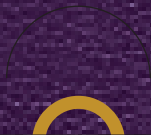


Politics in your Pocket

What every woman should be asking





**We believe that things politicians
do impact on the lives of women.**

**The issues here affect you - why not ask your
candidates what they're going to do about them?**

Poverty and the Gender Pay Gap

Despite 40 years of the Equal Pay Act, the gender pay gap persists. In Scotland women working full time are on average, earning 12% less per hour than a man working full time – that means women work for 6 weeks a year without pay! It's even worse for women working part-time, with the pay gap at an average of 32% per hour it means these women take home just 68p for every pound a man does.*

Ask your candidates why this happens and what they're going to do about it?

* Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), 2009 .

Violence Against Women and Girls

Only 3.7% of reported rapes in Scotland end in a conviction* and domestic abuse affects thousands of women, yet we see the



mainstreaming of the sex industry, the growth of violent and degrading pornography and the increasing sexualisation of girls.

Ask your candidates if they see the link between a culture that objectifies women and violence against women. What would your candidates do to address attitudes that are damaging to women?

* Rape Crisis Scotland figure for 2007-08. England & Wales conviction rate is currently 6%

Power and Participation

Women are more than half the population yet only 1 in 5 MPs and less than 1 in 3 MSPs are women*. When women are elected issues such as childcare, domestic abuse and equality are given more attention, and a wider perspective is brought to debates. Equal representation is good for women and good for democracy.

What have your candidates done in this election to increase women's representation?

* Electoral Reform Society, Women in Politics

Recession

Cuts in public spending impact more on women than men, for example, cuts in public sector jobs where 65% of workers are women* many of which are in low paid positions: and cuts in care budgets where care is still predominantly provided by women whether as paid care workers or unpaid carers.

Ask your candidates what they would do to support those most vulnerable to the impact of this recession, many of whom will be poor women.

* The Economic and Labour Market Review, ONS, 2007



*en*gender
Making equality a reality...

Z
ZERO TOLERANCE

scottish
women's aid
changing **attitudes** changing lives

close **the** gap

