

# What do we want or expect from our MPs going forward?



Dr Alexandra Meakin, University of Leeds  
September 2025



Key question

What do we want the make up of MPs to look like and how do we better design for that e.g. family life, class, disability?



Who are the  
Members?



# Who are the Members?

	Female	From a Minority Ethnic background	Publicly identify as LGBTQ+	Has a university degree
House of Commons	40.6%	14%	9.8%	90%
House of Lords	31%	6.6%	3%	86% (2019 figures)
The UK	50.6%	14.4%	3.1% (LGB) 0.5% (T) (but many do not answer census Q)	33.8%



# Barriers: class



## Barriers: disability

“We should be thoroughly ashamed that disabled access in this building is truly appalling. It is phenomenally difficult to get around the building for someone in a wheelchair or who has physical difficulties. The roundabout routes that many have to take to make an ordinary passage through the building are wrong.”

(Hansard, 25 January 2017, cc99WH)

““Parliament is probably the worst place in the world to [work] if you have a disability,” Robert Halfon MP, 2022

## Barriers: family and caring

“Parenting while legislating? “Nightmare” is how one member of the new intake sums up the experience [...] They risk criticism from constituents, but the choice is unenviable: either they see their children Monday to Thursday in London for little snatches of time and one day at the weekend; or they are away four days a week and usually see their families only Friday evening if their surgery does not run too long, and around their weekend visits.  
(Rodgers, 2025)

# Key questions

- What do we think an MPs week should look like and how do we enable that?
- What trade offs and allowances do we need to consider?