



House of Commons  
London  
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**Sarah Champion**  
**Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Immediate release**  
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## **Sarah Champion's equal pay Bill would bring women one step further in the fight for equality**

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, Sarah Champion, the Member of Parliament for Rotherham, will bring a 'Ten Minute Rule' Bill to Parliament demanding commitment from large companies for equal pay for men and women.

The proposed Bill asks for mandatory publishing of figures for the pay gap between men and women, in companies of over 250 employees. A voluntary agreement for this provision, whereby firms take it on themselves to publish figures, is already legislated for under Section 78 of the Equality Act 2010 – but it is currently not mandatory for firms to do so. Sarah's Bill would take this law a step further making it compulsory for large firms to publish figures on the pay gap between their employees.

Sarah's tabling of the Bill will be followed by a women's rally for equal pay in Parliament, held in partnership with Grazia magazine. It will be attended by some of the original women of T&G Ford Dagenham, who left their machines 48 years ago to strike for equal pay.

Speaking ahead of the Bill, Sarah commented:

*"Whilst I am delighted to bring this Bill to Parliament and stand up for equal pay for women, I am so frustrated that equal pay still doesn't happen automatically."*

*"We have tried a voluntary approach for companies taking action on this important issue, but only 5 companies signed up."*

*"Almost fifty years ago the women of Ford Dagenham went on strike for equal pay. The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1970. It is nonsensical that despite outward commitments by many governments and many companies, equal pay for men and women is still a goal rather than a reality."*

*"We owe it to women everywhere to make sure that they aren't paid less just because of their gender. We must give women the recognition in the workplace that they deserve, and if that means we have to legislate to force companies to publish figures on the pay gap, so be it."*

**ENDS**

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