



**the *active*
learning centre**

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Invitation: Making Power Work for Women: an International Conference transforming women's political representation into practical policies for better lives

**22 March, 09.45-16.00
Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)
333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow**

The *Active Learning Centre* invites you to attend its international conference on 22 March. The conference will highlight the worldwide debate on women and power, with speakers from Rwanda, India, Malawi, and Scotland.

Rwanda currently tops the league table of women in national parliaments with more than half of the seats held by women (55%). This goes well beyond its post-genocide Constitution commitment to allocate 30% of all national decision-making posts to women.

The Africa Union (AU) has called for gender parity in political representation by 2020, adopting a 30% target. The conference will hear about the situation in Malawi where the percentage of women MPs (20.8%) exceeds current levels at Westminster (19.5%).

India amended its Constitution with effect from 1994 to reserve one-third of seats in local self-governing bodies (panchayats and municipalities) for women. The findings from a major research project on women in local office in the state of West Bengal will be presented.

There has been progress in the UK. Although levels remain low in Westminster, women account for 34.1% of the Scottish Parliament and 46.7% of the Welsh Assembly. The conference will present two pieces of research sponsored by the ALC on women, politics and power in Scotland.

Research by Danny Phillips and Susan Dalgety gives a new insight into the impact on policy development and delivery by the women ministers in the Scottish government (1999-2007).

Catriona Burness offers an historical perspective on the 1980s campaign to increase women's representation and its eventual implications for Holyrood.

Conference registration fee: £5 concession: £25 waged: payment to 'The Active Learning Centre' – see attached registration sheet.

A full programme will be circulated shortly but please register your attendance NOW by e-mail to theactivelearningcentre@yahoo.com – please inform us of any special needs (venue is wheelchair accessible). We look forward to hearing from you and please circulate this invitation to anyone among your contacts who may be interested.