

100 Years On from Suffrage, 21st Century ‘Suffragettes’ Are Asking Women to Stand for Parliament

One hundred years after some women won the right to vote, the fight for political equality continues. Men still dominate the corridors of power, outnumbering women by more than 2:1 in Parliament. Only 12 extra women were elected in 2017; at this rate it will take over 50 years for women to have equal seats and equal say in Parliament. The Commons should be a representative institution but women have never been properly included.

50:50 Parliament campaigners been called the **21st Century Suffragettes** and are leading the charge for equality at Westminster with our **#AskHerToStand** campaign. 50:50 is a cross-party campaign, our mission is to get at least 117 more women elected to Westminster at the next election, making a 50:50 Parliament. 50:50's **#AskHerToStand** aims to inspire, encourage and support women along the pathway to Parliament. 50:50 inspired Rosie Duffield to stand in the 2017 election and she is now an MP.

Sign up to 50:50 Parliament at www.5050Parliament.co.uk where you can also 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 record is not good enough. Only 12 extra women were elected so, 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 to inspire and support women in winning seats at Westminster”*

[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:

Frances Scott

Founder, 50:50 Parliament

07878763821

FrancesScott@5050Parliament.co.uk

Hannah Philp

Communications, 50:50 Parliament

Hannah@5050Parliament.co.uk

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](#)

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[Petition](#)

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