

**TASK**

Imagine you are Suffragette leader Mrs Pankhurst. Write a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr Herbert Asquith, explaining why the two Suffragettes chained themselves to the railings. What did they hope to achieve? Was their treatment fair? Do you feel he should offer an apology?

BACKGROUND

In 1908, Miss Mary Neal chained herself to the railings outside the Prime Minister's front door. She did this for a number of reasons; the Cabinet was in session so they would hear her speech, as would the crowd outside. Furthermore it would take the police time to unchain her, time she desperately needed to make her impassioned speech. She was quickly joined by Nurse Olivia Smith, who followed her example and chained herself to the railings. Both were charged along with two other members with disorderly conduct. They all elected to go to jail for three weeks.