

## **International Women's Day**

by Laura Critchley

8th of March 2008, was International Women's Day; more importantly the 8th of March 2008 was the 80th anniversary of the gaining of the vote for women within England.

Some of the most famous campaigners for women's suffrage were Emmeline, Sylvia, Christabel and Adela Pankhurst; who lived and worked in Manchester. Their old home on Nelson Street, Manchester, is now The Pankhurst Centre; a safe space for women to work and do training and it is also a museum to remember the Pankhurst's and their work for women as much of the house is left in its original format and condition.

As Manchester has such strong links with women's suffrage and with it being the 80th anniversary of women gaining the vote... it threw one big celebration for International Women's Day with women and young women from all over Manchester and even from other cities and towns joining in.

I myself went to one of the events to jointly commemorate International Women's Day and the end of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans.) History Month.

This event, "Why Women Work", took place on the MMU (Manchester Metropolitan University) campus and featured guest speakers including Dr. Kerry Young, an 80's pioneer for "girl's work".

The event was jointly run by young women and women from around the community; including young women from The Base, L:IKT and LGYM as well as some young women and older women from Feminist Webs. There were a number of workshops running simultaneously on the day including workshops about Sex and Sexuality and Girl's Youth Work.

On the day there was also a performance of a play about a woman who is faced with the possibility of her daughter being a lesbian. The play highlighted problems with homophobia and how quite often sexuality is linked with promiscuity.

But, the highlight of the day was the launch of Feminist Webs, a website written and created by young women and women from around the Manchester area. The aim of the site is to be an online magazine and resource for materials related to feminism, both recent and past as a sense of heritage and celebration of all the achievements of women over the last eighty years and as a highlighter for some of the aspects of female life that still needs to change such as equal pay and domestic violence.

**Links:**

[The Base](#)

[L:IKT](#)

[LGYM](#)

[Feminist Webs](#)

[Pankhurst Centre](#)