



# The role and concerns of feminist and women's organisations

# UK women's organisations

- ▶ Strong research and collaboration structures already in place
  - ▶ Mutually beneficial democratic representation structures
  - ▶ Multiple networks for research and collaboration
- ▶ Lack of state-sponsored platform for policy engagement
  - ▶ Politicisation of women's issues

# UK women's organisations

- ▶ Funding issues
  - ▶ The austerity double-whammy
  - ▶ The result: reduced political participation

*Only 6% of women's VCOs have over a year's funding in reserve.*

(Women's Resource Centre, 2016)

# The impact of Brexit upon women

- ▶ Economic concerns
  - ▶ Low-income women most vulnerable
- ▶ Roll-back in anti-discrimination rights
- ▶ Loss of European collaboration on women's and gender equality issues
  - ▶ Upcoming directives
  - ▶ Shared expertise

## Women's organisations: a knock-on effect?

- ▶ Economic
  - ▶ Greater numbers of dependents
  - ▶ Funding implications?
- ▶ Nuance-poverty
  - ▶ Minority rights
  - ▶ Reduced salience to women's rights issues within Parliament and government departments
- ▶ Loss of collaboration and expertise
  - ▶ Loss of revenue?
  - ▶ Representation

# What can women's organisations do?



- ▶ FaceHerFuture
  - ▶ Working with sympathetic MPs and Members of the House of Lords
  - ▶ Producing briefings
- ▶ Awareness-raising/analysis
- ▶ Why aren't women's organisations doing more?

# What do women's organisations need?

- ▶ Platform within British government to replace WNC for government consultation with women's charities and experts
- ▶ Guaranteed position at the European Women's Lobby
- ▶ Continued and enhanced infrastructure for sharing of expertise and initiatives

