



the Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee

is pleased to invite you to join us at the
Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Lecture on
Saturday 13 August 2022 at Wortley Hall,
Sheffield, 7pm

Sylvia Pankhurst on War

Rachel Holmes

What did Sylvia Pankhurst think about war? She lived through every major conflict of the twentieth century, from the bloody Anglo-Boer clash to Vietnam. A pacifist who opposed the First World War, she supported the Ethiopian fight for freedom against Mussolini's imperialism and the anti-fascist struggle against Nazism in the Second World War. She regarded the fight against class, race and gender inequality as her life's work, pledging "to fight capitalism even if it kills me". Pankhurst's life was riven by disagreements over war with her own family and across the British suffragette and labour movements. Examining Sylvia Pankhurst's evolving philosophy of war in theory and practice over seven decades of her life, this lecture will demonstrate what her example can teach us today.

Rachel Holmes is a writer. She is the author, most recently, of *Sylvia Pankhurst: Natural Born Rebel*. Her previous works include *Eleanor Marx: A Life*; *The Hottentot Venus: The Life and Death of Sarah Baartman*; and *The Secret Life of Dr James Barry*. As an academic, she held lectureships at Queen Mary, University of London and the University of Sussex. In the early 1990s, during South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy, she taught on the renowned education transformation programme at the University of the Western Cape (UWC) and for a long time worked for the South African HIV/AIDS Treatment Action Campaign (TAC). She was Director of Literature at the Southbank Centre in London and in 2010 she received an Arts Council cultural leadership award as one of Britain's Fifty Women to Watch. She was the UK chair of the Iraq Literature Festivals based in Erbil, tutor and writer in residence at the Palestine Writing Workshop in the West Bank from 2009 to 2015 and Visiting Literary Fellow at Mansfield College, Oxford. Holmes is the co-editor of *Fifty Shades of Feminism* and *I Call Myself a Feminist* and is a contributor to the British *Refugee Tales* project, calling for the end of indefinite immigration detention in the UK.

Sponsored by the Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee, the National Assembly of Women, and Wortley Hall. The lecture will be followed by light refreshments.

If you require accommodation at Wortley Hall for the night please contact them on 0114 2882100, info@wortleyhall.com www.wortleyhall.org.uk

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