

### **Labour unveils a series of reforms to transform the workplace for women.**

#### **14th November is 'equal pay day'**

Dawn Butler, Labour's Shadow Secretary for Women and Equalities, unveiled a series of reforms last week to transform the workplace for women.

Chris Peace, Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for North East Derbyshire, highlights how important these reforms will be after years of Labour concerns being ignored.

Chris Peace said: "These changes will bring about a transformation in how women in North East Derbyshire are paid and are treated at work. Labour will also extend the time a mother spends with her new baby and extend Statutory Maternity Pay so that all mothers and their newborns can spend those vital early months together.

"14th November is 'equal pay day'. This is the symbolic day dedicated to raising awareness of the gender pay gap - the day when women are effectively not getting paid for the rest of the year compared to their male counterparts. Labour will boost women's pay, increase flexible working and also strengthen protections against harassment and discrimination. It's time for real change."

Notes:

Labour will:

\* Create a new Workers' Protection Agency working in partnership with HMRC with powers to fine organisations that fail to report their gender pay;

- \* Publish action plans to reduce pay gaps or take satisfactory measures to close the pay gap;
  
- \* Increase Statutory Maternity Pay from 9 to 12 months, allowing all working mothers or parents to spend a full year with their new born babies before going back to work;
  
- \* Give all workers the right to choose working hours that suit them from day one of the job;
  
- \* Require large employers to introduce a menopause workplace policy to break the stigma associated with the menopause;
  
- \* Tackle sexual harassment in the workplace;
  
- \* Enshrine the role of equalities reps in law so they have time and support to protect workers from discrimination;
  
- \* Open a Sure Start centre in every community with 1,000 new centres across England as part of a radical expansion of childcare provision;
  
- \* Roll out 30 hours of free childcare a week for 2-4 year olds.

<https://labour.org.uk/press/labour-launches-major-package-of-reforms-to-deliver-a-workplace-revolution-for-women/>