

# Women's engagement

from the Ministers for Women and Equalities

 HM Government

## NEWSFLASH

### Women are key to economic growth

**First keynote speech by Women and Equalities Minister sets out plans to remove barriers in the workplace**



**The Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and Minister for Women and Equalities**

In a keynote speech yesterday, Mrs Miller set out Government plans to get more women into work and help drive economic growth.

She said the debate should not just focus on boardrooms, but also on balancing careers with everyday family life.

“Britain today is in a global economic race, and there’s so much more we need to do to make ourselves more competitive,” Mrs Miller said. “It makes no sense to stifle the achievement and aspiration of 50 per cent of our society”.

Read Maria Miller’s speech in full [here](#).

The progress of the Government’s [Think, Act, Report initiative](#) was also published, showing that more than one million workers are now covered by the gender equality scheme.

### Help for new childcare businesses

Mrs Miller announced a new £2 million scheme to boost childcare. From April 2013 people who want to set up a nursery or childminding business can access grants of up to £500 to help cover costs such as legal and insurance, health and safety training, and adaptations to premises. This comes on top of a package of measures the Government is taking forward to boost childcare, including extending the right to request flexible working to all employees and allowing parents to share leave to care for their newborn child.

Further information could be found [here](#).