

Scottish Women's Convention International Women's Day 2019



"The theme of this year's event is 'Happy 20th Birthday, Scottish Parliament.' We come together on this day to mark the tireless contribution of women throughout Scotland and beyond in order to bolster women's representation.

Devolution delivered the Scottish people a mandate and just look at what we have achieved - from the ground breaking Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act to the widespread campaign to end period poverty. We recently witnessed the passing of the Social Security Scotland Act which enshrines in legislation that social security is a basic human right. All parties across this Parliament have engaged in robust debates on many issues concerning women. We acknowledge the work undertaken on equality policies by women who are an example of what can be done."

Agnes Tolmie
Chair, Scottish Women's Convention



**Linda Fabiani MSP,
Deputy Presiding Officer**

“This event is very much a celebration of what women have achieved over the past twenty years since the Scottish Parliament was established and there is much to be proud of in terms of our both our collective and individual achievements. But it is clear there is still more to be done and I look forward to chairing what promises to be an interesting and inspiring debate about the future of equality for women in politics.”



**Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland**



**Ayesha Hazarika
Journalist**



**Elaine C Smith
Actor**



Baroness Annabel Goldie





Yvonne Strachan
Former Head of Equalities,
Scottish Government



Paula Brennan
Trade Unionist,
Northern Ireland



Hannah Blythyn AM
Welsh Assembly



Harriette Campbell
ACWA



Christina McKelvie MSP
Minister for Older People
and Equalities



Agnes Tolmie
Chair, Scottish Women's Convention

"This year marks two decades since people in Scotland campaigned for this Parliament and whilst we have come far in our struggle for equality, we have yet to reach 50% women members. The issues that women are confronted with day in and day out cannot be tackled unless policy and decision makers listen and take decisive action on women's views, experiences and ideas. International Women's Day celebrates our achievements, but it also reminds us how much we still have to do."



What do you see as the Scottish Parliament's key achievements

Enhanced rights for children.

A voice for Scotland.

Tackling violence against Women

Votes at 16

Baby Boxes

50/50 gender balance in cabinet

What would you like to see achieved during the next 20 years?

Minority ethnic communities given more representation.

Environmental issues tackled.

Inclusion for all disabled people.

A focus on older people and their value to society.



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