



WE Party Conference

15 – 18 October 2020

Sample Proposal for a Special Debate

This is an example of wording that could be used for a proposal for a special debate to help you write your proposal. It is important to ensure you include all the information requested in the form and the official guidelines for submitting motions (which you can access at https://www.womensequality.org.uk/conference_2020_motions_timeline). Submissions that don't adhere to these rules will be rejected automatically.

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

Please read this with the 'Proposal guidelines for special debates' document. This is a sample special debate proposal that you can check out when you are writing your motion.

Title: Disability as a Force for Change
Proposed by: Alison Smith Proposer of the motion: Alison Smith Email addresses: alison.smith@emailaddress.uk
Type of motion: Special debate proposal
Proposal text: <p>The Women's Equality Party is committed to inclusiveness and equality for all.</p> <p>In the time of COVID-19, equalities are being dialled back at speed, and disabled women are very much at risk. The Corona Virus Act removed local Councils' duty of care for the disabled¹, except in cases which breach the Human Rights Act – a very high bar. This makes the work of WE's disabled representatives more important than ever.</p> <p>We live in a world where disabled people are often invisible, and are routinely regarded as lesser, not different. This although our humanity and abilities may not be the same as, but are as valuable as, able people's, and our contributions to society as important.</p> <p>So questions arise:</p>



What can we do to help the disabled change things? How can we change society so people acknowledge our equal right to exist in a world where being disabled is regarded as a fault?

How can we ensure routine equal access for the disabled – for the most disabled first, but also for people with all levels of disability – to housing, all public buildings, transport and offices?

How can we be included in all the opportunities and resources which are routinely available to the able, and be given the specific resources and care we require to function in an able world?

How can we be accepted on equal terms with the able?

I invite the Conference of the Women's Equality Party to discuss paths to equal acceptance for the disabled, and how the Women's Equality Party can work to achieve true equality for the disabled.

Motion rationale:

Members' responses to this year's email invitation to the WE Disability Caucus have demonstrated that WE urgently need to add capacity - with immediate effect - for work on disability, in order to support disabled members to find a way through particularly thorny issues and ensure that Party democracy is protected by hearing as wide a range of voices and opinions from disabled people and their allies as possible.

The Disability Caucus has highlighted a strong desire to give more time for deliberation on sensitive issues of disability, and additional support and space for members to speak on complex topics like inclusion and access.

This proposal will create space for members to hone ideas, led by their disabled colleagues.

The work of the Women's Equality Party is to build a strong feminist movement and a compelling political party by being inclusive, which in this case includes assisting disabled women to be confident, effective advocates.

WE must also, in the current turbulent political environment, acknowledge a need to respond swiftly against measures disempowering and discriminating against the disabled, while giving adequate time for members' deliberation and consultation on the issues.

We would like this debate to provide a space in which members can break ground by listening to the disabled, learning about us, and creating new ideas about working with us to facilitate equality for the disabled, and improve disabled access. This will help the disabled to work towards creating new policy.

This proposal is couched as a debate to raise awareness, and to help uncover ideas that will help the Party in our work with disability.

References

1 <https://dls.org.uk/coronavirus-act-threatens-care-for-disabled-people/>

Drafting tips:

- 1) Please use succinct and precise language.
- 2) Your proposal, if accepted, will become the subject of a debate by the delegates of the Women's Equality Party's 2020 conference.
- 3) Because of this, you should word the motion as if you were proposing a debate in a debating chamber rather than proposing a policy motion.



- 4) You are speaking from the viewpoint of a member of the Party who is asking the Women's Equality Party to consider changing something.
- 5) You are trying to solicit opinions and tease out missing factors that should be considered in the debate. You are asking for solutions and ideas as to how the Party can progress with the subject of the debate.
- 6) You should include:
 - a. the subject of the debate
 - b. the reasons for proposing it as a debate rather than as a motion
 - c. the evidence that debate is necessary
 - d. the ideas you would like to evoke
 - e. the outcomes you are hoping for.
- 7) If your proposal 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 add the specific action by the specific body you believe is necessary to create the change you want into your proposal for debate, as part of your possible solution, and how you think the Party can work towards that solution.
- 8) Please refer to the way in which WE's existing policies/objectives relate to your special debate, giving specific details.
- 9) Please back up your case for a debate with examples and, where possible, references to existing research or press on the issue, which the Agenda and Policy Committees may read.
- 10) Your proposal may not exceed 300 words, and your motion rationale may be no more than 500 words.
- 11) Please note a special debate is NOT a motion, and will not be voted on, nor become Party policy.

*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.

A **Special Debate** is a proposal for an in-depth debate for clarification about a subject you believe the Party should consider.

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 meantime¹.

¹ Updated 08/06/2020