

# **Labour Women's Network motion to Labour Party Women's Conference 2019 - for CLPs to submit to Women's Conference**

## **Women in Public Life - Positive Action**

### **Women's Conference notes that:**

- a) Women's representation in public life remains a long way from parity. Only 33% of MPs and 24% of the Cabinet are women, and only 32% of Councillors, 18% of Council Leaders and 18% of Police and Crime Commissioners are women. None of the recently elected Metro Mayors are women.
- b) The Labour Party has led the way in increasing women's representation in public life, and Labour's use of positive action has resulted in women comprising 45% of Labour MPs, 45% of Labour Councillors, 48% of Labour Members of the Scottish Parliament and 52% of Labour Welsh Assembly Members.
- c) This success has been achieved and maintained by the use of positive action mechanisms, including All Women Shortlists (AWS), twinning, and placing women at the top of electoral lists.
- d) In order to maintain parity once it is achieved, it will be necessary to retain the use of appropriate positive action measures to ensure that a diverse range of women continue to be able to enter public life. This would require a change of law.

### **Women's Conference resolves that the next Labour manifesto should pledge to:**

- a) Change the law so that positive action, including but not limited to AWS, can be used for all elected offices, including Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners and any new publicly elected posts in future.
- b) Remove all other legislative barriers to the continued use of positive action by political parties.

(242 words)

For more information on how to get your CLP to submit this motion to Women's Conference go to <http://www.lwn.org.uk/iheartAWS>