**Template email to your MS regarding Diverse Representation**

**Please use the template email below to lobby your MS.**

**Remember to amend and delete the bits in bold and brackets**

Dear ***[Insert name of your MS – you can find their names*** [***here***](https://business.senedd.wales/mgFindMember.aspx)***]***

I am writing to you as your constituent based in ***[insert name of your town here]*** as I am concerned about the lack of diverse representation in the Senedd. The Welsh nation embodies people from diverse backgrounds in terms of race, language, religion, gender, sexuality amongst many other different characteristics but these people are not represented in power and we need to act now to change this.

With political parties discussing an enlarged Senedd, we face a **unique opportunity** to make it more representative and reflective of the diverse population that it serves.

I care about this deeply because diversity leads to better decision making and lack of diverse representation has had a negative impact, as [experienced by disabled people](https://gov.wales/locked-out-liberating-disabled-peoples-lives-and-rights-wales-beyond-covid-19-html) during the COVID-19 pandemic. ***[you can also insert a reason that matters to you* here]**

Timescales are critical. - according to the Committee on Senedd Reform, legislation needs to be in place by the end of 2022 to impact on the next Senedd elections. **If we do not act now, we lose almost another decade.**

**Voluntary measures have failed us.** While the Senedd celebrated having gender parity in 2003, figures have decreased as since the 2021 elections [female representation dropped to 43%.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56225381) We know that women’s representation differs widely between different parties and largely depends on the initiative of individual political groups. Progress on the representation of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic populations, as well as people identifying as LGBTQ+, is fragile. Reliable data on other protected characteristics, such as disability, is lacking entirely.

I am therefore asking you to support measures that if put in place now have the power to transform the representativeness of the Senedd:

* **Show your support for the introduction of legally binding diversity and gender quotas as part of the next phase of Senedd reform.**
* **Make representations to the** [**Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform**](https://senedd.wales/committee/811) **to:**
* **Include a 50% legally binding gender quota integrated into the voting system as part of the policy proposal for Senedd reform**
* **Prioritise as a matter of urgency further work on diversity quotas as recommended by the** [**Committee on Senedd Reform**](https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=26542) **or other mechanisms to legally enshrine diverse representation**

International evidence from over 100 countries shows not only that quotas work, but that they are the single most effective tool for ‘fast tracking’ women’s representation in public and political life.

With your support Wales can be a trailblazer on diverse and equal representation. Be part of the change – I look forward to hearing whether you can support me on this.

Yours sincerely

***[Your name]***

***[Postcode]***