

Friday 13th of December

Press Release

London, United Kingdom

**50:50 Congratulate all 221 women who have been elected to the Commons in 2019!
This is a record number of women on the Green Benches!**

Seven of them were inspired by 50:50's #AskHerToStand and #SignUpToStand programmes!

**But with only ten more women being elected our campaign to build a better democracy, which
includes women equally, is crucial!**

Seven of the women heading to Westminster have been inspired and supported by 50:50 Parliament! Massive congratulations to Rosie Duffield, Gillian Keegan, Virginia Crosbie, Theo Clarke, Angela Richardson, Siobhan Bailie and Joy Morrissey. 2 are returning and 5 are new to the corridors of power.

There are now a record number of women with seats on the green benches, but this is only ten more women than at the end of the last Parliament. At this rate it will take another 50 years to gain gender balance in the Commons. So our work to build a better democracy is crucial. We want a Parliament that draws upon the widest possible pool of talent and experience, including the 32 million UK women.

A total of 1121 women were selected to stand in this election, an all time high, up by 168 on 2017. More than 50 of the women selected to stand had been inspired by 50:50. This is a testament to the importance of our inspirational #AskHerToStand and #SignUpToStand programmes.

It is disappointing that in this election that only 20% of those women who stood won their seats. It is clear that women need to be given more opportunities to contest winnable seats. Boris Johnson has announced the "biggest drive" to recruit female Tory activists, members and candidates and pledged to make 50% of future Tory candidates women, recognising that "talent and brilliance is equally distributed, but opportunity is not".

50:50 are setting up the New Girls Network, a system of Buddies to mentor and monitor women's progress along the path to elected office. Every day women have been going on to [#SignUpToStand](#) via our website. During the election women have been signing up in record numbers. 50:50 are creating personal profiles and providing guidance to each of these politically ambitious women.

So over the next five years 50:50 Parliament will continue our work to encourage and inspire women to stand with our #AskHerToStand and #SignUpToStand campaigns. We will work with all the political parties to empower women into politics. Our #NewGirlsNetwork will support women to elected office so that we get fairer representation at the next election.

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About 50:50 Parliament

50:50 Parliament works across the political spectrum in taking action to improve the gender balance in the UK Parliament. With their #AskHerToStand and #SignUpToStand campaigns 50:50 inspire, encourage and support women on the way to Westminster. Over 900 women have signed up to stand via the [50:50 website](#) and a team of volunteers are now mentoring and monitoring these women's progress to Parliament. 50:50 have been called the new girl's network, together, they aim to build a better democracy. You can join 50:50 Parliament at www.5050parliament.co.uk and nominate yourself or a woman you know for their mentoring program.

For more information, interview requests or media enquiries please contact:

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