



National Women's Council of Ireland
Comhairle Náisiúnta na mBan in Éirinn

Feminist Manifesto for the Local Elections

What kind of community do we want to live in?

On May 24th, your vote in the local elections will determine the future of local communities. Local government is uniquely positioned to strengthen women's participation in society and to ensure equal and just impact of local services and investment.

We are calling on all candidates to support our feminist manifesto for local communities and to actively promote women's rights.

Public representatives must commit to strengthening local communities, challenging sexism and racism, promoting equality and operating in a way that empowers and includes marginalised groups.



Here is what future local representatives can do to ensure that...

Women are safe

Women have a right to be safe in their homes, local communities and public spaces.

- Actively support, resource and promote culturally sensitive frontline services, shelters and refuges for women and their families.
- Ensure a responsive service from local authorities to women experiencing crisis, escaping domestic violence and those vulnerable to homelessness.
- Actively involve women and women's groups in gender sensitive planning and monitoring of infrastructure and services that promote safer, accessible and inclusive public spaces for all.

Women are leaders

Women have a real say and influence on the decisions made at local level.

- Promote the sign up of all local authorities to the European Charter for Equality between men and women.
- Ensure gender parity in decision-making in all structures at local level. Introduce a 30% gender quota for local elections and address the barriers for women and other underrepresented groups in running for local office.
- Increase inclusive public participation on matters of local importance and encourage meaningful participation by women in all decisions affecting their lives.
- Support and resource the women's community sector.



Women are valued at work

We need to end the gender pay gap, improve work-life balance and ensure security at work.

- Introduce ethical and transparent procurement policies to ensure that local authorities only give contracts to companies with good employment and gender equality standards.
- Advocate for local authorities in their role as employers to support family-friendly work practices for female and male employees and locally elected representatives, including provision of on-site childcare facilities.
- Ensure gender targets for employment and enterprise initiatives and gender equality training for staff in all Local Community Development Committee programmes.

Women are economically secure and supported

It is vital that we guarantee women's economic independence through investing in public services.

- Prioritise investment in public housing and delivering on commitments to provide affordable housing and Traveller accommodation must be a priority.
- Ensure the design and delivery of services and planning is guided and informed by the needs of women.
- Strengthen local government functions and powers to promote local economies and real local democracy.

Women are healthy

Local authorities have a responsibility for wellbeing in local communities.

- Ensure the delivery of Healthy Ireland local physical and mental health initiatives that are informed by the needs and experiences of women.
- Ensure women have access to reproductive healthcare at local level through the introduction of a bye law protecting women's safe access to abortion services.
- Call on local authorities to distribute a range of free and quality sanitary products through their public buildings.

Women are living in a just and sustainable world

There is an urgent need for political leadership to create a just and sustainable future for everyone.

- Fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals through community ownership of renewable energy projects, citizen education and promoting recycling.
- Ensure existing gender and social injustices are not increased as we move towards a low carbon economy. Gender and social inequalities must be taken into account while analysing all climate change solutions.

This Time for Women
Local Elections 24.05.2019
#FeministCommunities