ONE WORLD ACTION
FOR A JUST AND EQUAL WORLD

MORE WOMEN MORE POWER

oneworldaction.org

Dear Secretary of State for International Development,

Women make up more than half the world's people but only a fifth of the world's decision-makers. I believe that it is a matter of justice and democracy that women should be fairly represented in formal political decision-making at local, national, regional and international levels.

The presence of women in greater numbers ensures different perspectives, solutions and approaches in decision-making. It means that issues of gender equality and equity are acknowledged and addressed within international and national policy debates — for example, on the economy, trade, climate change, foreign policy and defence.

It also means that issues such as marriage and divorce, equality under the law, violence against women, reproductive rights and health, rape, public services, caring, equal pay, parental leave, pensions and others critical to the welfare of women, men and children, are addressed fully.

Women who want to run for public office or participate in other forms of politics face enormous odds - discrimination, violence and lack of resources. The UK will spend over £6 billion in aid to developing countries in 2008-09. **I urge you to act now to allocate more funds to programmes promoting and supporting women's political participation.**

Yours sincerely

Signed ..... Name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

Secretary of State for International Development
c/o One World Action
Bradleys Close
White Lion St.
London N1 9PF

Cover photo credits from top to bottom:
Sanjay Kumar, OSCE/Eric Gourlan, Luis/Flickr and Wendy Ngoma.