

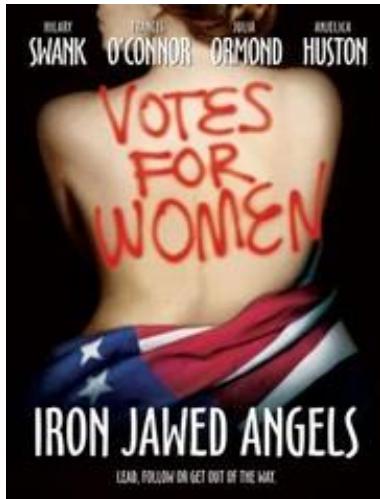
Voting Rights Under Attack: An NCJW Toolkit to Protect the Vote

NCJW®

National Council of Jewish Women

Film Screening and Discussion: Iron Jawed Angels

Films can offer a good basis for discussion and further understanding of important subjects. A film program that includes a screening, facilitated discussion, and perhaps even a speaker, can be an excellent way for NCJW members and supporters to learn more about and get involved in an issue.



Iron Jawed Angels, film by Katja von Garnier: In the early twentieth century, the American women's suffrage movement mobilized and fought to grant women the right to vote. Watch Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor) as they fight for women's suffrage and revolutionize the American feminist movement.

Preparation for the Film Screening:

- ▶ Remind participants to be prepared to discuss how the film relates to NCJW's mission.
- ▶ Encourage participants to bring statistics and information about voter rights in your community.
- ▶ Confirm location and decide who is bringing snacks and beverages.
- ▶ Ensure a facilitator is prepared to ask questions and guide discussion.
- ▶ Download and print copies of NCJW's [Promote the Vote. Protect the Vote Resource Guide](#).

Discussion Questions to Consider:

- ▶ Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and the National Women's Party conducted marches, picketed the White House, and held rallies. What ways can you mobilize and influence your local, state, and federal elected officials?
- ▶ Lucy Burns discusses the "dos and don'ts" of lobbying, which include knowing the background of the member, being a good listener, and not losing your temper. Do you think these

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rules have changed in the past 100 years? If so, how? What other “dos and don’ts” can you think of?

- ▶ How did the film portray racism within the women’s suffrage movement? How did racism linger in the feminist movement?
- ▶ In the film, the methods of the National Women’s Party and the National American Women’s Suffrage Association are contrasted. What does the film suggest about big change versus incremental change? When might one type of change be better than the other?
- ▶ What does Alice Paul mean when she tells Emily Leighton that she is “worse than anti-suffragettes?” Who did the National Women’s Party see as its biggest opponent: President Wilson, Congress, the National American Women’s Suffrage Association, or women like Emily Leighton?
- ▶ The Bechdal Test, created by cartoonist Alison Bechdal, is an indicator of gender inequality and female representation in films and other fiction. The test consists of three questions, which must be answered in the affirmative to pass the test: 1) Are there at least two named women? 2) Do these women talk to each other? 3) Is the conversation about something besides a man? In your opinion, does *Iron Jawed Angels* pass this test? Why or why not?
- ▶ Alice Paul tells Lucy Burns “I won’t give anything away till we have it all.” Do you think women have it all now? Are there issues that you “won’t give away till you have it all?”

Questions? Contact Faith Fried in NCJW’s Washington Office (Faith@ncjwdc.org).