Press Release
For immediate release

Contact: Frances Scott, Founder & Director, 50:50 Parliament, 07878 763 821, francesscott@5050parliament.co.uk
Or: Rachel Millichip, Millichip Media, 07821 685 725, millichipmedia@gmail.com

Why is David set to do so well in May elections?

Analysis of the candidates list shows there are a total of 597 Davids standing. That’s a medium-sized theatre audience of Davids.

The most popular woman’s name on the candidates list is Sarah. But there are only 125 Sarahs, equivalent to a small village hall’s worth.

The overall statistics indicate that there are two times more men than women standing in these local elections. Of around 21,400 candidates, it is estimated that only 6900 (32%) are women (data collected by Democracy Club and analysed by 50:50 Parliament).

Of the 336 elections, 31 (9%) have no female candidates. These include East Hertfordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Rhondda.

50:50 Parliament has nothing against David, but we would like to see a matching theatre full of Sarahs or Fatimas or Aaliyahs!

50:50 Parliament campaigns for women to have equal seats and equal say at all levels of government, so we are disappointed by the current status quo. Right now we urge everyone to ask women to #SignUpToStand via our website, we are here to help women get selected and elected!

This rallying cry goes out as we approach elections taking place on Thursday, May 6, which will result in a gender imbalance on most elected bodies. But 50:50’s inspirational work is having an impact. In the 2019 general election, 50 of the women standing were part of our campaign and nine went on to win seats in
the Commons. A whole raft of 50:50 women are standing in the upcoming elections and are participating in our #InspiredBy5050 campaign. (see some quotes below)

**How are the Parties Doing?**

None of the parties have a 50:50 candidate split ie. the same number of men and women standing. However, Labour leads the way having selected around 1970 women to stand, accounting for 40% of their candidates. The Conservatives are playing catch up with 1340 women standing (only 26% of their candidates). The same number of women are standing for the Green Party, with 1320 women (42% of their total candidates) - perhaps indicating where women’s hearts lie. The Lib Dems have 1190 women standing (30% of their candidates). (See note on data collection and analysis)

**Prime Minister Boris Johnson supports 50:50 Parliament.**

On #AskHerToStand Day November 18, 2020, he said:

“There is one first that is still long overdue, and that is the moment when finally we achieve 50:50 representation in our parliament, so I want to urge women to put themselves forward for politics.”

(Clip here: [https://youtu.be/wqc0j0Yw8ml](https://youtu.be/wqc0j0Yw8ml))

**Conservative Party Co-Chairman, Amanda Milling MP** said:

“I’m proud we have so many brilliant Conservative women standing, but I know there is more to do. We will continue to work tirelessly to get more women elected at every election. If you are one of those women with the determination and drive to make a difference in your communities and for the country, I would encourage you to stand, and to know that the whole Party is behind you.”

**Here is what some of the women who have been inspired to stand by 50:50 have to say:**

**Nanda Manley-Browne standing for Labour in Thornton Ward in Lambeth.**

“50:50 motivated me to get more actively involved in politics and empowered me to stand for public office. Representation matters, and it’s everyone’s responsibility.
“At 50:50 we work collectively to break down barriers by offering bespoke support which ensures a pipeline of diverse women fully equipped and ready to stand.”

Nanda was elected as a councillor having been inspired at a 50:50 #AskHerToStand day. She is now standing for reelection and also heads up the 50:50 Diversity Team.

**Anya Sizer standing for Labour in Hoxton East and Shoreditch**

“I have always wanted to stand in local politics and 50:50 have been a key part in helping me believe that I could do it. Through encouragement, training support and being part of a positive group they have often spurred me on.”

**Sue Coleman is standing for the Conservatives in Shropshire**

“Wednesday, November 21, 2018, was my red-letter day when I met the amazing team that is 50:50 Parliament at their #AskHerToStand event in the Houses of Parliament. I felt thoroughly inspired and for once in my life speechless, absorbing what I saw and heard that day.

“Two years later I'm standing as a councillor in Shropshire where I know I can make a difference to my community. I encourage other women to put themselves forward to do the same and achieve 50:50 Parliament by 2028.”
Shazna Muzammil standing for the Conservatives in Bletchley East

“50:50 has enhanced my understanding of how important women’s voices are in politics. They assigned a buddy who got in touch with me straight away. They connected me to the CWO and inspired me to put my name forward as a Councillor candidate. I know I would have never come this far without 50:50”

Laura Carey standing for the LibDems in Brentwood

“50:50 has shown me politics isn't as scary or obscure as I had first thought. As someone who had never been into politics and had only voted twice, 50:50 has opened my eyes and changed my opinion of politics as a whole.

“I genuinely think that more women in politics would make a positive difference to the way the country is run. 50:50 has given me the confidence to stand and have conversations about politics which I was always told was something to avoid.”

Katie Kuritzec standing for the Lib Dems in West Leigh in Southend on Sea

“Thanks to 50:50’s training I had the confidence to run for my local council. And it's been a great way to meet other mums and get their advice on balancing family and running for office.”
Frances Scott, founder of 50:50 Parliament said:

“People often say to me: ‘Why does it matter if my MP is a man or a woman?’

“It matters because representation shapes policy. There is plenty of evidence that men listen to women’s concerns better when there are more women in the room. Added to which diversity leads to better, less risky, decision making.

“We are at a turning point. We face many global crises. We face many challenges.

“The future of the planet is a joint responsibility. From policy making on pandemics to climate change women should play an equal part, from the backbenches and the front benches.

“And last but by no means least our leaders, our Parliament, our politicians and local selection committees must lead the way in showing respect for women, their life experience and opinions; opening the doors, tackling the trolls, breaking down the barriers and helping women win seats.

“We only need 105 more women MPs for equal representation. So we must all keep looking out for political women and support them in making progress.”

For more information and case studies of diverse women candidates standing for all the main parties, please contact Frances Scott at 50:50 Parliament or Rachel Millichip at Millichip Media.

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About 50:50 Parliament

50:50 Parliament works with all the political parties to help women get selected and elected, at a local and national level, with our #AskHerToStand and #SignUpToStand campaigns.

We are an inclusive, intersectional campaign taking action to empower women into politics.
When women click #SignUpToStand we help them build their Personal Political Profiles, allocate “50:50 Buddies”, invite them to weekly 50:50 BiteSize meetings and offer Bespoke Support to women from diverse groups. We are building a 50:50 Network to help women progress in politics.

NOTES ON DATA:

Using a gender decoder created by Gender API we have analysed data gathered by Democracy Club. Of the 336 elections, 31 (9%) have no female candidates. The candidate data used in our analysis was taken from Democracy Club on April 15. It covers all the local council elections, plus mayoral elections, police and crime commissioners, Senedd, Scottish parliament, and GLA elections. It does not cover the estimated 2,000 English town and parish councils holding elections on the same day.

Some candidates are standing in multiple elections. Where we have referred to numbers of “candidates” in the press release, technically we are referring to “candidacies”, which will be slightly higher than the number of individual people involved.

Of the 20,000+ candidacies Democracy Club found, 29% have a gender assigned. 50:50’s data team took the remaining 71% and ran them through a gender decoder - Gender API which selects gender based on first names. We acknowledge the Gender API makes simple assumptions about a candidate’s gender based on their first name, which, although based on a large dataset of global names, is not necessarily correct for any given candidate.

Democracy Club and their volunteer community do an incredible job of compiling candidate data from local council websites across the country and loading it manually into a centralised database. We are extremely grateful to them for this vital work. Check out their blog.