

constance markiewicz the red countess

A timeline: 1913 - death

- 1914: Leader of Irish Party, John Redmond, declares support for Britain in War
- 1915, Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) plans uprising
- Easter Monday 1916 - Easter Rising begins; Proclamation read out on the steps of the General Post Office
- Lieutenant Markiewicz second in command to Michael Mallin in St Stephen's Green.
- surrendered, taken to Dublin Castle, then Kilmainham Gaol - sentenced to death, but commuted to life in prison on "account of the prisoner's sex"
- 16 men - including James Connolly - were executed by the British
- 1917: released from prison
- 1917: converted to Catholicism (having been born into Church of Ireland)
- 1918: jailed again for her part in anti-conscription activities
- 1918: general election: elected for constituency of Dublin St Patrick's, one of 73 Sinn Féin MPs: first woman elected to the British House of Commons - refused to take her seat - took up seat in Dáil Éireann instead
- 1921: re-elected to Dáil
- April 1919 to January 1922: served as Minister for Labour; first Irish female Cabinet Minister and first female Cabinet Minister in Europe
- January 1922: left government, opposing Anglo-Irish Treaty
- > fought actively for Republicans in Irish Civil War - after the War, toured USA
- 1922 election: not elected
- 1923 election: elected for Dublin South constituency, did not take seat
- 1923: imprisoned again for Republican activities, hunger strike with 92 other female prisoners – released within a month
- 1926: joined Fianna Fáil on its foundation
- June 1927 general election: re-elected as Fianna Fáil candidate
- five weeks later, before she could take her seat, died aged 59, on 15 July 1927, in Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital for the poor in Dublin, possibly of tuberculosis (contracted when she worked in the poorhouses of Dublin) or complications related to appendicitis. Éamon de Valera, Fianna Fáil leader, gave funeral oration.

