



Asking equal pay questions for candidates at 2017 election forums

Introduction

There are lots of candidate meetings coming up in the lead up to the general election on September. Let's keep equal pay live as a political issue – below are some questions for you to put to candidates.

Focus on specifics

Be specific, ask candidates about their party's policy including the timeframe for action. It is important to have a timeframe on the action we want, as otherwise candidates can promise anything but do nothing. Questions such as what are their party's specific future proposals for eliminating the gender pay gap by 2025.

Question Statements

Your questions are not just aimed at the candidates – they educate the audience

The average gender pay imbalance 14% and it's been at that level for over a decade. As an aspiring MP how will you fix this imbalance?

All National, United Future and ACT MPs voted for the Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill to proceed. Ask them: *Why did you (or your party) support a Bill that is going to put more hurdles in the way of women achieving equal pay?*

All Labour, Greens, New Zealand First and Maori party MPs voted against the Employment (Pay Equity and Equal Pay) Bill. Ask them: *Thank you for voting against the Government's flawed Equal Pay Bill. What law changes will you make to ensure we achieve equal pay in New Zealand?*

Focus on values

Do you think it is fair that in 2017, women still do not have pay equality at work?

Do you want your daughter, or girls in your family to be paid the same as their male workmates in the future? How will you make this a reality?

Asking better questions

Have better questions – let us know! Share questions and responses with other equal pay champions. Pass them on to Huia Welton at the Council of Trade Unions – huiaw@nzctu.org.nz.