

# AN Open Letter to Women

Do you know where you are sending the boys? Do you know what you are sending them to? You do not know. You will never know from your own experience. You must rely on what you are told by the men who have been there; by the men who have come back. These men say—a thousand of them are saying at the Trades Hall—that the women only knew where they were sending the men—what they were doing—and that women would never vote for the men to go.

But do you think where you are sending them? Do you think about it at all? How you, who stay at home, the right to send others away? You may be strong, brave, willing to face much suffering and endure much pain. But are all the boys as strong, as brave, and as wise as soldiers should be? Can they stand long years of suffering away from home and from the women they love? You are voting to send many boys away from their homes—boys who are not cowards, boys who are not heroes, boys who will never come back.

Some of the boys you send will never come back. Some you send to die, some to be maimed, some who are young, and weak, and unwilling, you send to be dishonored.

Some of the boys you send will never come back. It is a hard thing for a woman to send a man to his death. The only man she can possibly have a right so to send is a man who loves her and whom she loves. There is not one of you, there is not a woman in the world, who would send a man she loved, whether husband or son, or sweetheart, or brother, to war as a conscript. Then do not vote to send that unknown man, whom you do not love, but whom some other woman loves and cares for.

You think that by conscription you are going to win the war. Can you win the war by sending those boys who do not want to go? Only the unwilling are conscripts, the willing are volunteers. Many boys are unwilling boys. They are afraid of the home-coming. Will the girls who voted to send them away be willing and able to look after them when they come back? Some will be willing; some will be able; but how can a girl, who is dependent on her parents, or a girl who has no house, and earns only a few shillings a week, look after a man who is blind, a man who is a cripple, a man who is not 'all there'? The thriftiest girl could not do it.

Your women who preach thrift, should be thrifty with the bodies of men.

## Vote NO on December 20



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