

50/50 by 2020



Equality and diversity are key to Scotland's success. Historically, women have been under-represented in public and corporate leadership. As a nation that prides itself on fairness, we seek to create equal opportunities for all regardless of gender, disability, ethnic background, age, religion/belief or sexual orientation. However, there's also compelling evidence that having greater diversity of thinking and talent in the management team, and in organisations overall, leads to better performance. Put simply, both large and small businesses do significantly better when they have more gender balance in the boardroom and more diversity in the workforce.

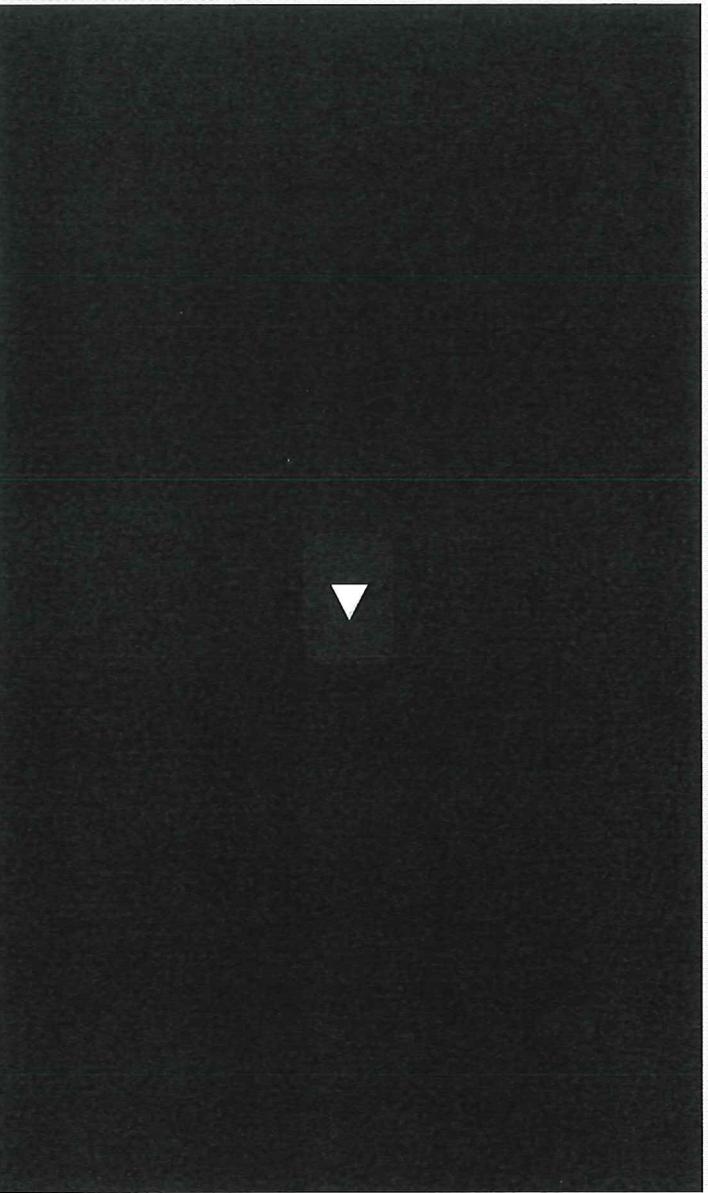
A fair and prosperous Scotland has no ceiling for ambition and talent and opportunities for all to flourish. It is perhaps not surprising that companies with a more modern, progressive, open-minded, meritocratic approach do better. They outperform their rivals by simply making the best use of all the talents at their disposal.

There is clear consensus that increasing diversity in the boardroom and in senior leadership encourages new and innovative thinking, maximises use of talent and leads to better business decisions and governance. The **Scottish Government's Programme for Government**

(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Performance/programme-for-government>) encourages public, private and third sector organisations to sign up to the **Partnership for Change** and to set a voluntary commitment for gender balance on their boards of 50/50 by 2020.

We want you to commit to making progress on gender balance by putting in place progressive practices in your business today and by signing up to the '**Partnership for Change**'. The **Partnership for Change** is a network of organisations and individuals who share a common ambition to improve diversity on boards and in senior leadership. By joining this network, organisations and individuals can share learning and experience in improving gender balance and diversity in the boardroom and beyond and access development opportunities to help bring talent to the boardroom, today and tomorrow. We want people to set themselves a voluntary commitment to work towards gender balance on their boards by 2020 – 50/50 by 2020 – to demonstrate a real commitment to change.

Video of the 50/50 by 2020 Launch Event with the First Minister



You can join the **Partnership for Change** network by signing up here: