

## MPs come together to #AskHerToStand

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Rosie Duffield, the new MP for Canterbury, hosted 50:50 Parliament's annual **#AskHerToStand** event. Alongside an exciting cross-bench panel of MPs, Rosie celebrated women in parliament and encouraged more women to stand for election at all levels of our democracy.

**Rosie Duffield** said, "This time last year I was an ordinary 50:50 supporter. Frances and the 50:50 team inspired me and made me believe that I too could be an MP. We need more women to be given the confidence and support to succeed in politics, that's why I'm proud to be the host of this year's **#AskHerToStand** event. I'm proud to tell my fellow women that it's time to get out of the kitchen and onto the benches!"

The panel included **Maria Miller** MP (Conservative & Chair of the Women & Equalities Select Committee), **Amelia Womack** Deputy Leader (Green), **Jo Swinson** MP (Lib Dem), and **Phillipa Whiteford** MP (SNP).

The panel discussed their journeys to the Commons and talked about how more women can be encouraged to stand for election to Parliament in future.

**Jess Phillips** MP, **Dawn Butler** MP, **Mims Davies** MP and many other women at Westminster attended and contributed to the discussion, inspiring and encouraging others.

This occasion marked the anniversary of Nancy Astor taking her seat in the Commons in December 1919, the first woman to sit on those green benches; she "wanted the world to get better". And still, after all this time, we need another 117 women MPs for a gender balanced Parliament and that's why we need to **#AskHerToStand**

**Frances Scott**, Director of 50:50 Parliament comments: "Many were lauding the 2017 election as a record for women but one hundred years after women won the right to vote, this is a *sad* record. Men still outnumber women by more than 2:1 in the corridors of power. Only 12 extra women were elected, at this rate it will take over 50 years for women to have equal seats and equal say in Parliament. That is too long to wait and that is why 50:50 have launched our **#AskHerToStand** campaign to inspire and support women in winning seats at Westminster"

[Detail continues over...]

[Studies have shown that women are 50% less likely than men](#) to consider themselves potential candidates for elected office and that they need to be asked three times before they will consider standing. At 50:50 Parliament we know there is a whole bunch of fabulously qualified women, such as Rosie Duffield, out there who with a nudge and a good dose of encouragement will come forward and work for all our benefits. As **Maria Miller** MP says "All the main parties agree Parliament would be better if 50% MPs are women. 100 years on from women getting the vote it is our responsibility as MPs to help make this a reality.". **Dawn Butler** MP, Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, also recently said "Sometimes a woman is the best man for the job!" We couldn't agree more!

### **About 50:50 Parliament**

*50:50 Parliament is a cross party campaign calling for solutions to get better gender balance in Parliament. 50:50 aims to inspire, encourage and support political engagement. The petition to Party Leaders is gathering momentum, it is a call to action for our Parliament to make better gender balance a priority.*

*[www.5050parliament.co.uk](http://www.5050parliament.co.uk); [50:50 Parliament on Facebook](#); [50:50 Parliament on Twitter](#); [50:50 Parliament YouTube](#); sign <http://www.change.org/5050parliament>.*

### **About Frances Scott**

*A passionate advocate for better gender equality of representation, Frances has worked tirelessly as Founder and Director of 50:50 Parliament since its inception in 2013. She is a regular commentator on gender and representation in politics. Her work with 50:50 Parliament has been profiled in [The Telegraph](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Evening Standard](#) and [The Guardian](#).*

### **Note to Editors:**

#### **For more information or to set up interviews, please contact:**

- **Frances Scott** Director of 50:50 Parliament 07878763821  
FrancesScott@5050Parliament.co.uk
- **Charlotte Cornell** Chief of Staff to Rosie Duffield MP 07762 187995  
charlotte.cornell@parliament.uk

[Detail continues over...]

Picture of Rosie Duffield & MPs with 50:50 campaigners for circulation with press release

