

# WOMEN



# UNITE!

## Women's votes matter

### **Back candidates who back women workers and their unions**

The most effective way to secure improvements in our members' pay, terms, and conditions is through strong trade unions, collective bargaining and workplace negotiation.

**However, as women workers and union members, the choices we make at the ballot box also matter.**

The representatives we elect shape our public services and employment law, including the rights of many workers who do not benefit from union recognition.

That is why Unite's women's sector is encouraging members to think carefully about how they vote and to support candidates who respect trade unions, women and working people.

### **Reform UK do not back women workers**

With recent polling showing support for Reform UK rising among women, we ask our members to consider: is a vote for Reform UK really a wise choice for women voters? We strongly believe the answer is no — and what's more, we think the party's own policy positions make this clear.

#### **1: Has Reform UK proposed scrapping or significantly weakening equality legislation, including opposition to the Equality Act?**

**Yes.** Equality laws are a vital tool for tackling sex discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, and workplace harassment.

**Weakening these protections would make it harder for women to challenge unequal pay and discrimination.** As women have historically been disadvantaged in employment and pay, they are more likely to rely on these legal safeguards.



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## 2: Did Reform UK oppose improvements in workers' rights, including the Employment Rights Bill ?

**Yes** and Reform UK MPs voted against improved employment rights in Parliament. Women are more likely to work part-time or in low-paid sectors that depend on strong legal protections. **Diluting employment rights undermines women**, maternity protections, flexible working, and safeguards against unfair dismissal and harassment.

## 3: Has Reform UK advocated for significant reductions in public spending and welfare provision?

**Yes.** These cuts **disproportionately affect women**, who are more likely to be primary carers, work in public-sector jobs, and rely on childcare, health, and social care services. Reduced funding often leads to increased unpaid care work — a burden that overwhelmingly falls on women.

## 4: Do Reform UK policies threaten specialist domestic violence services and women-specific protections?

**Yes.** Cuts to local authority funding **undermine** domestic abuse refuges, rape crisis centres, and other specialist services that women rely on for safety and support.

## 5: Do Reform UK's restrictive asylum and immigration proposals affect women?

**Yes.** Women seeking asylum may be fleeing sexual violence, forced marriage, or female genital mutilation. **Restrictive policies risk denying protection to women** facing gender-based persecution.

## No rolling back on women's rights

The Unite National Women's Committee stands for advancing women's rights – not rolling them back.

This is why we **reject Reform UK's false claims** of “defending and protecting women” because the policies of this party do the opposite.

When our members vote, they don't just have themselves in mind but their families, communities, and workplaces. **Unite women cannot support any party that seeks to weaken employment rights, and prioritises the interests of the wealthy.**

We know the real pressures people face from the cost-of-living crisis and overstretched public services. However, **a vote for Reform UK is not the solution.**

## Unite women speak out

**Donna, a senior rep in the passenger sector:**

*“I would strongly encourage anyone considering voting for Reform UK to look closely at what they have said about issues affecting women workers. Weaker employment rights always hit women hardest, particularly those working part-time or on insecure contracts.”*

**Janet, a health sector convenor:**

*“We are deeply concerned that Reform UK's messaging appears to follow the American model, where healthcare is treated as a luxury rather than a right.”*

**Julie, a leading women activist in local government:**

*“How can Reform UK claim to protect women and girls while pushing to slash council funding and opposing stronger workplace laws that would better prevent sexual harassment?”*

## Help us reject the politics of division

Please share this flyer with your colleagues. Support candidates who back trade unions. Get in touch with us at [UniteWomen@unitetheunion.org](mailto:UniteWomen@unitetheunion.org) to get more involved.

