On a rainy, wintry day in 1907, thousands of women filled the streets of London, chanting, "Votes for women!" They did not care that their boots and skirts became covered in mud as they walked, because the reason behind their protest was far more important. They marched from Hyde Park to the Strand, through the heart of the city. The protest became known as the Mud March. Women from different backgrounds and social classes participated, demonstrating the broad support for their cause. It was the largest protest to date demanding the right to vote for women.

Women in the United Kingdom finally gained the right to vote in 1928, after more than half a century of activism.

The Defenders of Pureora Forest

New Zealand is a country made up of several islands in the Pacific Ocean.
It was one of the last habitable landmasses to be populated by humans.
The Māori, originally from Polynesia, were the first to settle on these islands,
after which 80% of the New Zealand territory was still covered in forests.
When European settlers arrived, however, they began to build houses in an
unsustainable way, cutting down more and more trees to convert into boards.
Logging destroyed many of New Zealand's native forests.

Pureora Forest is a tropical rainforest located on the North Island
of New Zealand, and it is an important site in Māori culture. In 1978,
deforestation and logging began in this forest, home to a huge variety
of wild animals and plants, including the oldest evergreen trees
from the genus *Podocarpus* in the world. Some specimens
are over a thousand years old.

Every Monday, in the church of St. Nicholas in the city of Leipzig, in East Germany, a small group of people began to organize peaceful prayer vigils asking for liberty and justice. Although they were very scared—they didn't know how the government would react—more and more people joined these meetings every week. Realizing that they were not alone gave them courage, and as the movement grew, the protesters became even more daring. They took their protest from the church to the streets.

During the night of October 9, 1989, seventy thousand people participated in a protest in Leipzig. They carried lighted candles and chanted "We are the people!" Although acts of protest were against the law, the authorities did not respond with violence, so other similar protests began to spread throughout East Germany. These demonstrations led to the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989, when the government in the East was forced to allow people to pass over into the West. The Wall was dismantled in 1990.

In 2020, after a police officer unlawfully and ruthlessly killed an African American man named George Floyd, people across the globe, but especially in the United States, took to the streets to express their outrage and to deliver an important message: Black Lives Matter. The voices of the protesters resounded around the world, and more and more people have since joined the protest movement.

These peaceful demands demonstrate widespread support for police reform in the United States. Through the protestors' call for an end to police brutality and racial injustice, people across the globe have been made aware of the violence and discrimination still faced by Black people in the United States and in other parts of the world. Much remains to be done, but the powerful message of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement has changed our world and society forever.