



WE Party Conference

Kettering 7 – 9 September 2018

Title: Appropriate and sensitive approach to cervical screening

Proposed by: WE Norfolk

Proposer: Maggie Tween

Seconded: Val Carpenter or Victoria Hornagold

Type of motion: Policy motion

Motion text:

- 1 Cervical screening in the UK does not currently differentiate in approach between women.
2 Misinformation about the need for cervical screening for those not engaging in heterosexual
3 penetrative sex has led to differential levels of access for this critical healthcare. The outcomes of
4 this can be catastrophic. Health Professionals do not provide all the correct information to patients
5 due to lack of training and support to provide that information correctly, and do not observe the
6 appropriate sensitivities during procedures on women. Fundamentally, the rights of women are not
7 being met.
- 8 The Women's Equality Party calls on the Department of Health and Social Care and the relevant
9 professional bodies to ensure:
- 10 1. All Health Professionals are educated that cervical screening is needed by anyone
11 with a cervix.
12 2. Health Professionals do not assume an active sex life means penetrative sex. WE call on
13 Health Professionals to always check with the patients first.
14 3. After patient consultation on the preferred approach, consideration is given to what kind of
15 examination is appropriate, e.g. size of speculum etc.
16 4. Health Professionals are educated on the terminology used when referring to the patient, e.g.
17 do not assume "Mrs".

Motion rationale:

- 18 This motion is proposed for inclusion in the Women's Equality Party's Healthcare core objective
19 which is currently under development, to ensure it attends to the medical needs of all women. In
20 published text to date, no reference has been made to this issue, hence the request to include this
21 topic.
- 22 This motion seeks to ensure appropriate and sensitive medical treatment for all women. Women's
23 medical needs and treatments are not all the same. The current approach leads to a lack of
24 cervical screening, and painful and inappropriate procedures when it is conducted. This is directly
25 related to the individual's human rights. The Human Rights Act (1998) implements internationally
26 recognised human rights in the UK. The current Act provides protection for all human beings



27 within the UK.

28 It will also ensure that women are not seen as a single type needing single treatment, but that the
29 patient should be consulted about their healthcare. Ensuring Health Professionals have and share
30 the correct information about cervical screening for women, and that appropriate physical and
31 emotional care is taken, will save lives.

References:

<http://www.womensequality.org.uk/objectives>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/nov/29/health-equality-goal-womens-equality-party>