

To: Minister for Social Justice, Jane Hutt MS
Cc: Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, Jenny Rathbone MS

8 March 2023

Dear Minister,

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill

I am writing to you on behalf of the Gender Network, a policy forum of 50 organisations, activists and academics that aim to strengthen women's rights and gender equality for all women and girls in Wales.

In advance of the Senedd's debate and vote on the Legislative Consent motion on the UK Government's Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill, I would like to highlight the discussion at the most recent Gender Network meeting, held on 1 March 2023.

At this meeting, members of Gender Network were unanimous in expressing profound concerns about the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill and the absolutely devastating impact it would have on the protection of women's rights and gender equality in the UK and Wales. Members highlighted that losing protections related to equal pay, family-friendly policies, pregnancy and part-time working, among others, would mark a significant backward step for women's rights and gender equality. There was agreement that individuals and organisations within the Network needed to mobilise urgently with a view to, ultimately, preventing the passage of this deeply damaging bill.

Given the forthcoming vote, I believed it was essential for me to write to you directly to express the views of the Network.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessica Laimann'.

Jessica Laimann

Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Women's Equality Network (WEN) Wales

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