

PFG PRIORITIES:

PUBLIC / POLITICAL LIFE

> Recommendations

We recommend actions to:

- increase the participation of women in political/public life and decision making, including peacebuilding;
- promote the participation of other under-represented Section 75 groups in public life, including people with disabilities; lesbian, gay and bisexual people; older people; and minority ethnic communities.

“The under-representation of women in politics in Northern Ireland is a serious issue which must be addressed as a matter of urgency.”

[AER Committee, Report on Women in Politics and the NI Assembly, 2015](#)

> Participation in public/political life

In order to deliver the PFG, it is necessary to ensure that all people and perspectives are represented and can participate equally; whether in consultation on public policy, in economic, political or public life and decision making, including peace building.

The Commission has highlighted the need to promote the participation of under-represented Section 75 groups in public and political life and decision making, including through ensuring their meaningful and active engagement in policy decision making.

For example, we have raised the need to take measures, including temporary special measures, to increase women's participation in politics, public life and decision making, including peacebuilding.

We have also raised concerns about the under-representation of people with disabilities in public life, and have called for steps, in furtherance of the disability duties on public bodies, to promote their participation in public life. Further, action is required to encourage the visibility and participation of lesbian, gay and bisexual people, older people and minority ethnic people in public life.

Read more: www.equalityni.org/PublicLife

