



Further reading/research



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### Books

*Mary Macarthur: a biographical sketch*, Mary Agnes Hamilton, London, 1925.

*Women in British Trade Unions 1874 – 1976*, Norbert C. Seldon, Gill & Macmillan, Dublin, 1978

*United We Stand: A History of Britain's Trade Unions*, Alastair J.Reid, Allen Lane, London, 2004

*Women Workers and the Trade Unions*, Sheila Boston, Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1980

*Women in Trade Unions*, Barbara Drake, Virago, London, 1984

*Chain and Anchor Making in the Black Country*, Ron Moss, Sutton Publishing, 2006

*The White Slaves of England*, Robert Sherard

A complete facsimile of the whole book can be downloaded from Canadian Libraries via the Internet Archive at: <http://www.archive.org>  
Search for White Slaves of England by Robert Sherard

### Other Sources

*The Gertrude Tuckwell Collection*, Trade Union Congress Library  
(Also available on microform at Birmingham Central Library)

*BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour History and Science Archive* has an excellent ten-minute programme, first broadcast on October 27<sup>th</sup> 2005. It discusses the legacy of Mary Macarthur and the chainmakers' strike. You can listen again at:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/2005\\_43\\_thu\\_04.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/womanshour/2005_43_thu_04.shtml)

*The TUC's Union History website* has an excellent section on Winning Equal Pay, which features voices from the workplace, contributions from historians and a selection of photographs and posters from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, including Cradley Heath chainmakers and Mary Macarthur's 1918 election manifesto.

<http://www.unionhistory.info/equalpay/index.php>

*The Spartacus.schoolnet website* has a good page on Mary Macarthur with links to the Exhibition of Sweated Industries, Will Anderson, and Mary Bondfield:

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/TUmacarthur.htm>

Further resources for the TUC's women's low pay and poverty campaign (including posters) are available at [www.tuc.org.uk/womenspoverty](http://www.tuc.org.uk/womenspoverty) or by calling 0207 636 4030. Included is a booklet called 'International Women's Day 2009- Time to End Women's Poverty' which costs £6. International Women's Day is held on 8<sup>th</sup> March each year. In the UK today, women are much more likely to be poor than men. Many of these women are poor because they work in low paid jobs, as did the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath so many years ago. 30 per cent of working women earn less than £100 per week, compared to just 14 per cent of men.

The Fawcett Society campaigns for equality between women and men in the UK on pay, pensions, poverty, justice and politics. Log on to [www.fawcettsociety.org.uk](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk) for more information. On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Fawcett Society organises events across the country to raise awareness of Women's No Pay Day - the day when women receive their last payslip of the year and begin working for free thanks to the 17% gender pay gap. Schools could use Women's No Pay Day to explore with students why women earned less money than men in 1910 and why they continue to do so one hundred years later.

The Equal Opportunities Commission has become the Equality and Human Rights Commission. Its website [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com) explains the duty placed on all primary, secondary and special schools to promote gender equality. Schools are required to develop practical ways in which to promote gender equality amongst their students, which will also help to secure equality for future generations. The Women Chainmakers' Festival, celebrated at the Black Country Living Museum in September each year, and the story of the women chainmakers' fight for a living wage, provide ideal opportunities for challenging attitudes about a woman's place in the home and in society. Women's low pay is rooted in long standing assumptions about a woman's place. The jobs women do attract lower wages. Mary Macarthur's story, and her dedication to improving conditions for working women, would form an ideal route into a study of past campaigns for equal pay.