



Trailblazing Women: Caroline Lucas MP



TRAILBLAZERS: World War One's Inspirational Women

Location: Brighton and Hove

Occupation: Member of Parliament

Why are they a Trailblazer?

Caroline Lucas is a British politician who has been the Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion constituency since 2010. She served as the leader of the Green Party of England and Wales from 2008 to 2012 and was co-leader from 2016 to 2018. She is an Officer of the All-Party Parliamentary groups on Sustainable Food and Farming, Domestic Violence and Abuse, Hate Crime, Sexual Violence and Southern Rail. She is also a Co-Chair of All-Party Parliamentary group on Fuel Poverty & Energy. She received the Michael Kay Award from the RSPCA in 2006 for her contribution to European animal welfare and BBC Wildlife listed Caroline in their 'Top 50 Conservationists'. She was re-elected in the 2015 and 2017 general elections with an increased majority.

What impact have they made on their community?

Caroline has been an MP for Brighton Pavilion for nine years and has supported local campaigns and struggles throughout that time. Amongst many other things, Caroline was a founding member of the Brighton Women's Voices network and continues to stand up for women in Brighton, across the country and beyond. Lucas has won the award for Politician of the Year in The Observer Newspaper Ethical Awards three times. The award is voted for by Observer readers, who chose her to win in 2007, 2009 and 2010. In 2008 she was listed by The Guardian as one of "50 people who could save the planet".

What connections are there between Caroline and the Trailblazers of World War One?

Before 1918 – just over 90 years before Caroline Lucas was voted MP for Brighton Pavilion - women simply weren't able to stand for election and be elected an MP by law. In November that year the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act allowed women to stand as candidates for the first time. The first woman to be elected to the Commons was Constance Markievicz

(1868 – 1927), in the general election of 1918. However as a member of Sinn Fein, she chose not to take her seat. The first women to take her actual electoral seat was Viscountess Nancy Astor (1879 – 1976), after a by-election in December 1919. She was elected as a Conservative for the Plymouth Sutton constituency after her husband, Waldorf Astor, the former MP, was elevated to the peerage. She held the seat until she stood down in 1945. Although she had never been involved in campaigns for women's suffrage, she was a great supporter of the women's movement once in Parliament.

How do they inspire your class to be Trailblazers of the future?

Politics is still seen as a 'man's world'. As a vocal and busy MP, who works hard and sticks to her principles of fairness, Caroline Lucas shows that women can have a pivotal place in politics.



REMEMBER TOGETHER



www.big-ideas.org | [#Trailblazers](https://twitter.com/Trailblazers)
trailblazers@big-ideas.org