALLY:** I can only be away from home for a few days. Seven the most. My Albert will be back from his mother's then.

**PEGGY:** That husband of yours needs a strong kick up the backside.

**SALLY:** And you're a fine one to talk, Peggy.

**GILES:** Harriet scribbled on to her clipboard without once looking up over her tiny spectacles.

**PEGGY:** You're bound to be arrested. Everyone gets arrested, pet.

**MAUD:** If you're not up for it, you can always run along back home to the fiancé of yours.

**MOLLY:** I can do a short sentence.

**PEGGY:** Are you sure?

**MOLLY:** Yes. I'm sure.

**HARRIET:** Long stay, Maud?

**MAUD:** Of course.

**HARRIET:** What about you Peggy? Don't forget you got the wee babe to think about now?

**PEGGY:** Our Frankie's gonna take care of him. So, it'll be a longun' this time.

**FRANKIE:** They could hear the nose of the busy street not far away. The car engines, people talking, the odd police whistle.

**HARRIET:** Don't forget the official advice upon being arrested from the WSPU.

**GILES:** When arrested and taken to Cannon Row or other Police Station, you will, after an interval, be Bailed out and then return to your home or hostess.

**FRANKIE:** In the morning you should surrender at the time mentioned on your charge sheet, at the Police Court, bringing with you a bag packed with everything you are likely to need during your imprisonment.

**HARRIET:** Peggy, show Molly where to go to find a small window. You tag along with them too Sally. Maud, please try and keep that temper of yours under your hat this time. We don't want a repeat of what happened last time. Have you all got your implements with you?

**GILES:** They all took out their bricks.

**MOLLY:** Implements?

**HARRIET:** Bricks. It's ok Molly. You can use my hammer. I always have a spare. Its best to be overprepared as my dear significant other Winston always says.

**GILES:** The street was packed with shoppers, workers and traffic queuing up along the street. Some tooting their horns trying to get past the parked-up buses and delivery vehicles.

**FRANKIE:** The ladies made their way across the road to the opposite side of the street. Molly couldn't help but feel like a wanted criminal already.

**PEGGY:** Keep your head up high. Don't whatever you do look down. You look guilty otherwise and the bobbes can smell guilt a mile away.

**GILES:** Harriet and Maud made their way further up the street towards the museum. It had large windows that reached from the ground right up tall in the air.

**PEGGY:** Stick with Sally and I and do exactly what we do.

**GILES:** There were more women there than she thought. They were all making eye contact and nodding with recognition in some kind of secret code.

**FRANKIE:** Peggy stopped outside a large shop with old fashioned windows which we're smaller, but still well lit. Molly couldn't keep her eyes off the other women scattered along the street waiting for the signal. She suddenly jumped out of her skin as a Police officer almost bumped into her.

**POLICEMAN:** Watch where you're going, miss. You don't want to end up falling into the road, do ya?

**SALLY:** Are you alright, Molly?

**PEGGY:** She's fine, ain't ya, petal?

**GILES:** But Molly didn't hear either of them. A bus screeched to a halt right by them. People exploded on to the footpath next to them. One gentleman almost knocked into her again.

**FRANKIE:** A loud horn sounded from across the road as a speeding car came to a stop behind a delivery cart.

**PEGGY:** Now Molly! NOW!

**GILES:** Molly spun around towards the shop window again.

**ALL:** Votes for women! Votes for all! Votes for women!

**FRANKIE:** Windows suddenly smashed as bricks were thrown.

**ALL:** Votes for women! Votes for all!

**GILES:** Peggy threw her brick at the window in front of them. The glass instantly shattered and smashed. Glass went everywhere. People started screaming and shouting.

**FRANKIE:** Cars screeched to halt. Horns were sounded.

**GILES:** People ran for cover. Police whistles were heard. People cried out.

**ALL:** Votes for women! Votes for all!

**PEGGY:** What are you waiting for?

**FRANKIE:** Molly raised her hammer towards one of the windows. Her eyes widened almost in fear. Almost with excitement. Just then she saw the sign above.

**GILES:** Bennett Tailor Services Limited.

**FRANKIE:** It was Giles' family business.

**GILES:** Suddenly she stopped thinking. Her heart stopped pounding in her chest. She cried out

**MOLLY:** Votes for women! Votes for all!

**FRANKIE:** She swung her arm back and smashed the hammer against the window just as several policemen came running across the street shouting and waving their batons in the air.

**GILES:** Almost immediately the women were surrounded. And that was it. Police vehicles exploded onto the street. The women were being backed up against the wall, but their chanting did not fade.

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**LEEJAY:** And were they arrested?

**LIZ:** Every single one of them. And you could hear them all chanting all the way to the Police station.

**ALL:** We are not here to be lawbreakers,  
We are here to become lawmakers!

**LIZ:** They stood tall. And they stood brave. Defiant that their message would be heard loud and clear.