

Building a More Balanced World 2019

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A more gender-balanced world? No self-respecting person can argue against it, and recent pay and pension statistics show there is still some way to go. But it's not just about women suffering financially – it's about attitudes and beliefs, workplaces, educational institutions, societies and laws.

I have a daughter, aged 20, at university, and I would like to think she has just as much opportunity as the next person to fulfil her potential and thrive in whatever career she chooses. The fact that she has a choice has been in no small part due to the campaigning of women over the years, and this campaigning goes on today.

We both count Catherine Mayer, founder member of the Women's Equality Party, as a friend. I have read their policy document and am at one with their six core objectives. It's not lost on us that the mainstream parties have lost the plot on this one. The WEP do, however, skirt past the cost of implementing change in parenting and caregiving for instance... but the wide imbalances are there for all to see, and we all have our work cut out to bring about changes we seek to create a fairer society.

It's also not lost on us that many women around the world are in a much more disadvantaged and precarious position, so it's right that this issue is given worldwide prominence; it's a pressing issue of our times and deserving of our support, not just at home but abroad, and we should take a lead on this.

Once given the opportunity, what then? There are the leadership qualities, daring and acumen that should come to the fore – qualities that should lead to pay parity and equal representation in politics and business; qualities that are not the sole preserve of men. Women made of the right stuff abound... I know, I have been surrounded by them.

I look forward to the day that women no longer feel they have to muscle in on jobs and job opportunities, to the day the campaigning stops or, more likely, when the sum of all the forces acting on this subject equals zero – a perfect state of equilibrium.