

## The UK Gender and Development Network's Manifesto for the UK General Election

Realising the potential of women and girls is critical to reducing global poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Promoting equality between women and men is also a matter of justice.

The UK Gender and Development Network (GADN) calls on the next UK Government to put gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of its international development agenda, and ensure the UK's existing commitments on gender equality become a reality for women and girls across the world.

In particular, we ask that all political parties and candidates commit to:

1. **End violence against women and girls worldwide** by making it a foreign and development policy priority and appointing a Minister on violence against women and girls whose brief covers FCO, DfID and MoD.
2. **Increase women's political participation and leadership** by making this a key component of FCO, DfID and MoD governance policies and programmes, supported by robust funding, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
3. **Champion gender-sensitive responses to climate change** by mainstreaming gender across all climate change policies, programmes and budgets, and calling for the participation of women in decisions related to climate change locally, nationally and internationally.
4. **Empower women and girls to take full control of their sexual and reproductive lives** by scaling up FCO and DfID investment in affordable services and comprehensive sexuality education and information, and reducing barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing these.
5. **Implement the UK's international commitments on gender equality** by continuing to invest in DfID's capacity to deliver – building on the current Gender Equality Action Plan – focusing on strong leadership, systems of accountability and monitoring, and staff knowledge and skills.