

## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

Thursday 8 February 2018

### **Suffragette Solidarity at PMQs**

At PMQs yesterday (7 February 2018) both front benches wore the 50:50 campaign pin. It was a subtle demonstration but a powerful statement.

It is nice to know that 100 years after women won the right to vote all are in agreement that we need equality in Parliament.

This centenary year 50:50 Parliament is asking everyone to take ACTION. If you know a woman who would make a good MP #AskHerToStand via the 50:50 [website](#).

Let's all embark upon "Deeds Not Words" concerning this important issue and get another 117 women elected to Westminster sooner rather than later.

50:50's #AskHerToStand aims to inspire, encourage and support women along the pathway to Parliament. 50:50 inspired Rosie Duffield MP to stand in the 2017 election and she is now an MP.

Sign up to 50:50 Parliament at [www.5050Parliament.co.uk](http://www.5050Parliament.co.uk) where you can nominate a woman you think would make a good MP. 50:50 wants to support her all the way to Westminster!

Representation shapes policy. The leading legislative body in our country should draw upon the widest possible pool of talent and experience, which includes that half of the population that are women, there are 32 million of them.

**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 back 50:50's #AskHerToStand campaign. "*

**Frances Scott, Founder of 50:50 Parliament** comments, *"Many were lauding the 2017 election as a record with 208 women MPs being returned to Parliament. But in 2017, nearly 100 years after women won the right to vote, this is a sad record. 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 #AskHerToStand."*

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 are fabulously qualified women, such as Rosie Duffield, who with encouragement will come forward and work for all our benefits.

**END**

**For more information, please contact:**

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### **Notes to Editors**

**Over 52,000 people have signed the [50:50 Petition](#) and some comments highlight why this is such a key issue:**

- “Apart from the obvious injustice we are in no position to under-utilise so much talent” - [Helen](#)
- “I’m signing because evidence shows that better decisions are made by organisations if the gender balance is more equal” - [Gwyn](#)
- “I want my views to be understood and represented” - [Zoe](#)
- “The views of the country can’t be represented and suitable policies developed, if we don’t have a diverse parliament. We need more women to lead and participate in decision making” - [Kate](#)
- “If the institution of Parliament discourages women to participate, it is the institution that needs to change” - [Malcolm](#)

### **50:50 Parliament Links:**

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Youtube](#)

[Petition](#)

**50:50 Parliament has been profiled in [The Telegraph](#), [Huffington Post](#), [Evening Standard](#) and [The Guardian](#).**