



# WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

**Title:** A Feminist Foreign Policy

**Proposed by:** Sophie Walker, WE Leader

**Type of motion:** Policy Motion

**Motion text:**

1 The Women's Equality Party Conference notes:

2 With deep concern, the rising tide of nationalism that is fuelling isolationism, protectionism and  
3 militarism across the world.

4 The Women's Equality Party Conference believes:

5 Unchecked, these trends will lead to even greater gender inequality and human rights abuses and  
6 make violent confrontations within and between states more likely.

7 The Women's Equality Party Conference calls for:

8 1. Government to create a Department for Peace and Freedom that would govern the work of  
9 the Foreign Office, Department of International Trade and the Home Office and promote:

10 a) Women's equality at home and abroad as a universal aim and to thus overturn policies  
11 based on false distinctions, patriarchy and colonial oppression;

12 b) An inclusive, anti-discriminatory approach to future foreign policymaking so that, for  
13 example, post-Brexit trade and immigration policy is created with an understanding of  
14 how it will impact women;

15 c) An anti-militarist approach committed to all alternative means of dispute resolution, in  
16 particular supporting women's networks dedicated to conflict prevention and resolution;

17 d) Gender budgeting and the allocation of resources to deliver on the gender equality  
18 promise of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

19 2. The Women's Equality Party Policy Committee to establish a working group to develop policy  
20 motions to be voted on by members via electronic decision-making, as provided for in article  
21 4.11.1 of the WE constitution.

## **Motion rationale:**

22 The developments of isolationism, protectionism and militarism across the world, rooted in an anti-  
23 global sentiment, have been exacerbated by a programme of austerity measures that have reduced  
24 investment in public sector jobs and services, disproportionately harming women. Globally, states  
25 are failing to close the gender gap and women's workplace rights and reproductive rights are being  
26 rolled back.

27 Governments can never address the root causes of these trends through the prism of traditional  
28 foreign policy that is committed to preserving a clear distinction between "them and us" – UK  
29 nationals and foreign non-nationals. In particular, the government's current stance over Brexit  
30 typifies the shortcomings of this approach, as does its discrimination against the Windrush  
31 generation, along with other knee-jerk policies adopted by states to exclude migrants and refugees  
32 such as Donald Trump's appalling family separation policy.

33 The traditional foreign policy model is fundamentally ill-equipped to address some of today's most  
34 pressing challenges. In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, a new and  
35 transformative approach is needed that will redefine relationships at every level in our global  
36 society. A Department for Peace and Freedom that oversees the work of both the Home Office and  
37 Foreign Office and incorporates the work of the Trade Department will force an interconnected  
38 policy approach. It would also work closely with the Department for International Development.

39 A feminist foreign policy committed to a radical rethink founded on inclusivity, equality, and peace  
40 offers an alternative that can offer a more secure, fair and sustainable future for all. It is an essential  
41 addition to the Party's policies if WE is to achieve its stated goal to bring about gender equality and  
42 see women enjoy the same rights and opportunities as men so that all can flourish.

## **References:**

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/uk-feminist-foreign-policy-both-right-thing-do-and-smart-strategy>

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/jacqui-true/why-we-need-feminist-foreign-policy-to-stop-war>

<https://www.opencanada.org/features/10-reasons-why-we-need-feminist-foreign-policy/>