

## General Election 2010: Candidate Watch The Green Party and UKIP

As part of CFWD's ongoing Candidate Watch in the run-up to the General Election, this report takes a first look at candidate selection in two of the smaller parties, the Green Party and UKIP.

It has been widely speculated that, in the face of the MPs' expenses scandal and the economic downturn, voters may have become disillusioned with the main political parties. This means that in the forthcoming election we could see a wider distribution of votes, giving candidates standing for the smaller parties a better chance of being elected and therefore making the number of women candidates in these parties even more significant.

We have been able to collate some Initial figures for the Green Party and UKIP, and these show that:

### The Green Party

- of the 138 candidates known to have been selected to date, 36 are women
- 26.1% of Green Party candidates are women

### UKIP

- of 242 known candidates, 32 are female
- 13.2% of UKIP candidates are women

It is hard to predict what effect the results for either of these parties will have on the numbers of women in parliament after the 2010 election. One of the factors which may inhibit any increase in women MPs overall, however, are concentrations of women candidates in particular seats. In the case of these two smaller parties:

- 22.5% of Green candidates are standing in female-held seats, and only 12.9% of those Green candidates are women
- 17.4% of UKIP candidates are standing in female-held seats, and only 11.9% of those candidates are women