

Fawcett seeks a new Chair

Fawcett is the UK's leading campaigning organisation for women's equality and rights – at home, at work and in public life. Currently a relatively small charity, we draw on robust evidence, a strong media profile and formidable network of supporters and allies from across the political spectrum to consistently punch above our weight. After nearly six impressive years as Fawcett's Chair of Trustees, our current Chair Angela Mason OBE is due to stand down in October 2013.

In the run up to our 150th anniversary in 2016 we want to build Fawcett to a greater level of resourcing and clout, one worthy of our vital remit, and so are looking for a new Chair keen to play a vital role in this newly resurgent Fawcett. Leading our Board of Trustees and working closely with our CEO, this is an unpaid post requiring around 4- 5 days time commitment a month. [Find out more.](#)

What did Budget 2013 mean for women?

Last month, the Chancellor of the Exchequer unveiled his 8th major tax and spending policy announcement since taking office. Plans to support some families struggling with rising childcare costs are a welcome step forward, but other measures unveiled will - as in the previous three budgets, two Autumn Financial Statements and one Comprehensive Spending Review – impact disproportionately negatively on women. A further £11.5 billion cut from public spending is likely to heap further pressure on women already struggling with reduced incomes and rising unemployment, the extension of the 1% pay freeze on public sector pay for another year will also hit women hardest as they make up the majority – 64% – of this workforce. [Find out more](#)

Equality law – vital, especially in times of austerity

A vital piece of equality law is currently under review. The Public Sector Equality Duty came into force in 2011, replacing the previous race, disability and gender equality duties. This requires that all public authorities – from the government, your local council, to the NHS - pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between groups. In practice this means the way they do everything from spending money to recruiting new staff should reflect the duty. Fawcett thinks this duty is a crucial tool in making equal rights real - any move to remove it would be a major step backwards in work to advance women's equality. [Learn more](#)

Would you give up your workplace rights in exchange for shares?

A proposal that would see employees give up key workplace rights - including the right to request flexible working and a doubling of the notification time for return from maternity leave - in return for shares in their employer's company is being debated in parliament. Fawcett, alongside many other charities and trade unions, is concerned the creation of 'employee shareholders' would worsen women's workplace inequality. We briefed several members of the House of Lords ahead of their debate on the proposals, and were pleased to see peers from across the political spectrum oppose the plans. However, MPs in the House of Commons subsequently passed the bill - so the Lords will again debate them. [Find out more](#)

When will we see another female Prime Minister?

There has been much media debate around Baroness Thatcher's role as the UK's first female Prime Minister – but more than 50 years after she first entered parliament, men outnumber women in the House of Commons 4 to 1. Sir Menzies Campbell, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, last week [accused activists in local associations – of all parties – of being biased against women](#) when choosing parliamentary candidates. You can read more about the current situation - and what needs to change - [on our website.](#)