



## WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

### **Form for Motions**

Thank you for submitting your motion to the Women's Equality Party's second Party Conference. Please use this form and ensure you include all the information requested. Submissions that don't adhere to these rules will be rejected automatically. Please see the drafting tips below.

Motions and amendments to those 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.

Motions need to be sent by email to [conference@womensequality.org.uk](mailto:conference@womensequality.org.uk) with the subject 'Party Conference Motion' at the latest by 6 July 2018. Emergency Motions on issues that have arisen since 7 July 2018 should be sent in at the latest by 20 August 2018. There will be a chance to submit emergency motions at Conference itself, but such motions will only be accepted if they concern matters that have arisen between 21 August 2018 and the end of Conference.

**Title:**

Delivering Nil Cap Limit on Local Authorities' Sexual Entertainment Venues Policies

**Proposed by:**

Sheffield branch of Women's Equality Party  
Charlotte Mead, Branch Leader

**Type of motion:**

Policy



### Motion text:

1 The Women's Equality Party's 2018 Party Conference notes the Westminster Government's  
2 legislation - Policing and Crime Act 2009 - enables local authorities in England and Wales to  
3 adopt a zero or "nil cap" policy, for their local authority area on strip/lap dancing clubs, known  
4 as sexual entertainment venues (SEVs).

5 SEV licensing law in Scotland is similar in effect. It is devolved to the Holyrood Government,  
6 who have provided draft guidance for Scottish Local Authorities. ~~Legislation differs in~~  
7 ~~Scotland and is covered by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, amended by the Air~~  
8 ~~Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015.~~

9 Local Authorities (LAs) across the UK have a statutory duty to consider the impact of these  
10 venues on everyone under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in the form of the Public  
11 Sector Equality Duty (PSED).

12 SEV legislation ~~changed in 2009 to now~~ allows local people more of a voice in the  
13 decision-making process and enables LAs to set a cap on the number of SEVs in their area if  
14 they wished. This cap can be any number, including zero – known as a "nil cap".

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

- 16 1. Produce clear Home Office guidance on both England and Wales, ~~and~~  
17 ~~Scotland~~ legislation regarding SEVs so that local authorities clearly understand their  
18 powers under the legislation
- 19 2. Disseminate the relevant guidance to all local authorities Licensing Committees in  
20 ~~England and Wales the UK~~

21 The Women's Equality Party calls upon all LAs to:

- 22 • Ensure they fulfil their Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) by considering the impact  
23 of any sexual entertainment venues on all people within their jurisdiction in line with  
24 the outcome of the Judicial Review against Sheffield City Council in June 2018

25 The Women's Equality Party calls upon all ~~Local Authorities in Scotland~~, England and  
26 ~~Wales-local authorities~~ to:

- 27 • Use their powers, ~~under the existing legislation in their respective nations, Policing and~~  
28 ~~Crime Act 2009~~ to adopt a nil cap SEV policy.

29 The Women's Equality Party will support any local authority wishing to adopt a nil cap  
30 policy.

### Motion rationale:

SEVs promote the sexual objectification of women creating an environment which permits men to buy women for sexual entertainment.

SEVs create unequal power. Their customers, and therefore their impact, touch every aspect of society - through families, colleagues, businesses, community activities, local and national politics.

WE support the Nordic Model as the most effective way of ending the demand for prostitution.



Similarly, WE must have policies which seek to end demand in the SEV sector.

Some women may choose to work in SEVS, however due to the discrimination and inequality inherent in our society, many do not work there by choice, or find it is the only choice open to them.

Evidence shows that LAs neither understand nor apply the legislation correctly.

They are often:

- reluctant to set a nil cap in their policies
- convinced that existing SEVs must breach license terms for license renewals to be refused
- unaware that they can review any license application or renewal, and decide that they simply do not want a SEV
- nervous about court action from SEVs if they refuse licenses

LAs are not complying with their PSED in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This is evident in Sheffield, where the LA conceded for the second time at Judicial Review (June 2018) that they had failed to uphold their PSED with regard to SEVs. The implication is that LAs must consider the wider community impact of SEVs, not just staff and customers.

It is essential that government makes clear to LAs the intention and application of the legislation, reiterating their duties under the PSED.

### Research

Vasques et al.<sup>(1)</sup> found “higher levels of objectification were significant predictors of aggression towards girls”. They suggest that the perception of women as sexual objects also evokes aggression against them.

Wright et al.<sup>(2)</sup> identified links between men exposed to the objectification of women having ideas that women are objects, and having ideas that support violence towards women.

The Bristol Fawcett Society<sup>(3)</sup> looked at how men treated women after viewing objectifying pornography, highlighting how SEVs undermine women’s equality:

*“After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”*

Simmons et al.<sup>(4)</sup> showed how domestic violence perpetrators who access the sex industry (pornography, strip clubs) use more controlling behaviours than those who do not.

Frank<sup>(5)</sup> found that men were motivated to visit lap dancing clubs to escape perceived constraining behavioural rules: treating women equally e.g. when interacting with female colleagues at work.



“You can go in there and shop for a piece of meat ... you want to see a girl run around naked, have her come over, pay her to do a dance or two or three and walk away and not even ask her name. Total distancing.”

Gervais et al<sup>(6)</sup> study of male students concluded that “alcohol use intensifies the objectification of women in a manner that increases sexual violence risk”

### **This motion has the support of:**

Not Buying It UK Founder Dr Sasha Rakoff

Zero Option – a group campaigning for a zero cap in Local Authority SEV policies

Sammy Woodhouse – Rotherham abuse survivor, Child Sexual Exploitation Campaigner and former strip club dancer

Meera Kulkarni – Chief Executive of Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre, on behalf of the Board

Build A Girl

SWCTS (Sheffield Women’s Counselling and Therapy Service) Board of Trustees

### **References**

Vasquez, E., Pina, A. & Bell, C. (2017) ‘The sexual objectification of girls and aggression towards them in gang and non-gang affiliated youth.’ in *Psychology, Crime, and Law*

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/news/society/12377/link-between-sexual-objectification-and-aggression>

<sup>2</sup> Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

<sup>3</sup> Bristol Fawcett Society 2017

<sup>4</sup> Simmons, C. A., Lehmann, P. & Collier-Tenison, C (2008) Violence Against Women 14 *Linking Male Use of the Sex Industry to Controlling Behaviors in Violent Relationships: An Exploratory Analysis*

<sup>5</sup> Frank, K. (2003) *Journal of Sex Research*, 40, 61-75 *Just Trying to Relax: Masculinity, Masculinizing Practices, and Strip Club Regulars*

<sup>6</sup> Gervais, S. J., DiLillo, D., & McChargue, D. (2014, January 13) *Psychology of Violence Understanding the Link Between Men’s Alcohol Use and Sexual Violence Perpetration: The Mediating Role of Sexual Objectification.*

### **Motion Guidelines**

Please see the [‘Guidelines for submitting motions and amendments’](#) and the [‘2018 sample motion’](#) documents that you can refer to when you are writing your motion.

### **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 thing you believe is necessary to create the change you want.
- 5) Please refer to the way in which WE’s existing policies 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 Committee and Policy Committee 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 **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. Emergency motions may only deal with Policy, not Party business.