



WE Party Conference

15 – 18 October 2020

Motion Title: WE call for support for women disproportionately affected by long-term effects of Covid-19 and other pandemics

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

Motion text:

N.B. New text is in colour and underlined – black text ~~struck through~~ has been deleted.

1 The Women's Equality Party calls on the UK governments and devolved administrations to set in motion a
2 working group between their respective Departments responsible for health, work & pensions, women and
3 minorities, on the long term health, employment and older age effects of people in recovery – or suspected
4 to be in recovery – from long-term symptoms associated with Covid-19. Viruses and other pandemics*, WE
5 recognise people with chronic health conditions (disproportionately women) experience similar symptoms to
6 Covid-19 and struggle to access services. Sufferers from e.g. ME and Fibromyalgia report chronic symptoms
7 like pain and fatigue⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ being routinely dismissed.

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

- 10 • Guarantees both for people who have been diagnosed and especially for people for whom no formal
11 diagnosis has been available, that they are not discriminated against if they are unable to return to work
12 as before their symptoms presented.
- 13 • Support for employers to make reasonable adjustments for workers who have experienced long-term
14 symptoms associated with Covid-19 and other chronic conditions ~~to keep roles open against the time~~
15 ~~they can return.~~
- 16 • Occupational Therapy and talking therapy for people and families who may have to make adjustments
17 to their working and ways of life as a result of contracting Covid-19.
- 18 • Access to care support for carers who cannot do what they previously managed for children or other
19 relatives.
- 20 • Access to caring support for people who now need assistance as a result of long term Covid-19
21 symptoms.
- 22 • Extend the Access to Work scheme for people who need assistance to work that they did not need
23 before.
- 24 • Fund programmes to combat isolation.

25 ~~Women have already paid for the pandemic in terms of childcare. Without state intervention and investment~~
26 ~~in new working practices for workers, freelancers and people in the gig economy, they face a further unpaid~~
27 ~~care burden.~~

28 The Women's Equality Party further calls on all UK administrations to recognise that long term statutory sick
29 pay is insufficient and that a new support package for sickness is urgently needed.

30 ~~*and any or all subsequent Covid viruses or similar pandemics.~~