

How To Progress:

in The Scottish Greens

Elect Her

&

50:50 Parliament's

Handbook:



Contents:

Progressing in Politics:

Introduction

1. The Scottish Greens:

Getting Started

Ready to Get Involved

2. Getting Ready To Stand:

3. Selection and Election:

Standing For Office

4. Financial Support:

Contact

Credits

Progressing In Politics

Introduction

[Elect Her](#) is a multi-partisan organisation that works to motivate, support & equip women in all their diversity to stand for elected office in all spheres of government, providing them with the knowledge, confidence, and skills they need to do it.

We demystify the process of standing for elected office and motivate women to create action plans for standing for political roles.

[50:50 Parliament](#) is a friendly network that works with all of the political parties helping women progress in politics. 50:50 Parliament has been campaigning for women to have equal seats and equal say since 2013 and provides women with confidence and connections to take the next step towards selection.

It's more important than ever to have more women standing and being elected in all spheres of government and we want to signpost you as you establish what part you want to play in that.

The political parties have lots of internal support and networks and we want to make it as easy as possible for you to access them. This guide has been designed for women in our community who are aligned with the Scottish Greens, to help you understand how to access different areas of support, community and training as you progress within the party. There are different groups and associations across Scotland and we have tried to include all that information in one place.

If you find additional groups or networks that you've been part of that are missing from these pages, [please get in touch with our team](#) so we can update this guide.

ELECTHER

50:50
PARLIAMENT



1.

The Scottish Greens

If you are a woman in the Scottish Greens, there are loads of opportunities within the party and its affiliate groups to meet other like-minded women and receive advice on how to progress in politics. Here we hope to help you to navigate the party and the fantastic support that is available to you.

Getting Started

Getting started is often the hardest part of the journey. Here are a few steps that you can take in order to get the ball rolling.

First up, if you haven't done so already, [join the Scottish Greens here](#).

- [Take a look at Phase One](#) on the Elect Her website.

- [#SignUpToStand](#) on the 50:50 Parliament website to receive access to their regular support and the community of other women looking to progress in politics. Once you have clicked on #SignUpToStand, you will receive a 'Personal Political Profile' and access to regular party-specific workshops, as well as being paired up with a 50:50 buddy as part of a peer-to-peer support network. You will also be invited to their session offering bespoke support to women from minority groups.

Ready To Get Involved

So you've got the ball rolling and joined your local party, but what are the next steps on your journey?

- Get in touch with your branch. Once you've joined as a member you should receive emails introducing you to your local branch of The Scottish Greens and its officers. Branches often have their own social media pages where you can find out about the branch's activities.

- [You should receive a personal login to access the members hub](#) which has loads of information and resources about how to get active and connect with others.
- Sign up to volunteer locally and get involved with local campaigns. Go along to a local meeting, get some door knocking experience under your belt. If an election is called, volunteer for your local candidate's campaign.
- Take a position in your local party - Chair, Women's Officer, Membership Secretary etc. Learning about how local parties work will really help you on your journey. Getting your name known by local members is also key as they will be the ones voting for you if and when you want to put yourself forward for election in the future.
- Attend a party conference - a multiple-day event with panels, talks and networking opportunities. Conferences happen in the autumn and spring. Find out when the next conference is taking place and consider joining.

- Take a look at the [Ready To Get Involved](#) resources on the Elect Her website.

The Women's Network (WN) of the Scottish Green Party: This is a group of all-female party members. They aim collectively to create a supportive environment to develop policy, provide training and collective support for prospective and existing female candidates as well as our elected representatives.

They use Slack for communication on a wide range of topics.

To join email:

womens.network@scottishgreens.org.uk

You can also check out their social media:

- [WN X:](#)
-

2.

**Getting
Ready to
Stand**

OK, so you're starting to think that maybe you would like to consider being a candidate in the future. Perhaps there is a local election in your area in 12 months time, what should you be doing now in preparation for that?

- Build connections within your communities - these are the people who will advocate, support and campaign for you when the time comes. Volunteer for local organisations. Make calls for another candidate.
- Research what spheres of government you are interested in. This could include, MP, Councillor, or Member of the Scottish Parliament Candidate. Elect Her has loads of resources to help you understand the different roles and which one might suit you - find those and the My Political Future self led programme [here](#).

- These are great tools that will help you to connect with your community and document your achievements. Set up your political social media platforms - X, Facebook, Instagram etc. Be aware that your social media will come under scrutiny if selected as a candidate. Worried about online abuse? [Check out Glitch](#) - an amazing charity working to end online abuse and championing digital citizenship. [Access the Digital Self Defence resource that Glitch and Elect Her have created](#) to help you feel safe whilst creating your political profile online.
- [Join Elect Her's Peer support circles](#), a 7 part programme that supports you to reflect on how to build a team, your public presence, telling your story and building influence whilst preparing to stand for election in the future.
- Familiarise yourself with Scottish Greens Policy. You can read about current campaigns and priorities [here](#).

- Speak at a party conference or participate actively in some way that suits you.
 - Take a look at the [Getting Ready to Stand resources](#) on the Elect Her website.
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3.

Selection

&

Election

There will come a time when you are ready to put yourself forward as a potential candidate whether it is for a local or devolved election. We are here to cheer you on as you do it! We call this the selection phase - as your party needs to select you to be the candidate and then the election phase as you run a campaign to become elected.

The team at Elect Her provide training, community and support to women who are specifically at the selection and election stage. [Find out more on our website here](#) where we detail the training, workshops and candidate clinics that we schedule around the electoral cycle.

In Scotland, the [LocalCouncillors.Scot website](#) has loads of information and resources that are worth exploring.

Standing For Office

How to stand as a councillor or an MSP for the Scottish Green Party:

In line with the democratic values of the party, the structure of the Scottish Greens is devolved, the process for selecting candidates for elections is led by each branch or party at grassroots level, with varying timelines. So the best piece of advice is to get involved in your local area and find out what is happening and when! But, there are broad similarities everywhere which are:

1. Party/branch calls out for candidates
2. Interested candidates submit candidate form/statement
3. Vetting process led by party/branch
4. Online Hustings
5. Vote of local party members to select candidates

4.

Financial Support

It costs a lot to stand for election. Your local party should support the costs of your campaign, printing leaflets and posters, etc., but there are often additional personal costs. Elect Her also runs Fund Her, a grant giving scheme for women from marginalised communities who require additional financial support on their journey to elected office. You can find out more [here](#).

For people in Scotland with a disability that face additional financial burdens on their election campaigns, the [‘Access To Elected Office Fund’](#) is administered by [Inclusion Scotland](#) and is currently open for applications for candidates contesting upcoming elections. Contact their team [here](#).



Contact.

Support, structures, processes and groups around the associations and national party are changing and evolving all the time. If you know of spaces of support, discussion and interest within the party that you think we should add to this guide then please do get in touch.

We are also looking to add a collection of images which can feature in this guide as it continues to grow. If you have images of yourself and other women within your community that you'd like us to feature in this guide, please submit them to us via the links on the following page.

Images should be of a high quality and contain credits in the email.

We have worked to gather all of the information that we have learnt over the past few years about how to get involved in The Scottish Greens, but we need your support to continue to develop this work.

Please contact the team:

community@elect-her.org.uk

with ideas and feedback you might have.



Credits.

We are enormously grateful to all of those individuals in our community and in the political parties who have shared their knowledge, experience, insights and images, to enable us to create these guides. Including, but not limited to:

Kate Neven, Kim Long, Ann McGuinness, Scottish Green Party Women's Network.

This guide was produced by Elect Her and 50:50 Parliament, with design by Michaela Pointon.