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Josephine Butler, Women's Rights, and Social Reform in Britain, c. 1820–1930

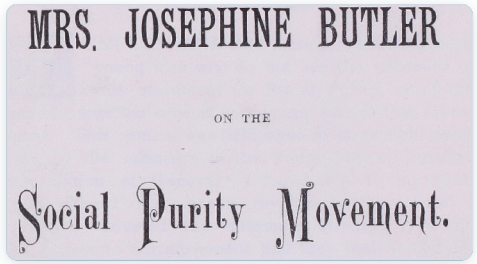
Explore the life and work of one of . . .

Josephine Butler (1828–1906) was a pioneering British feminist, writer, and advocate for women's rights. She devoted her life to improving the intellectual, spiritual, legal, and economic prospects of women. This collection explores Butler's life and work through her personal correspondence and literature that she and her contemporaries produced.

Butler campaigned for the rights of sex workers, known at the time as "fallen women", and against state regulation of prostitution in Britain and abroad. **She led one of Britain's first national women's political campaigns, demanding the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.** This movement called out the hypocrisy of Victorian society around issues of sexual morality.


Portrait, age 24, after G. Richmond, A.R.A., 1852.

Butler authored and edited over 90 books and pamphlets. Her writing, which promoted social reform, education, and equality for women, was widely distributed.


MRS. JOSEPHINE BUTLER

ON THE

Social Purity Movement.

Alongside leading a number of pressure groups, Butler toured Britain delivering speeches condemning the Contagious Diseases Acts. This collection holds much campaign literature.

"English women will be found ready again and again to agitate, to give men no repose, to turn the world upside down if need be, until impurity and injustice are expelled from our laws."

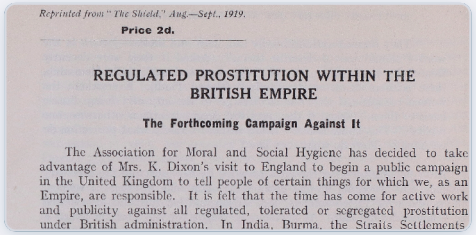
Josephine Butler, ***The Constitution Violated*** (Edinburgh, 1886), pp. 157–58.

This collection is sourced from archives housed at the Women's Library, based at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

. . . Britain's pioneering Victorian feminists



The sources also illuminate the broader history of social reform, spotlighting ideas of gender and class in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. **International in scope and interdisciplinary in ethos, this fascinating collection sheds light on the period when Victorian feminism emerged as a potent political force**.


Reprinted from "The Shield," Aug.—Sept., 1919.

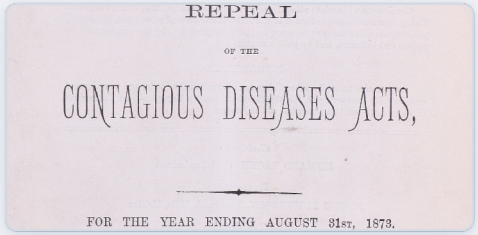
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REGULATED PROSTITUTION WITHIN THE BRITISH EMPIRE

The Forthcoming Campaign Against It

The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene has decided to take advantage of Mrs. K. Dixon's visit to England to begin a public campaign in the United Kingdom to tell people of certain things for which we, as an Empire, are responsible. It is felt that the time has come for active work and publicity against all regulated, tolerated or segregated prostitution under British administration. In India, Burma, the Straits Settlements

Butler addressed numerous issues, including prostitution in British military bases in India. This collection includes pamphlets discussing morality in cantonments, venereal disease, and the "wretched lives" of the girls involved.


REPEAL

OF THE

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31ST, 1873.

Butler's legacy remains relevant: her campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts was the first time an autonomous women's movement in Britain addressed a domestic political issue on behalf of women and girls.

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