Written submission from Beate Shaw (WHC0017)

The statistics speak for themselves: of our 650 MPs, 458 (70%) are men and only 192 are women. There are still more men in the Commons than there have ever been women MPs. The Lords has around 600 men and 200 women.

Women make a massive contribution to society with their paid and unpaid work, they merit fair inclusion*.

Representation shapes policy. We want better gender balance at Westminster so that our Parliament draws upon the widest possible pool of talent and experience. We want the best of both, men and women, running the country together. We cannot afford to lose any of the women that are already at Westminster.

Diversity leads to better decision making. It ensures more informed and balanced, policy-making on ALL issues such as the economy, defence, security, policing, health, education, welfare, foreign policy, transport, environment as well as other key issues like reproductive rights, VAWG, FGM, domestic violence, equal pay, pensions, sexism, discrimination, inclusion, maternity care, family life, caring and parenting.

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