

- THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S CONVENTION -

International Women's Day Celebration 2020



"Bringing women together from different cultures and backgrounds across Scotland is the SWC's way of highlighting our democratic right as women. We make up more than 50% of the Scottish population and yet our most important democratic institutions do not reflect this. The SWC wants to highlight the far-ranging achievements of women. Let's start today with the women in this Chamber."

- Agnes Tolmie -

Chair, Scottish Women's Convention





Linda Fabiani MSP, *Deputy Presiding Officer*

"The theme of this year's event is Women and Democracy, and I hope that today provides a forum to encourage all women - in particular those from black and minority ethnic communities, young women, women with disabilities and other women who do not often have their voices heard - to get involved and engage in the political process. After all, it is vital for a healthy democracy to improve life for everyone in society and that, surely, is something to celebrate."



Agnes Tolmie, *SWC Chair*



Nicola Sturgeon MSP, *First Minister of Scotland*



Ann Henderson, *Rector of University of Edinburgh*



Patricia McKeown, *Regional Secretary of UNISON Northern Ireland*



Margaret Cochrane, Committee Member of Friends of Peoples Palace Winter Gardens & Unite Community



Christina McKelvie MSP, Minister for Equalities and Older People



Margaret Lance, Waverley Care



Tess Corcoran, Scottish Youth Climate Strike



Saint Constantine's Primary School Choir



Agnes Tolmie, SWC Chair

"I'm very proud of the work that the Scottish Women's Convention undertakes. Women travel from all over Scotland to attend our events. They want to contribute, have their voices heard and they want to make a difference. We need to make sure that women from all under-represented groups take part in our political processes. There is a wealth of talent right here in our Parliament today. Let's make that talent a symbol of things to come for women's equality."





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