



# Women and the New Politics

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# Agenda

- 14:00 – 14:10. Introductions
  - Introducing ERS
  - What does ‘women and the new politics’ mean to you?
- 14:10 – 14:25. Presentation: the quiet rise of deliberative democracy
- 14:25 – 14:45. Group sessions
  - How do we get to 50:50? Traditional institutions, deliberative forms and social movements
  - 3 ideas to get us to 50:50 plus information and tools required
  - Feedback
- 14:45 – 15:00. Summing up and next steps

# Electoral Reform Society

- How does the work of ERS fit into this?
- ‘No real democracy without equal participation’ Prof Drude Dahelrup
  - Electoral reform
  - Further devolution
  - Changing how parties work (e.g. selection processes)
  - Deliberative spaces: Citizen’s Assemblies, ‘Tings’
  - Social movements and relationship with other types of political participation
  - Topical issues requiring gender lens: new political jobs; reducing MP numbers, Lords reform
- <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/join-us>

# Conference 'gems'

- 'No real democracy without equal participation'
- 'No modern democracy without gender parity'
- 'Use your authority our position whoever you are'
- 'Stand up and be counted. Say Yes'
- 'Who are the decision-makers?'
- 'Need fair representation throughout'
- Quotas are controversial and popular – because they work!'

# Introduction: 'Women and the New Politics'

- Democracy is changing all around us, and new forms are emerging
- How do these new forms relate to older ones, like traditional institutions and social movements? How does this affect the prospects for equal representation in politics? How do we take charge and shape them to be '50:50' from the outset?
- **When you hear 'women and the new politics', what ideas spring to mind?**
- **How do your own experiences fit into this?**

# Deliberative Democracy – Quietly on the Rise

## Some trends

- There has been a major increase in the use of deliberative democracy in the last decade. Citizens' Juries; NHS citizen([nhscitizen.org.uk](http://nhscitizen.org.uk)); participatory budgeting
- Participative or deliberative – key differences
- Citizens' Assemblies – [citizensassembly.co.uk](http://citizensassembly.co.uk)

## In Scotland

- 'Ting': Norse word for an assembly of the people, a place to make decisions. Early ideas.
- Democracy Max
  - <http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/democracy-max>
- Fairer Scotland
  - <http://fairer.scot/>
- Other initiatives

# In England

Backdrop: Constitution and politics in flux

Live debates about devolution from Westminster to local areas across England.

On-going campaign for constitutional convention and other vehicles (people-led) in contrast with closed doors practice

Experimentation is taking off:

Citizens' Assemblies:

# Citizens' Assemblies (Democracy Matters)

- Collaboration: universities, campaigners, civil society groups; experts from other conventions
- Assembly members randomly selected - potential bring in diverse group and achieve 50:50
- Mixed assembly versus citizen only
- Build knowledge and influence
- Political immersion: phases, learning, taking expert evidence; hearing from advocates, deliberating, deciding
- What next – how to achieve impact?

# Group Discussion – Organising for 50:50

- Traditional institutions: parties, parliaments, trade unions
- Social movements
- Deliberative democracy
- What are your experiences of these forms of organisation?
- How can they help us get to 50:50?

## Group Discussion – Getting to 50:50

- Three practical ideas or innovations that can get us to 50:50

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

- What other information or tools do we require to do this?

Summing up:

- How can we build on and promote these ideas?
- Join us: [www.electoral-reform.org.uk](http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk)