



WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

Sample Amendment

Amendments to motions for debate may be proposed by a local WE branch (or branches) or by not less than five WE members working together. The Party Leader, Policy Committee and the Steering Committee can also put forward amendments to motions.

Please read this with the guidelines for submitting motions, amendments and emergency motions document (access at womensequality.org.uk/conf18_docs). Please ensure you include all the information requested. Submissions that don't adhere to these rules will be rejected automatically.

Amendments need to be sent by email to conference@womensequality.org.uk with the subject 'Party Conference Amendment' at the latest by 9 August 2018. Motions will be supplied by email to voting members on 26 July, giving you two weeks to formulate any amendments.

Amendments to motions may not contradict the intent of the motion, or deal with a subject outside the remit of that motion. The amendment may not replace the whole of the original motion. Instead it should alter a specific part of that motion's content in such a way that, if the amendment is passed, the motion is still viable but is changed in a meaningful way.

Emergency motions may not be amended.

This is a sample amendment to a motion that you can refer to when you are writing your own amendment.

Amendment title:
Ensuring UK armed forces and official UK government personnel's human rights are maintained outside the UK
Proposed by: The Beston Branch
Proposer of the motion: Ria Mendelson
Email addresses: WEbeston@email.uk and ria.mendelson@email.uk
Type of motion you wish to amend: Policy motion

Title of Motion: Supporting Equal Human Rights

Motion text you wish to amend:

'3. Ensure that the said protections, access, and enforcement remain fully applicable to, and available to, all human beings within the UK.'

Wording of amendment: After the word 'UK', add ', and UK armed forces and governmental bodies posted on official business outside the UK'.

Amendment rationale:

Although the Human Rights Act applies to all UK citizens, the Human Rights Bill appears to be planning to exclude UK armed forces and government officials, many of whom are women, posted outside the UK. It is unacceptable that our armed forces and other personnel sent abroad by the government should forfeit their Human Rights because they are not in the UK.

The amendment's focus is on ensuring any new Human Rights Bill should extend Human Rights cover outside the UK to people on official government business. This does not change the motion's intention; it just extends its geographical coverage.

(N.B. Below is the original motion, with the suggested amendment in *red italics*, for your information.)

Title: Supporting Equal Human Rights

Proposed by: WE Brighton

Proposer of the motion: Alison Smith

Email addresses: WEBrighton@email.uk and AlisonSmith@email.uk

Type of motion: Policy motion

Motion text:

The Women's Equality Party's first Party Conference notes the Westminster Government's declared intention to repeal the Human Rights Act (1998) and introduce a new 'Bill of Rights' in its place.

The Human Rights Act is derived from the European Convention on Human Rights which is the cornerstone of human rights protection in Europe.

The Convention was partly a response to the appalling human rights violations that took place in Europe during the Second World War and ever since has provided protection of fundamental rights, such as the right to life, the right to a fair trial, the right to privacy, the right to liberty and security, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right not to be tortured.

The collaboration within the Council of Europe has also been a leading platform for the protection and promotion of human rights, including women's rights, notably through the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention). The UK should take pride in its leading role in forming the Council of Europe, rather than retreating from its principles.

The Women's Equality Party calls upon the Westminster Government to:

1. Retain all the protections currently provided by the Human Rights Act (1998).
2. Ensure that access to and enforcement of those protections is strengthened or maintained in any subsequent legislation.
3. Ensure that the said protections, access, and enforcement remain fully applicable to, and available to, all human beings within the UK, *and UK armed forces and governmental bodies posted on official business outside the UK.*

Furthermore, WE call upon the Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention and take on a leading role within the Council of Europe to promote the protective frameworks applied through the Convention.

Please note: Updated at 31/07/18