



# Regional Development Agencies at the heart of Women's Enterprise Development

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Chief Executive

South East England Development Agency

Prowess 4th Annual International Conference

7th February 2007, Brighton

# Lapper and Nelson



Be inspired!

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# But still a long way to go

## Sex and Power: who runs Britain? 2007

The EOC asks: *Where are the women missing from our boardrooms and public life?*

More than thirty years since the Sex Discrimination Act came into force, women have made significant strides in the workplace and in public life. But despite this, and despite the achievements of inspirational, groundbreaking women, they are still not reaching the top of their professions in significant numbers. They represent just 10% of directors at FTSE 100 companies, and barely 20% of Members of Parliament. Among those few women who do make it to the top, ethnic minority women make up just 0.3% of MPs and 0.4% of FTSE 100 directors, despite the fact that they comprise 5.2% of the population.

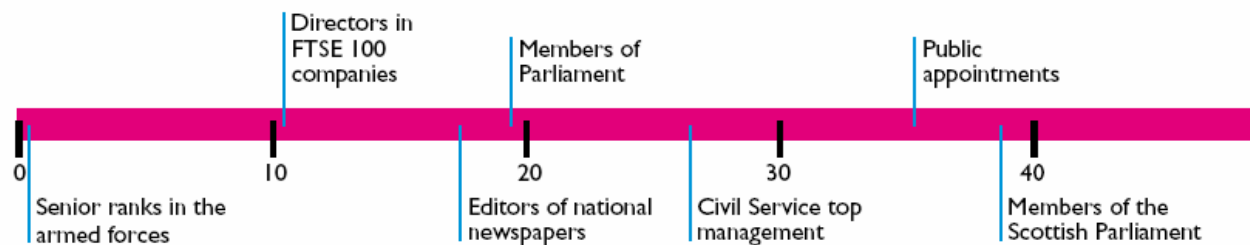
**Missing women**

If we hope to shatter the glass ceiling, we would need to find the nearly 4,000 women 'missing' from more than 33,000 top positions of power in Britain today.<sup>1</sup> These include:

- 3,067** missing from among the 21,103 public appointments
- 448** missing from among the 1,130 directorships in FTSE 100 companies
- 233** missing from among the 751 members of the House of Lords
- 217** missing from among the 914 Civil Service top managers
- 197** missing from among the 646 Members of Parliament
- 162** missing from among the 449 council leaders in local government
- 101** missing from among the 269 senior police officers
- 78** missing from among the 194 senior judges

Women, Men and Equal Opportunity

Women's representation (%)



# Outline

1. Driving the Agenda Forward:  
The Women's Enterprise Task Force
2. Delivery Framework:  
The Role of RDAs
3. Women's Enterprise in 2007:  
Priorities for the future; action today

# Driving the agenda forward

- Gender gap in entrepreneurship has narrowed – because male activity has dropped!
- Gap is narrowest for start ups; wider as value increases
- Biggest gender gap is in 18-24 year old age group
- Nearly twice the number of female use a new technology
- Women seek on average £10k to start up; men £15k

# The Women's Enterprise Task Force

- Inspire and harness the talents and skills of potential women entrepreneurs
- Encourage women entrepreneurs to prosper
- Achieve a change in attitudes and behaviour across Whitehall and the City



# The Women's Enterprise Task Force



UK Women's Enterprise Task Force:  
Increasing the quantity and quality  
of women's enterprise ...

# Delivery Framework

- Foundation through regional strategies
- Challenging targets



Growing the economy with business

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**SEEDA** SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
*Working for England's World Class Region*

# Different approaches in different places



# Women's Enterprise in 2007

- The regions have Strategic Frameworks and Resources in place
- We have a baseline...
- **...now is the time for delivery** to create a culture change that will see the quantity and quality of women-owned businesses

# Key areas for action in 2007

- High level leadership
- Advocacy
- Media
- Traction across Whitehall
- Business Support
- Business Growth
- Networks
- Finance
- Data



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