Dear Councilllor xxxxx

**Proposed Motion to Support Fair Transitional State Pension arrangements for 1950's women**

As an Area Coordinator of the xxxxxx WASPI Supporters Group I am writing to you on behalf of the many members in our group who live in xxxxxx.  Some may have already contacted  xxxxxxxxxx Councillors requesting support for transitional arrangements regarding their loss of anticipated pension income.

Women born after 6.4.1950 have been quite severely affected by the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) for women as a result of both the 1995 and 2011 Pensions Acts and I am writing to ask if you would consider proposing a motion to xxxxxxxxx   supporting the call on the Government for fair transitional state pension arrangements for women born in the 1950s on or after 6.4.951.  Equalisation of the state pension age for women to that of men's is recognised as necessary and right.  However, it is the lack of notice and unfair implementation in the timescale that is causing real hardship. The proposed motion has been considered and passed by many Councils throughout the country in support of this cohort of women who have been dealt a severe injustice.

The total loss of pension can be £40,000 or more with an increase in State Pension age of up to 6 years for some.

The Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed that it did not write to women affected by the 1995 Act until 14 years later, in 2009.  However, these letters were halted in 2011 because the Government was planning to make further increases.   So only women born up to 5 April 1953 were written to in that round of letters.  DWP started writing to women born after 6.4.53 in 2012 and this was the first they would have heard about the 1995 and the 2011 increases.  Some women had less than 2 years notice.  There are around 3.8million women in the country affected by these reforms and many are suffering severe financial hardship.

WASPI (Women Against State Pension Inequality) have been campaigning for the government to make 'fair transitional state pension arrangements for women born in the 1950s and their e-petition recently gathered over 193,000 signatures in support.  The significant loss of income to women who were expecting their pensions at 60 will have an adverse effect on the local area.  There will be less disposable income and there are many women having to sell their homes, claiming housing support and/or finding they need to claim ESA or JSA in their 60s to survive.  Not all women are able to continue working due to ill health, caring responsibilities for parents and/or grandchildren, redundancy, etc.  This loss of income is affecting whole households and their finances.

Following the success of the WASPI petition, there have been several debates and there is cross party support in the Government with an All Party Parliamentary group having been formed to progress options for transitional arrangements to present to Government.   At the moment the Government is not acknowledging the need to revisit this issue. Members of the Devon WASPI Supporters Group have been holding awareness raising events locally and are meeting women who still do not know that their state pension age has increased and many who do not know exactly when they will get their state pension. This is very worrying.

The motion:

"The Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional State Pension arrangements for all women born in the 1950s, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

3.8million women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. Many had no notification at all.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, and/or providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace and struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60.

It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving them with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls upon the Government “To provide fair transitional State Pension arrangements for all women affected by the changes. This translates into a 'bridging' pension to provide an income from age 60 until State Pension Age. An income that is not means-tested, and also includes recompense for losses incurred, for those women who have already reached their SPA, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

We do not ask for a reversal of any Pension Act to age 60.

You can find further information regarding this issue on the following links:

[www.waspi.co.uk](http://www.waspi.co.uk/)

[http://data.parliament.uk/…/understandin…/written/25211.html](http://data.parliament.uk/%E2%80%A6/understandin%E2%80%A6/written/25211.html)

<http://www.timloughton.com/campaigns/waspi-campaign>

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing if you will be proposing/supporting this motion to xxxxxxxxx Council or if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely

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Area Coordinator, xxxxxxxx WASPI Support Group