

***“Bearing and rearing children is the most essential of all the nation's businesses. If not done at all, the world would become a desert in less than a century.”***

***“Nothing can justify the subordination of one group of producers – the mothers – to the rest, and their deprivation of all share of their own in the wealth of a community which depends on them for its very existence.”***

***The Disinherited Family (1924)***

*For more information or if you want to share your memories or know someone who might, please contact.*

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*Crossroads Women's Centre*

**Calling Grandmothers, Great-grandmothers,  
70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first payment  
Allowance, now Child Benefit, share your  
what this money meant to you by being  
for our Oral History Project**

During 2016 and 2017  
we are celebrating the  
70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
first payment of Family  
Allowance, now known  
as Child Benefit, and  
commemorate

Independent feminist MP  
Eleanor Rathbone (1872-  
1946) who made it happen.

Eleanor Rathbone campaigned for decades  
greater equality of income between women  
a wage to be paid directly to mothers for the  
raising children and taking care of the family  
was determined to end mothers' and children



children.

Eleanor Rathbone was one of the most famous and respected women of her time, and generations of mothers and children have benefitted from Family Allowance or Child Benefit since 1946.

Yet few today know anything about Eleanor Rathbone and how long and hard she fought to ensure that mothers' contribution to society was financially recognised.

Women have had to repeatedly defend their right to this recognition of their caring work. Some may remember that in 1972 the government tried to transfer Family Allowance to men's pay packets.

A national network coordinated by the Wages for Housework Campaign succeeded in keeping the money in

have teamed up to reverse the lack of information in the Oral History Project funded by the Heritage Foundation and Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust.

We will interview some 100+ mothers – married, single, widowed by war, UK-born, immigrant, refugee, and more, who received Family Allowance especially in the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. We aim to find out what this money meant to mothers, and the impact it had on their lives of their children, families and communities. We know that many women called it 'the only money of my own'.

The interviews will be made widely available to the community and women's organizations, through radio programmes, publications and the internet. A digital oral dossier, project website, exhibition



Cartoon by Vicky from the News Chronicle, 7 August 1946.

