

What Women Want

(from their elected representatives)



ENGENDER

WOMEN

50:50

WOMEN ARE UNDERREPRESENTED
IN SCOTTISH POLITICS.

29%

35%

OF COUNCILLORS

OF MSPs

Women in Scotland are from different backgrounds, races, religions, and sexualities, and are both disabled and non-disabled. Right now this diversity is missing from our elected bodies.

This means that it is vital that all elected representatives work to promote equality for all women.

Engender and Women 5050 have been talking with women across Scotland to form these key questions you should ask yourself, and your colleagues, regularly.

Keep this resource with you, and look at it regularly. It will help you ensure you are doing the best you can for the women you represent.

How are my decisions
working for women?

1.

How much will this policy/programme cost, and how much will be spent on men and boys, and girls and women?

2.

How will this policy or programme tackle discrimination and gender inequality? How will it increase women's and men's equality?

3.

How many men were involved in deciding what this policy or programme should include? How many women?

Am I representing all women in my constituency?

1.

This year, have I received training from specialist organisations on human rights, violence against women and equalities?

2.

Am I communicating in an accessible way? Do I advertise my surgeries in a range of places and formats, and offer other ways to communicate including phone and house calls? Is it easy for women to hold me to account over my decisions?

3.

Within the last month, have I spoken to women in my community including women from all faiths and none, black minority ethnic women, lesbian bisexual and trans women, women from all social-economic backgrounds, disabled women, older and younger women, mothers, carers and refugees?

How am I using my position to promote equality?

1.

When I chair meetings and events, do I make sure women and men have equal time to speak?

2.

What have I done this month to ensure that more women, including BME, disabled and LGBT women, are elected for my party next time?

3.

Have I publicly said that gender equality and issues principally affecting women are important to me, and how I am working for change, in the past month?

We hope you find this resource useful.

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