



**House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA**

**Sarah Champion  
Member of Parliament for Rotherham**

**Press release  
Tuesday 16th December 2014**

**Sarah Champion's Ten Minute Rule-Bill on Equal Pay is passed overwhelmingly**

Sarah Champion, the Member of Parliament for Rotherham, has this week helped women everywhere take a big step forward in the fight for equal pay.

A Ten-Minute Rule Bill from Sarah, which fights against pay inequality for women was overwhelmingly supported by MPs in a House of Commons vote which passed with 258 voting in support of Sarah's Bill.

The majority of voting MPs were Labour, with just 8 Conservative MPs voting against the Bill. Controversially, most coalition MPs stayed away from the seminal vote, choosing not to back the Bill that would see women progress their battle for equal pay.

The Bill has been 44 years in the making after the Equal Pay Act was passed in 1970, but since then, equal pay for women has remained little more than promise.

In a rousing speech to the Commons, Sarah highlighted the current differences in pay between men and women. Across the country women earn 81p on average to every pound earned by men, in Sarah's own constituency of Rotherham that drops to an average of 77p.

Sarah's proposed Bill demands that companies with more than 250 employees publish figures on their pay gap between men and women. Sarah told Parliament that the voluntary agreement currently in place was clearly failing, as it has seen only five companies taking part.

In her speech, Sarah also pointed out that it is not just women who are poorer because of the pay gap; it is their families too. She told MPs that no father, husband or son wants the woman they care about to work in a world where they are valued less for being a woman.

Earlier in the day, Sarah was joined at a rally by some of the original women of T&G Ford Dagenham, who left their machines 48 years ago to strike for equal pay, along with actors from the musical 'Made in Dagenham' including Bond girl Gemma Arterton and representatives from Grazia Magazine.

A second reading will now take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Speaking after the Bill was passed, Sarah commented:

*"I'm delighted that Equal Pay (Transparency) Bill received the support it deserves from MPs today.*

*"It's 48 years since the historic strike by the women at T&G Ford Dagenham and 44 years since the Equal Pay Act 1970 was passed, however it is still no more than a promise. Hopefully what we have done today can help make that promise into a reality.*

*"Women in Britain earn, on average just 81p for every pound earned by men. In my constituency of Rotherham, women earn just 77p for every male pound. Over a lifetime, that means women miss out on a staggering £200,000 pounds, enough to buy a house outright.*

*"Pay transparency will push companies to focus on the reasons why the pay gap still exists.*

*"Today, Parliament has taken a big step closer to making good on the promise of Equal Pay – fought for, and won, by the women of Ford Dagenham 48 years ago."*

ENDS

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