



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

**Proposed Amendments to Motions**

This motion has been proposed to conference, and has had amendments to it submitted. Amendments are shown in colour. Where more than one amendment is proposed to a motion, the first is in **red**, and the second in **blue**. Deletions are shown as ~~struck-through text~~ in the appropriate colour.

**Motion Title:** Women's Equality Party policy on Brexit

**Amendment A Title:** Deletion of lines 19 – 21 inc.

**Amendment B Title:** To ensure that the proposed People's Vote, on the proposed arrangements for the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union, includes the Option to Remain, by halting or revoking the notification given by the Prime Minister in March 2017.

**Motion Proposed by:** Bea Gare and Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, WE Steering Committee

**Amendment A Proposed by:** Richmond Branch of the Women's Equality Party

**Amendment B Proposed by:** Sarah Dodgson et al.

**Type of motion:** Policy

**Motion text:**

- 1 The Women's Equality Party's second Conference:
- 2 ● Regrets that women's voices were unheard during the referendum campaign in 2016.
- 3 ● Notes the increasingly hostile environment to minorities, EU and foreign citizens
- 4 since the referendum.
- 5 ● Is alarmed by the ways in which Brexit threatens economic damage that will be
- 6 felt disproportionately by women and women's services.
- 7 ● Reaffirms its support for the protections provided by the EU for women.
- 8 ● Notes that the EU requires significant reform including on equality for women.
- 9 ● Deplores the compromises on equal rights agreed by HM Government in return for
- 10 the support of the Democratic Unionist Party to secure Brexit.
- 11 The existing policy of the Women's Equality Party is to campaign for the best outcome for
- 12 women, whether or not Brexit proceeds. This conference reaffirms that policy but also
- 13 recognises that the current chaotic rush to Brexit offers no reassurances of better outcomes
- 14 for women and many points of heightened risk.
- 15 We therefore resolve to:
- 16 1. Call for any deal with the European Union—or absent any deal, any unilateral Brexit plan—to be
- 17 subject to a meaningful parliamentary assessment and vote or, ~~failing guarantees of such a~~
- 18 ~~process~~, a People's Vote with an option to Remain in the EU.
- 19 ~~2. Seek to include in the franchise for a People's Vote all those aged sixteen or~~



20 ~~older permanently resident in the UK; all those registered to vote in UK Local or~~  
21 ~~General Elections, and all British citizens resident in the EU but outside the UK.~~

22 ~~3.~~ 2. Work, if we remain in the EU, to ensure that the EU's future policies include  
23 systematic integration of equal opportunities for all women by altering decision-making  
24 rules and norms.

25 ~~4.~~ 3. Work, if we leave the EU, for the retention and improvement of rights for women gained through  
26 EU membership.

27 ~~5.~~ 4. Oppose the diminution of such rights.

#### **Amendment A rationale:**

Simply, these three small lines in this motion require a huge change to legislation that should be worthy of a motion in its own right, and would distract from the main purpose of this motion.

Seeking judicial reform to change the Representation of the People Act 1969 is not something that should be buried in a Brexit debate, when Brexit is confused and divisive enough.

#### **Amendment B rationale:**

The motion rationale itself included at I 55 that the policy supports the notion that the Brexit process should be “delayed” or “halted”.

This amendment allows for the “reversal” of the Brexit process.

The opinion given by the EU chief negotiator, that the EU is not able to accept the current negotiating position of the UK government, the “Chequers proposals”, makes the UK vulnerable to leaving the EU without a negotiated settlement, the “Hard Brexit”.

Hard Brexit is not in the best interests of the UK and women and girls and the rights of the vulnerable will be more seriously affected by this outcome, particularly in the poorest regions.

The “Chequers Proposals”, would require the UK to sacrifice the economic base in its service industries, would leave the UK government as rule takers not rule makers, and would deprive individual voters in the UK of direct electoral power in Europe.

Furthermore it will undermine the human rights of the EU citizens in the UK, currently resident as of right under UK Treaty obligations.

The current deal we have with the EU, worked on for over forty years by UK diplomats, is the best deal available so this choice should be made available to the people or their representatives. Article 50 can be revoked, Parliament and/or the People’s Vote should acknowledge this reality.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jul/26/michel-barnier-tears-up-theresa-mays-brexit-customs-proposals>

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jul/04/brexit-greatest-negative-impact-regions-outside-london>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/analysis-and-features/brexit-white-paper-uk-economy-effect-eu-trade-services-goods-common-rule-book-a8444256.html> <https://www.the3million.org.uk/hostile-environment>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-latest-uk-eu-deal-single-market-japan-ambassador-koji-tsuruoka-a8316536.html> <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/fraud-unravels-everything-brexit/>