

## The No-Conscription Fellowship

The No-Conscription Fellowship (NCF) was formed in November 1914, with the idea coming from [Lilla Brockway](#). Her husband, [Fenner Brockway](#), who was editor of the Independent Labour Party's newspaper the *Labour Leader*, called for men who were within the military age limits who opposed conscription to join the organisation. Bristol CO Walter Ayles was one of its founder members.

At first the NCF focused on preventing conscription, then it worked to repeal the Military Service Acts. It also supported COs, kept records of what happened to them, campaigned on their behalf, looked after their families, produced a newspaper, [The Tribunal](#), as well as pamphlets and [a weekly newsletter about what had been happening in Parliament](#). However, because of the differences between COs and those who supported them there were significant disagreements about a whole range of other related matters.

The authorities sought to repress the NCF and stop its work but these efforts were unsuccessful. Indeed, it carried on its sophisticated activities throughout the war, with women and older men taking over when COs were seized by the authorities. It had branches throughout the country, including in Bristol.

See also the PDFs on this website relating to *Annie Chappell*, *Walter Ayles* and *The Conscientious Objectors*.

You can see a local CO's NCF membership card [here](#).