

How To Progress: in The Scottish National Party

**Elect Her
&
50:50 Parliament's
Handbook:**

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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 National Party, 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



SNP X

1.

The Scottish National Party (SNP)

If you are an SNP woman, 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 SNP here.](#)

- Take a look at events and resources designed for women at the start of their journey 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 local SNP branch. Once you've joined as a member you should receive emails introducing you to your local party and inviting you to participate in local campaigns or meetings.

- You should receive your membership number and password to enable you to activate your [My SNP Account](#), which gives you access to loads of information about how to be active within the party. This is the most useful resource for SNP members to engage in party activity locally and nationally and to access training to develop your knowledge and understanding.
- Become an activist and/or take a position and become a Party Officer such as Chair, Treasurer, Equalities, Secretary etc. Learning about how things work from the inside will really help you on your journey through the party. 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.
- Research what spheres of government you are interested in. This could include, MP, Councillor or Member of the Scottish Parliament.

-Find out which of these positions are held by the SNP if any and reach out to those individuals for advice and connections.

- Attend a party conference - a multiple-day event with panels, talks and networking opportunities. Conferences happen in the autumn. 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](#).

SNP Organisations

There are several different organisations affiliated with the party that provide additional space for women with different positionalities.

Join the SNP Women's Group [here](#) to connect with other women within the party.

The SNP BAME network has lots of activity, get in touch with them [here](#).

Facebook: [/snpbame](#)

X: [@SNPBAME](#)

Instagram: [@snpbame](#)

They also have some great videos that you can [watch on Youtube](#).

SNP disabled members group are active on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

[Young Scots for Independence](#) is the group to join for those under 30. When you sign up to the party, if you are under 30 you will automatically join YSI, so look out for their emails and additional ways to get involved. Follow them on the socials here:

X: [@YSINational](#)

Instagram: [@ysinational](#)

Facebook: [YSINational](#)

The group organise national campaign days, an annual international conference, organised trips. If you want to contact the team or learn more about how to get involved you can contact the committee at Contact@ysiscotland.com.

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.
- Learn more with [SNP College](#). This comprehensive education programme enhances your membership, helps you gain valuable new personal and campaigning skills, and boosts your participation in the SNP.

- Research what spheres of government you are interested in. This could include, MP, Councillor, a School Governor or a Member of the Scottish Parliament. Elect Her's My Political Future programme has loads of resources to help you understand the different roles and which might suit you – [find that 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.
- The Association of Nationalist Councillors: The body that represents SNP councillors – [You can follow them on X](#) to stay up to date!
- SNP Disabled Members Group: They are encouraging more members from under-represented groups to come forward as candidates to fully reflect the communities that they represent. You can find out more [here](#).
- Check out their guide which aims to encourage more disabled members to put themselves forward [here](#).
- Familiarise yourself with SNP Policy. You can read up on them [here](#).

- Speak at a party conference or participate in some way that works for 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, regional, devolved or national 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 where we detail the training, workshops and candidate clinics that we schedule around the electoral cycle.

In this section we have outlined the process of putting yourself forward as we understand it.

Standing For Office

How to stand as a candidate for the SNP:

To put yourself forward as an SNP candidate you must apply [here](#) using your my.snp.org login details.

If you are standing as a councillor, before starting your candidate application form, [look at the Elected Representative section of their training site](#) to find out more about the role of a councillor.

Apply to join the Approved Candidates Register:

- In order to get yourself on the approved candidate register you must complete your self assessment at [vetting.snp.org](#).
- You may then be invited to an interview with three interviewers where you will have to demonstrate the six core competences of the role.

- You'll have to demonstrate your ability to work with a team in a group exercise.
- You will either be approved for the register, but if not, don't worry, try again next time!

Once you are on the Approved Candidates Register:

- Select which seats you want to apply to stand for (maximum two).
- Notify the National Secretary of your intention.
- You will be allowed to send up to three emails to local members.
- You will be required to participate in hustings.
- Local members then vote for their preferred candidate.

Support for selection:

- Your branch or constituency association will have a specific women's officer. Find out who they are and get in touch with them.

Support for election: Once you are the party's candidate you will be allocated an election agent who will support you throughout the election. You will be sent all of the information and resources you need from HQ to help you be the best candidate you can be.

Remember Elect Her has programmes of support for women who are candidates. Sign up for [Getting Ready to Stand](#) and get started with our resources like Equip Her and [Campaign in a Box](#).

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 SNP, 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:

Kelly Parry, Rhiannon Spear, Katie Hagmann & Sadie Matthews.

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