

Dear Candidate,

Do you support action to deliver a gender equal Wales?

The past 12 months have once again highlighted how deep-rooted inequality is in Wales and the UK. This inequality has left women, Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities, disabled people and those living in poverty more vulnerable to the worst impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Women still face inequality in all areas of their lives. Women are paid less on average – Wales still has a gender pay gap of 12% - and women are four times as likely as men, to be out of work as they are looking after the family and home. We have fewer women in decision-making positions, both in politics and in the workplace, and women remain at significantly greater risk of living in poverty and experiencing violence, abuse and harassment than men. Two-thirds of girls in the UK have experienced unwanted sexual attention in public places, and one in eight had their first such experience when they were just 12 years old or younger.

This inequality cannot continue unchecked, which is why I support Chwarae Teg's call for a gender equal Wales. A Wales in which women of all backgrounds and experiences are able to achieve and prosper and where we all work to dismantle the barriers that continue to hold women back and cost our economy billions of pounds.

In their manifesto, Chwarae Teg set out clear recommendations for the next Welsh Government that will address the causes of gender inequality. As my candidate in the Senedd election I am asking you to support these recommendations and commit to taking action to deliver a gender equal Wales if you are elected in May.

Will you commit to:

1. Raising awareness of the disproportionate impact that Covid-19 has had on women as part of your campaign?
2. Placing equality at the heart of decision-making, ensuring that spending decisions impact women, men and non-binary people fairly and help to address inequality?
3. Delivering free, full-time childcare for all children and investing in wraparound and holiday childcare?
4. Supporting reform of the Senedd to increase the number of MSs and introduce quotas to ensure that our elected representatives reflect the diversity of the communities they serve?
5. Creating a coherent Welsh benefits system that is based on principles of equality, dignity and fairness?

Recent events have shown us that our current systems and approaches are broken, leaving the same people more vulnerable to hardship and disadvantage time and again. We cannot afford to continue in this way and we must strive to do better.

I therefore hope you will support the calls made by Chwarae Teg in their Manifesto for a Gender Equal Wales so we can deliver the change that Wales deserves.

<Insert name>