



# Government Equalities Office

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Dear all,

As the women's engagement roadshow, and indeed this parliament, draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to once again thank you for all your involvement and provide you with a brief update on how participants' feedback is being taken forward.

This year we are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PfA) – a core global framework for gender equality.

This landmark anniversary was the theme of this years' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), where government and civil society from around the world gathered in New York earlier this month. This was an important opportunity to recommit to advancing the opportunities and rights of women and girls everywhere, to fulfilling the promises made in Beijing in 1995, and to ensuring women and girls are placed at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

The UK delegation led by Baroness Northover worked hard to promote the rights of women and girls. And we were enormously proud of the work of UK Women's NGOs in attendance that shared expertise and pushed governments to do more. You can read the UK Statement at <http://goo.gl/OICgvs>

Back here in the UK, in preparation for this important anniversary, the Government Equalities Office launched a women's engagement roadshow and short online survey. We invited women and women's organisations across the UK to tell us what progress has been made towards gender equality and priorities for future action.

Your organisation kindly hosted one of eight events that took place across England, Northern Ireland and Scotland. We will shortly finish the roadshow with a ninth event, which will take place in Wales.

We would like to thank you and your organisation for all your efforts in hosting a successful event and engaging a diverse range of views.

Almost 5,000 women, men or organisations have taken part to date – either online or by attending one of these events. Together, participants painted a clear picture of gender equality in the UK - both the distance we have come, and the road still to go.

Feedback from this report will be published in an accessible report in due course.

In the meantime, I have detailed here ***just three*** ways participants' feedback is



already being taken forward to help inform future policy development and address gender equality.

1. In October we hosted an event on Black, Asian and minority ethnic women in enterprise in partnership with Women's Business Council. The feedback we received from women and panel speakers was included in 'The Burt Report: Inclusive Support for Women in Enterprise' at <http://goo.gl/1FGfyz>
2. In January, Muslim Women's Network hosted an event regarding online abuse and media sexism.

Participants made a number of recommendations for government, the media industry and others – including the need to improve awareness about how the public can report online abuse and sexist media content. In response, today we launched a new Stop Online Abuse website at <http://www.onlinesafetyuk.org/> to help women and LGB&T people combat online perpetrators and report sexist content across a range of media channels.

We are also taking new, important steps to address the representation of women employed in the media industry – as detailed in our response to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications at <http://goo.gl/wV3Jy9>

3. This month, Nicky Morgan Minister for Women and Equalities has written to a number of government department ministers, including the Department for Work and Pensions, Home Office and Department for Health, highlighting where we received feedback throughout the engagement process which is of relevance to their department.

I hope this letter goes some way towards highlighting how participants' feedback is already being taken forward as the roadshow comes to a close.

Once the report is published, I will be happy to send you a copy. In the meantime, please do cascade our thanks among your organisation and participants.

Yours sincerely,

**Jessie Kirk**  
**Policy Advisor**