

Women Needed in Campaign (August 1908)

As this campaign develops the need for every available comrade to serve in the ranks will press upon us, and one of the greatest will be for women on the rostrum and in the field as speakers and propagandists. There are certain advantages which women have over men which give their work special influence of a character which is sorely needed at this time. The appeal of women for socialism comes, too, with peculiar force, and it fills a place in our propaganda which must otherwise remain vacant. My observation is that our movement is strongest where women's influence is felt most, and since our movement is a human movement, and since our party is the only party which recognizes woman as a human being, the way should be paved as much as possible for all women who have the time and capacity to enter the arena and give voice and influence to the one cause in which success means emancipation.

Not long ago I saw and heard one of our socialist women in action. She was addressing a crowd on the street. Her eyes sparkled, her cheeks glowed, and her voice was vibrant with enthusiasm. She held the crowd close to her while she drove home her telling points.

The crowd always listens to a woman with respectful attention, and when she is animated by socialist principles and ideals she at once becomes a power in molding thought and in starting the crowd on the right track. Most earnestly do I hope to see every woman who understands socialism, and is in position to speak about it, out on the hustings when the campaign opens. My only regret is that we have not twice as many to serve, and our committees everywhere should make it as easy as possible, by those who are available, to join in the greatest political battle ever waged for freedom by the working class of the United States.

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