



## WE Party Conference

15 – 18 October 2020

**Amendment Title:** Ensuring the motion does not result in a '2-tier system', separating long-term effects of Covid-19 from other chronic health conditions

**Proposed by:** Freya Papworth on behalf of the Disability Caucus

**Signatories:** Amanda Carter-Philpott  
Rosie Loker  
Sarabajaya Kumar  
Joanne Doherty

**Type of amendment:** Amendment to Policy motion

**Title of motion you wish to amend:** WE call for support for women disproportionately affected by long-term effects of Covid-19 and other pandemics

**Motion text you wish to amend:**

Line 4: from Covid Viruses and other pandemics\*,

Line 10: Covid-19 and to keep roles open against the time they can return.

Lines 20–22: Women have already paid for the pandemic in terms of childcare. Without state intervention and investment in new working practices for workers, freelancers and people in the gig economy, they face a further unpaid care burden

Lines 35-38: Women who are already statistically likely to be shouldering caring responsibilities in their 40s and 50s are also over-represented in people experiencing long-term effects of Covid-19.<sup>(iv)</sup> In particular, women in their 50s and upwards who already face discrimination in the workplace due to sexist ageism, are reporting “long-haul Covid.”

**Wording of amendment:**

N.B. New text is underlined. Struck through text is deleted.

1 Line 4: from long-term symptoms associated with Covid-19. ~~Viruses and other pandemics\*~~,

2 Insert:

3 WE recognise people with chronic health conditions (disproportionately women) experience  
4 similar symptoms to Covid-19 and struggle to access services. Sufferers from e.g. ME and  
5 Fibromyalgia report chronic symptoms like pain and fatigue being routinely dismissed.

6 WE call on all UK administrations to improve systems for patients with chronic health conditions,  
7 including those from Covid-19, and to set in place:



8 Line 10: long-term symptoms associated with Covid-19 and other chronic conditions and to keep  
9 ~~roles open against the time they can return.~~

10 Move lines 20 – 22 to the motion rationale: ~~Women have already paid for the pandemic in terms~~  
11 ~~of childcare. Without state intervention and investment in new working practices for workers,~~  
12 ~~freelancers and people in the gig economy, they face a further unpaid care burden.~~

13 Line 25: ~~\*and any or all subsequent Covid viruses or similar pandemics.~~

### Amendment rationale:

14 This amendment seeks to ensure the original motion does not result in a '2-tier system',  
15 separating long-term effects of Covid-19 from other chronic health conditions with similar  
16 symptoms<sup>(i),(ii),(iii)</sup> (many of which disproportionately affect women). Many of the proposed  
17 measures would also benefit those suffering from other chronic health conditions, which  
18 have previously been overlooked, under-researched and under-funded.<sup>(iv)</sup>

19 Lines 4 and 25: amended wording so the focus is on the symptoms, not on the cause.  
20 People with similar long-term conditions should all be treated equally, regardless of the  
21 whether their conditions were caused by a virus or not.

22 Line 10: words added to focus on the symptoms, not the cause, and to include other  
23 chronic conditions to avoid a '2-tier system'. Removes 'keep roles open' as this would  
24 create an unreasonable distinction between Covid-19 and other reasons for needing long-  
25 term sick leave.

26 Removal of lines 20-22: move these to the motion rationale.

(i) <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26190206/>

(ii) <https://www.everydayhealth.com/fibromyalgia/101/the-role-of-gender.aspx#:~:text=Fibromyalgia%20predominantly%20affects%20women%20%E2%80%94%20as, and%20milder%20symptoms%20than%20women>

(iii) <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/sep/02/why-dont-doctors-trust-women-because-they-dont-know-much-about-us>

(iv) [https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/health/2018/08/why-gender-data-gap-means-doctors-don-t-take-women-s-pain-seriously-enough&ust=1600515420000000&usg=AOvVaw0TwYtjc2Xo36GwAZ9Ny7Y\\_&hl=en](https://www.google.com/url?sa=D&q=https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/health/2018/08/why-gender-data-gap-means-doctors-don-t-take-women-s-pain-seriously-enough&ust=1600515420000000&usg=AOvVaw0TwYtjc2Xo36GwAZ9Ny7Y_&hl=en)