1. Record Nr. UNINA9910461419103321 Women and citizenship in Britain and Ireland in the twentieth century Titolo [[electronic resource]]: what difference did the vote make? // edited by Esther Breitenbach and Pat Thane London; New York, : Continuum, c2010 Pubbl/distr/stampa 1-283-20612-9 **ISBN** 9786613206121 1-4411-4900-7 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (257 p.) Altri autori (Persone) **ThanePat** BreitenbachEsther Disciplina 323.340941 Soggetti Citizenship - Great Britain - History - 20th century Citizenship - Ireland - History - 20th century Women's rights - Great Britain - History - 20th century Women's rights - Ireland - History - 20th century Electronic books. Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. [227]-234) and index. Contents; List of tables and figures; Acknowledgements; Contributors: Nota di contenuto 1 Introduction; 2 Women and political participation in England, 1918-1970; 3 'Providing an opportunity to exercise their energies': the role of the Labour Women's Sections in shaping political identities, South Wales, 1918-1939; 4 Count up to twenty-one: Scottish women in formal politics, 1918-1990; 5 Scottish women's organizations and the exercise of citizenship c. 1900-c. 1970; 6 The 'women element in politics': Irish women and the vote, 1918-2008 7 'Aphrodite rising from the Waves'? Women's voluntary activism and the women's movement in twentieth-century Ireland8 Conflicting rights: the struggle for female citizenship in Northern Ireland; 9 'Apathetic, parochial, conservative'? Women, elite and mass politics

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The continuing under-representation of women in political and public life remains a matter of concern across a wide range of countries, including the UK and Ireland. Within the UK it is a topical issue as political parties currently debate strategies, often controversial, which will increase women's representation. At the same time, devolution has ushered in significant change in the level of women's representation in Scotland and Wales and improved representation for women in Northern Ireland. That such increases in women's representation in political institutions have been slow in coming is...