

AN  
**ARTICHOKE**  
PROJECT

COMMISSIONED BY  
**14-18-NOW**  
WW1 CENTENARY ART COMMISSIONS



Proud partner



**NatWest**

Supported using public funding by



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



Department for  
Digital, Culture  
Media & Sport



LED BY IWM

# 1918 PROCESSIONS 2018

## **DO YOU HAVE A FEMALE MP OR LOCAL COUNCILLOR?**

PROCESSIONS provides an opportunity to understand what it is like for women who hold elected positions today.

Consider using the following template as a guide to write to your MP or local councillor and invite them to visit your banner-making workshop.

If you can, write the letter as soon as possible so they have plenty of time to reply. Remember: MPs are usually in their constituencies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week.

You could:

- Write a letter to your MP at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
- Email your MP using the contact details in [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)'s [Directory of MPs](#)
- Find your local councillor's contact details on your council website or through your council's helpdesk; they will generally provide an email or postal address.

You may download, store, use, reproduce and redistribute the material in hardcopy. You may link to the material online through [processions.co.uk](http://processions.co.uk) but may not republish on another website or online service or bulletin board of your own or any other party. The website owner's copyright must remain on all reproductions of this material

Artichoke Trust is a registered charity No.1112716

## TEMPLATE LETTER

[Your address]

[Name and address of your MP or Councillor]

[Date]

Dear XXX,

[2 lines on who you are, eg. My name is XXX and I live XXX...]

I am writing to you as I am running a banner-making workshop as part of [PROCESSIONS](#), a mass participation artwork to mark the centenary of women's suffrage. I would like to invite you to attend our workshop and speak to the participants for 30 minutes, with the hope that, by meeting you and hearing your story more women in our community might be inspired to engage more in politics.

PROCESSIONS is produced by Artichoke, the UK's largest producer of art in the public realm, as part of 14-18 NOW, the UK's official arts programme for the First World War centenary. My group is one of hundreds up and down the country who are making banners to express the ideas, hopes and concerns of women today. On 10<sup>th</sup> of June we will take our banners to Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London to walk in PROCESSIONS with women and girls from across the UK, making a living, moving portrait of women in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

During our workshops we will discuss:

- What the Representation of the People Act is and why it was made.
- Which participants in our group are registered to vote, what this means to them and if they feel their vote counts.
- Where women's power comes from in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- What the main barriers are that women who hold elected positions face today.

We would like to invite you to visit our banner-making workshop to speak about your experience of holding a position of elected office, what the barriers are that you face and how you feel that your gender has helped or hindered your experience.

By meeting with elected officials, we hope to address local barriers to political participation and close the gap between those who hold elected positions and those who could.

We invite you to attend our workshop at XXX from [times and dates].

Please let me know if you will be able to attend.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]