



# WE Party Conference

15 – 18 October 2020

**Motion Title:** A Policy for Women in the Criminal Justice system

**Amendment Title:** Amendment to include disabled women and other protected characteristics

## Amended Motion Text:

N.B. New text is in colour and underlined.

1 The Women's Equality Party (WE) asks the Westminster Government to place  
2 prevention, diversion to other services, and sustainable adequate funding at the centre  
3 of a radical overhaul of the way women are treated in the criminal justice system (CJS).  
4 Alternatives to custody for most female offenders will reduce the attendant disruption to  
5 their children, family, accommodation and working lives.

6 To address the complexity of both the mitigating causes of criminalisation and the  
7 compounding effects of the current system on the lives of women, WE ask Government  
8 to introduce remedial measures in a holistic approach, including ~~five~~ six main areas:

- 9 1. Radically change sentencing practice with the development of women-centric  
10 sentencing guidelines to reflect women's life experience and specific pathways into  
11 the CJS.
- 12 2. Follow Scotland in extending a presumption against short sentences to 12 months.  
13 WE advocate closure of the women's prison estate and the development of  
14 secure, supported, and localised accommodation for women as an alternative.  
15 Exclusively provide for women convicted of high risk of harm offences; these  
16 facilities will enable access to their children, work, and training in the community.
- 17 3. Maximise diversion from the CJS via guaranteed access to services in the  
18 community for women who offend.
- 19 4. Provide ring-fenced, sustainable funding for community sentencing and local  
20 preventative support services for women, including women's centres. These  
21 centres provide casework, advocacy, advice and other support to female offenders  
22 and women at risk of offending and may also facilitate entry to training or  
23 employment opportunities.
- 24 5. Ensure Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) across the CJS linked to women's  
25 experiences of Domestic Abuse and other relevant life experiences.
- 26 6. List other protected characteristics, such as Disability and Sexual Orientation as  
27 part of the 'Offender Characteristics' to collect data and report on.