**WE Party Conference**Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

**Sample Motion**

This is an example of wording for a motion to help you write your motion. It is a sample motion submitted to the first WE conference that was passed by conference and is now WE policy. It is important to ensure you include all the information requested in the form and the official guidelines for submitting motions (access at womensequality.org.uk/conf18\_docs). Submissions that don't adhere to these rules will be rejected automatically.

Motions and emergency motions for debate may be proposed by a local WE branch (or branches) or by not less than 20 WE members working together. The Party Leader, the Policy Committee and the Steering Committee can also put forward motions.

Please read this with the ‘Proposal guidelines for motions, amendments, and emergency motions’ document. This is a sample motion passed at our previous conference that you can check out when you are writing your motion.

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| **Title:** Supporting Equal Human Rights |
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| **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.   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. |
| **Motion rationale:**  The Human Rights Act (1998) implements internationally recognised human rights in the UK.  The current Act provides protection for all human beings within the UK. The only qualification needed for eligibility is to be human.  The effect of replacing the 1998 Act as planned may be to create rights that do not apply universally. Initially, the government spoke of putting ‘clearly into our law limitations on where and how [the Human Rights Bill] can be applied. There will be a whole range of caveats. We will limit the reach of human rights claims to the UK, preventing cases being brought against our Armed Forces overseas’.1 These ‘limitations’ have been widely interpreted by expert commentators as the Human Rights Bill giving human rights only to the ‘deserving’, the implication being that criminals and terrorists would be the ‘undeserving’, and so unworthy of human rights.2 But the definitions of ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ can be open to multiple interpretations, and to re-interpretation, once the principle of universality is abandoned.  Universal human rights have always been fundamental to the campaign for women’s rights. When the universality of human rights is under threat, so are the rights of women, LGBT+ people, children, disabled people and ethnic minorities.  The Human Rights Act (1998) has been of immense benefit to women and the disadvantaged. Its potential repeal and replacement is causing huge concern across the UK (see BIHR's submission to the ‘UN Periodic Review of the UK’ <https://www.bihr.org.uk/news/hrcheckreportnews>).  **References**  1<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/9750518/Bill-of-Rights-Let-us-concentrate-on-real-human-rights.html> and  <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/03_10_14_humanrights.pdf> |

**Drafting tips:**

1. Please use succinct and precise language.
2. Your motion, if passed, will become the official policy of the Women’s Equality Party.
3. Because of this, you should word the motion as if you are speaking as the Women’s Equality Party, not as someone asking the Women’s Equality Party to change something.
4. If your motion is calling for something to change, and you believe a specific body (e.g. the Government, the Advertising Standards Authority etc.) can achieve that change by e.g. revising a law, you should call upon that body to do or agree to the specific action you believe is necessary to create the change you want.
5. Please refer to the way in which WE’s existing policies/objectives relate to your motion, giving specific details.
6. Please back up your case with examples and, where possible, references to existing research or press on the issue, which the Agenda and Policy Committees may read.

**\*Glossary**

A **Motion** is a proposal for discussion and possible adoption as a resolution.

A **Policy Motion** is a proposal to reaffirm the policy of the Party or adopt a new policy.

A **Business Motion** is a proposal about the internal work of the Party.

An **Amendment** is a proposal to change the wording of a motion. Emergency motions may not be amended. A sample amendment will be sent out with the accepted motions when the call for amendments goes out.

An **Emergency Motion** is a proposal put forward after the deadline for standard motions is past to address an issue that has come up in the meantime[[1]](#footnote-0).

1. Updated 26/06/2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-0)