

BIN THE BILL – DEFEND WOMEN’S RIGHTS (IN SONG AND CHANTS!) EDINBURGH 7/03/20

1. Bella Ciao

Trad Italian, new words
Eileen Penman

We are women and we are marching
Bella Ciao, Bella Ciao,
Bella Ciao, Ciao, Ciao,
We are marching for liberation
And we will not be denied

We are women and we are singing
Bella Ciao, Bella Ciao,
Bella Ciao, Ciao, Ciao,
We are singing for Peace & Freedom
And for the future of the young

We are women and we are dancing
Bella Ciao, Bella Ciao,
Bella Ciao, Ciao, Ciao,
We are dancing with our sisters
And we care not what you say

We are women and we are striking
Bella Ciao, Bella Ciao,
Bella Ciao, Ciao, Ciao,
We are striking for higher wages
And an end to misogyny

2. Gentle Angry People

Words and Music: Holly Near

We are a gentle angry people
And we are singing,
Singing for our lives
We are a gentle angry people
And we are singing,
Singing for our lives.

We are young and old together....
We are gay and straight together....
We are a land of many colours....
We are justice-seeking women...

3. Bin the GRRBill

Trad, What shall we do with the drunken sailor, new words Edinburgh Bin the Bill, Defend Single-sex Spaces demo
(GRRBill is pronounced gerbil)

What shall we do with Scotland’s GRRBill?
What shall we do with Scotland’s GRRBill?
What shall we do with Scotland’s GRRBill?
Tear it up and bin it.

**Chorus: Hooray for our feminist mothers,
Hooray for our feminist sisters,
Hooray for our feminist daughters,
We will bin the GRRBill.**

Put it in the post “Return to sender”
Put it in the post “Return to sender”
Put it in the post “Return to sender”
Send that GRRBill packing.

Chorus

Women’s rights were dearly fought for,
Women’s rights were dearly fought for,
Women’s rights were dearly fought for,
We won’t have them stolen.

Chorus

Joan McAlpine, Johann Lamont,
Elaine Smith and Kenny Gibson,
Jenny Marra, Joanna Cherry,
Together we’ll bin the GRRBill.

Chorus

We are here and we won’t be silenced
We are here and we won’t be silenced
We are here and we won’t be silenced
We say “no” to the GRRBill.

4. We Shall Not Be Moved

Trad, US Civil Rights & other struggles, new words
Eileen Penman

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the
water,
We shall not be moved.

Sisters together, we shall not be moved
Sisters together, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the
water,
We shall not be moved

Save our spaces, we shall not be moved
Save our spaces, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the
water
We shall not be moved

Women's rights for ever,
We shall not be moved
Women's rights for ever,
We shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the
water
We shall not be moved.

5. Which Side Are You On?

Tune: Florence Reece, new words Eileen Penman

Come all of you good women
A tale to you I'll tell
Of how some politicians
Our rights would like to sell

***Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?***

We've fought a million battles
To defend our hard-won rights
We were born female
So I ask you here tonight.

***Which side are you on?
Which side are you on?***

It's time for a decision
You really have to choose
Don't let others take our rights
We've got too much to lose.

6. Gimme, Gimme, Gimme

Music: Abba, new words Edinburgh Bin the Bill,
Defend Single-sex Spaces demo

**Chorus: Gimme, gimme gimme
A bin for the GRRBill,
We are here together
And together we say:
Gimme, gimme, gimme
A bin for the GRRBill,
We'll shred it into pieces
And we'll throw it away.**

Self-ID –
Well it may be well-intentioned
But has anybody mentioned women's
rights?
Sounds to me
Like they think that we're not
watching,
If they think that we'll give in without a
fight.

We like biology – not ideology,
Oh-oh.

Chorus: Gimme, gimme, gimme...

SOME CHANTS...

*What do we want? Women's rights!
When do we want them? Now!*

No way Self-ID – we say reality!

