

## 50:50 Rally on the Railings

International Women's Day 8th March #PressForProgress.

[Followed by Inspirational Panel with other prominent MPs to inspire, encourage and support women on the way to Westminster with 50:50's #AskHerToStand campaign](#)

At 5.30 pm on International Women's Day 2018 [50:50 Parliament](#) will rally on the railings outside Parliament (opposite Westminster Tube). The Minister for Women Victoria Atkins MP and Dawn Butler Shadow Minister hope to join them in support of their demands for political equality. 100 years after women won the right to vote men still dominate the corridors of power. Women are outnumbered 2:1 in the Commons, there are only 208 female MPs and 442 men. As of January 2018 there are 206 female peers, Ladies are outnumbered 3:1 by the Lords. Join 50:50 at [www.5050Parliament.co.uk](http://www.5050Parliament.co.uk).

50:50 are taking action for equal seats and equal say with their [#AskHerToStand](#) campaign which aims to inspire, support and encourage 117 more women in being elected to Westminster. 50:50 want everyone to ask the inspirational women they know to stand for Parliament via their [#AskHerToStand](#) initiative. 50:50 will then support women along the way to Westminster, and point them to the parties and other resources to help them on the pathway to Parliament.

[Rosie Duffield MP](#) will then host an inspirational panel. Rosie is 50:50's [#AskHerToStand](#) champion, having been encouraged to stand for election after joining 50:50 in 2015. Now she is an MP. Rosie will be joined by:

- Dawn Butler MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, Labour Party
- Maria Caulfield MP, Conservative Party
- Jo Swinson MP, Liberal Democrat Party
- 50:50 campaigners

50:50 want men and women to have equal seats and equal say in Parliament because representation shapes policy. [Tax on tampons is the tip of the iceberg. Evidence](#) suggests that men can represent women but they do so better when there are more women in the room.

All the parties are showing solidarity with 50:50 Parliament the Modern-Day Suffragettes.  
To register for the event sign up [here](#)!

**Rosie Duffield MP** says, '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 support [#AskHerToStand](#).'

More quotes from MPs 50:50's [Get Inspired Page](#).

**Frances Scott, Director of 50:50 Parliament** comments: 'At the last election on 12 extra women were elected to Westminster. At this rate it will take over 50 years to get gender equality in the Commons where the key decisions are made that affect all our lives. That's too long to wait! 50:50 want women to have equal seats and equal say. If you know a woman who would make a good MP sign her up via 50:50's [#AskHerToStand](#) and 50:50 will help her along the path to Parliament'

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

*50:50 Parliament is a cross party campaign taking action to get more women elected see [PRESS](#)*

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

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