

The Cabinet Office Shortlists 50:50 Parliament #AskHerToStand for a Democracy Award

2 July 2018

In a fantastic [50:50](#) start to the inaugural 2018 [Democracy Week 50:50 Parliament #AskHerToStand](#) has been shortlisted for “Change Maker of the Year” [Democracy Award](#).

50:50's [#AskHerToStand](#) programme aims to inspire, support and encourage women in standing and [getting elected](#). So far this year over one hundred women have [#SignedUpToStand](#) via 50:50.

Some of the 50:50 team will be heading to the award ceremony in Manchester today: [Frances Scott](#) Founder of 50:50; [Sonia Adesara](#) (#AskHerToStand Director) and [Valerie John-Baptiste](#) (who was inspired to stand for local elections by 50:50 Parliament)

Frances Scott Founder of 50:50 says:

“50:50 are honoured to have been shortlisted for “Changemaker of the Year Award”. Massive thanks to the 50:50 [#AskHerToStand team](#) of volunteers, every week they are inspiring women to take the next step along the path to Parliament. In the last hundred years only 490 women have been elected versus 4503 men. Let's fix this democratic deficit. We are calling upon everyone to take action; if you know a woman who would make a good MP then please ask her to stand via 50:50; let's get more women elected, let's build a better democracy together!”

It's 2018 but political equality is still a long way off. Men outnumber women 2:1 in the Commons and 3:1 in the Lords. In the 2017 election only 12 extra women won seats, at this rate it will take over 50 years to achieve gender equality in the Commons. Over [40 countries](#) have better gender balance in their Parliaments, the UK should be leading the way. 52,800 people have signed up to the [50:50 Petition](#) asking for action. For gender equality in the Commons we only need 1 in 100,000 women to be at Westminster, let's start seeking them.

Why does it matter? Because representation shapes policy. Women's life experience counts as much as men's. [All the political parties agree](#) that we should be aiming for a gender balanced Parliament. [Evidence](#) suggests that women need to be asked three times before they will consider running for office, so let's start asking them.

50:50 are a non-partisan cross-party group, because this is a [Human Rights](#) issue. JOIN 50:50 at [www.5050Parliament.co.uk](#). It costs nothing to register support.

About 50:50 Parliament 50:50 Parliament is a cross party campaign taking action to get more women to Westminster. With their #AskHerToStand initiative 50:50 aims to inspire, encourage and support political engagement. The 50:50 petition is a call to action for Party Leaders and our Parliament to make gender equality of representation a priority. Join 50:50 at [www.5050parliament.co.uk](#); [50:50 Parliament on Facebook](#); [50:50 Parliament on Twitter](#); [50:50 Parliament YouTube](#); sign <http://www.change.org/5050parliament>.

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