*Women's spaces, women's rights,
We will not give up the fight!*

7. Bread and Roses

Words by James Oppenheim 1912

Music Mimi Farina

As we come marching, marching
In the beauty of the day
A million darkened kitchens,
A thousand mill lofts grey
Are touched with all the radiance
That a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing,
“Bread and roses! Bread and roses!”

As we come marching, marching,
We battle too for men
For they are in the struggle
And together we shall win
Our lives shall not be sweated
From birth until life closes
Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us
bread, but give us roses!

As we come marching, marching,
Unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing
Their ancient cry for bread
Small art and love and beauty
Their drudging spirits knew
Yes, it is bread we fight for,
But we fight for roses too!

As we come marching, marching,
The future hears our call,
The rising of the women
Means the rising of us all
No more the drudge and idler –
Ten that toil where one reposes
But a sharing of life’s glories,
Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

8. There is Nothin’ Like a Dyke

Tune: Rodgers & Hammerstein

*Words: Pre-Madonnas Choir, London, 1980s + new
verse 2019, Lesbian bloc at Edinburgh Pride*

***There is nothin’ like a dyke,
Nothin’ in the world,
There’s no fish without a bike
That is anything like a dyke.***

We’ve got Sappho and Virginia, Gertrude
Stein & Radcliffe Hall,
We’re not staying in our closets, come out,
join us one & all,
We’ve got axes and Doc Martens and we’re
more than 1 in 10,
What don’t we need? We don’t need men.

We are lawyers, we are plumbers, we are
teachers, we are nuns
We are able and disabled, black and white
and old and young,
We are nurses we are doctors we are
politicians too,
Where will we be? Right next to you!

Chorus (There is nothin’ like a dyke...)

We have fought for women’s spaces
And we’ve fought for women’s rights,
Our mothers won the vote for us, we won’t
give up the fight,
If you think that we’ll be silenced
Then we’re here to set you straight,
Pride belongs to us – let’s celebrate!

Chorus (There is nothin’ like a dyke...)

You can find us on the buses, the trains and
even on the metro,
One thing you can be sure about, we’re
definitely not hetero,

Chorus (There is nothin’ like a dyke)

There ain’t a thing that’s wrong with anyone
here
That can’t be cured by putting them near,
A female, fabulous, feisty, double-x dyke.

9. It’s not just the web

*Tune: It’s not what you do, it’s the way that you
do it*

Words: Greenham Common women’s peace camp

It's not just the web
It's the way that we spin it,
It's not just the world
It's the women in it,
It's not just the struggle
It's the way that we win it,
That's what makes us strong.

It's not just the way
It's the sense of direction,
It's not just the warmth
It's the love and affection,
It's not that we're good
We're just bloody perfection,
That's what keeps us strong.

10. Women of the World

Women of the world take over!
Because if you don't
The world will come to an end.
And we haven't got long.

11. This Old Mountain

Words and music: Holly Near

I have dreamed on this mountain
Since first I was my mother's daughter
And you can't just take my dreams
away
Not with me watching

You may drive a big machine
But I was born a big strong woman
And you can't just take my dreams
away
Without me fighting
This old mountain raised my many
daughters
Some died young, some still living
But if you've come here for to take my
mountain

Then I aint come here to give it

Old and strong
She goes on and on and on
You can't kill the spirit
She is like a mountain



12. Women's Army

*Chorus: Oh sisters, don't you weep,
don't you mourn
Oh sisters, don't you weep, don't you
mourn
Women's army is marching
Oh, sisters don't you weep*

If I could I surely would
Stand like our militant sisters stood
Women's army is marching
Oh, sisters don't you weep

One of these nights about 12 o'clock
This old world is gonna reel & rock
Women's army is marching
Oh, sisters don't you weep

Sister, sister, don't be afraid
Women in struggle will come to your
aid
Women's army is marching
Oh, sisters don't you weep.