

# 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

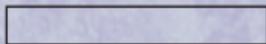
Despite 40 years of the Equal Pay Act, the gender pay gap persists. In Scotland women working full time are on average, earning 12% less per hour than a man working full time – that means women work for 6 weeks a year without pay! It's even worse for women working part-time, with the pay gap at an average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

