I do not believe that, under the current system, we will achieve gender parity in parliament in my lifetime (I am 26). There is a feedback loop in place - few women MPs means fewer people working to correct sexism in society, means few women MPs. I believe the correct thing to do is to enforce parity. Mandatory quotas have proven to be infinitely more effective than ‘voluntary’ measures, which result in little change to the status quo. All parties must commit to gender parity in the next government (e.g. by agreeing that certain seats must be held by women [and BME] MPs - an imperfect shim until we can eliminate sexism [and racism], which immediate enforcement of gender parity would speed along) and individual political parties must enforce quotas for internal positions. This is especially crucial in light of the Boundary Commission Review, which will doubtless make the situation even more dismal.

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