



**Jackie Weaver, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Party Leaders
united in their support for
#AskHerToStand Day, 21 November 2021**

"Let's build a better democracy, together"

*See video from Jackie Weaver calling upon everyone to build a better democracy [here](#)
Prime Minister's video [here](#) , Sir Keir Starmer's video [here](#)
(links to other leader videos below)*

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21 November is #AskHerToStand Day 2021

It marks the anniversary of the passing of the Qualification of Women Act, 1918 which allowed women to stand for Parliament for the first time ever.

In the 103 years since then, over 5000 MPs have been elected but only 556 have been women.

On most elected bodies throughout the UK men outnumber women 2 to 1

Not only is this a democratic deficit it is a democratic disgrace.

Internationally, women have better representation in 43 countries. The UK should be a world leader but the mother of Parliaments still lacks women.

So this Sunday 21 November #AskHerToStand day Jackie Weaver, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Party Leaders are calling upon everyone - if you know a woman who cares about her community and would make a great representative #AskHerToStand.

We want women to [#SignUpToStand](#) via 50:50 Parliament so that we can help them progress in politics.

Jackie Weaver says:

"Politics at a local and national level can have a bad name, but if we want our democracy to thrive then we need to be inspiring and encouraging people to get involved, and at least half those people need to be women.

I have seen women in local councils contributing to debate and decisions, adding a new dimension, enhancing policy making.

In a properly representative modern democracy it is essential that women can participate fully at the highest level, after all, women account for more than half of the population. So please, if you know a woman who would make a great councillor or MP ask her to stand and let her know about 50:50 Parliament and the support they offer.

Let's build a better democracy together ! "

Speaking at our event on Monday 15 Nov she added:

"Women have better communication skills than men.

Men do that thing when they are struggling to get themselves understood that they talk slower and louder... Women have such variety in the way they communicate."

Boris Johnson says:

"If we are to achieve a truly representative Parliament, if we are going to solve some of the biggest problems facing our planet, if we are going to achieve true equality then we cannot rest until 50% of MPs are women and that means encouraging more women to stand.

We must encourage more women from a diverse range of backgrounds to put themselves forward. So if you want to make a difference to your community and to our country and if you think that you can contribute in whatever way then I urge you to stand, please. "

If we are to reach a 50:50 Parliament we need to be inspiring women to stand, more than ever. '

The number of Conservative women needs to double to meet this target. Currently only 87 (24%) of the 361 Conservative MPs are women. Labour has 103 women MPs, accounting for 51% of the Parliamentary Labour Party, the SNP 16 (33%) women MPs and 8 (64%) of the 12 Lib Dem MPs are women.

At the last election only 12 extra women were elected to Westminster, at this rate it will take 40 years to achieve gender equality of representation.

Six of the extra 12 women elected in 2019 were part of the 50:50 [#SignUpToStand](#) programme. Now over 2200 women have come to #SignUpToStand via 50:50.

50:50 is here to help all kinds of women progress in politics. We are a friendly, supportive network, working with all the political parties, providing advice and expertise.

Unlike men, there is evidence that **women need to be asked three times before they will consider standing.**

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Links to the Prime Minister, party leaders and Jackie Weaver's [videos](#) showing support for #AskHerToStand Day here:

[Boris Johnson](#)
[Sir Keir Starmer](#)
[Ian Blackford](#)
[Ed Davey](#)
[Carla Denyer](#)
[Jackie Weaver](#)

About 50:50 Parliament

50:50 Parliament works with all the political parties to help women progress in politics at a local and national level. We are an inclusive campaign inspiring all kinds of women with our #AskHerToStand and #SignUpToStand programmes.

When women click #SignUpToStand via www.5050Parliament.co.uk/signuptostand we:

- send them an interactive Personal Political Profile*
- allocate them a 50:50 Buddy*
- invite them to weekly party specific Bite Size meetings for expert advice*
- and offer bespoke support to women from diverse groups.*

In the corridors of power, men still outnumber women by 2:1. Campaign for change!

Join our mailing list and find out more at www.5050Parliament.co.uk

To help and become a Friend of 50:50 go to www.5050Parliament.co.uk/donate

Notes to Editor - Make up of the UK House of Commons:

<https://members.parliament.uk/parties/Commons>