

# LONDON: A CITY FOR WOMEN

---



## London: A city for women

For the past eight years, I have put equality for women at the heart of my agenda as London's Mayor – implementing changes to improve women's lives. If re-elected I will continue to put women's interests at the forefront of my administration, building on these achievements.

More than half of London's population are women: more than three million women. London's diversity is its strength and that diversity is reflected in the skills and talents of women living, working, studying and caring for families in London. Women born in London and those who come from other parts of the UK and the world contribute to the city. The diversity of London's women makes this a truly international city.

London is a city that is associated with the great movements forward for women's equality: the city that saw the mass demonstrations of the suffragettes that won the vote for women, where women workers at Fords took the actions that led to the Equal Pay Act, the city which selected and elected the only two black women MPs still to have a place at Westminster. It is a city where generation after generation of women, from the widest range of backgrounds and communities, has sought the freedom and equality to live their lives as they chose. However, London has also been a city of great inequality. This is most marked in the lives of women in London.

As London's Mayor, I have used the full extent of my powers to help make women's lives fairer and more equal. This will be halted if the Conservative candidate Boris Johnson is elected: the kinds of lives women will be able to live in the future are at stake in this election. If equality for women is thrown backwards it will degrade the entire social fabric of our city, just as greater equality for women has gone hand in hand with progress for London as a whole.

London needs a Mayor who will work every single day to represent the city's diversity. This cannot be done without representing the interests of women in London, who are a majority of London's population. As the feminist saying goes: 'women hold up half the sky'. Yet despite this, women have all too often found their concerns overlooked, their economic contribution under-valued and their voices unheard. For the last eight years I have sought to develop and implement policies women say their lives need.

I have approached all my policies in a way that ensures they will help improve women's lives: London's economic development, the Olympics, improving the environment, transport, policing and safety, homes and housing, culture, and my broad and inclusive equality policies.

This manifesto highlights some of the key steps I have already taken to address the specific concerns of women. It also sets out my commitments to continue to improve and extend women's equality in London and deliver a truly equal capital city. I am proud to stand for re-election on the basis of this record of supporting and delivering equality.

Any Mayor of London must place equality for women at the heart of their agenda – and, if re-elected, I will continue to do so.

## A fair city: economic equality for women

My goal is fair and equal pay for all women working in London.

Women are 52 per cent of London's population and my research shows that women will fill 7 out of 10 new jobs coming into London's economy. The last three decades have seen huge improvements in women's equality at work. Yet still women in London are paid on average 23 per cent less than men – in large part because of the way men predominate in the highest paying jobs. Pay inequality is worst in the private sector. Women are also the majority of the low paid in London. A lower proportion of women with children are in employment, including part-time employment, than at UK level, highlighting the need for good, affordable childcare and high quality work offered flexibly and part-time.

I have taken a whole series of steps to improve women's equality in the economy.

Where I have direct control – through the Greater London Authority – I have promoted equality to the full extent provided for by my powers and beyond the minimum required by law. Among GLA staff, in services like transport and the police authorities and in job opportunities for the Olympics and Paralympics, equality for women has been made central. I have ensured equal pay audits have been carried out across the GLA workforce and the proportion of women in higher paid jobs has increased. Women's representation in front line, core services has risen – in the last five years there has been a 34 per cent increase in women police officers. The proportion of women in senior positions and higher earning jobs also increased.

To improve women's equality in the economy in the wider economy, I established and promoted the London Living Wage – setting a figure (currently £7.20) that no worker in London should be paid below. I have made equality central to all London government contracts with the private sector and, to encourage employers, I have worked to identify and encourage best practice in the private sector: the number of employers undertaking equal pay reviews in London has risen over the last few years. Yet still only 29 per cent of London employers with more than 25 employees had undertaken an equal pay audit, with a further 5 per cent planning one. I am in favour of equal pay audits being mandatory so that all employers and employees can benefit from pay transparency. Seventy per cent of women working in London do so in the private sector, and I have set out other ways in which the law could be strengthened so that barriers to women's equality are removed and both the private and public sector in London benefit from the skills and talents of women to the maximum degree.

Research undertaken by my Women in London's Economy programme shows that women in London are likely to be better qualified than women in the rest of the country, yet they are still under-represented in many senior jobs. At the same time, the 15 per cent of women who have no qualifications are more likely to be excluded from work in London. This requires policies both to challenge discrimination and to ensure all women can access appropriate training. I am promoting policies to ensure that women can fairly access the skills and training they will need for the full range of jobs in London's present and future. Through the London Skills and Employment Board I will support the establishment of a code of practice for London's employers to support women getting a better deal: by tackling direct and indirect discrimination, covering such issues as flexible working, sick leave entitlement, and access to in work training. I will ensure that equal opportunities for women, including making access to non-traditional jobs easier, is

---

upheld in my goal of 60,000 new apprenticeships a year to be delivered by the work of the London Skills and Employment Board with London employers.

Only 1.6 per cent of black cab drivers are women – so with the London Development Agency I have launched a scheme to support women to become drivers.

I am urging all employers in London to increase the supply of part-time jobs across the job spectrum, particularly at more senior levels, and have taken major steps to improve the supply of affordable childcare provision.

I will now step up this programme for women's economic equality: building on my work to identify and promote best practice and my Responsible Procurement policy, no company that cannot show it is delivering equal pay for women will be able to do business with London government. I will aim to develop a Women's Equality at Work Index, rating London businesses on how equal their workplaces are for women.

I am also working to ensure that women are equally represented and paid in the 50,000 new jobs that the 2012 Olympics will bring.

There is only so much the Mayor can do, however. Therefore, I am lobbying central government for improvements in equality law through a strong Single Equality Act, particularly to:

- Take more robust action to close the gender pay gap, by supporting mandatory equal pay reviews – so that there is transparency in what men and women are paid – which trigger action that can correct discrimination;
- Allow employers to take the kind of 'positive action' measures already in place in other parts of Europe to overcome entrenched discrimination and ensure women are fairly represented in top jobs and key sectors;
- Create a mandatory equality duty in procurement;
- Firmly enforce laws against discrimination: when the law is broken penalties have to correct the discrimination and be adequate to deter repeat offences.

When bad employers discriminate against pregnant women workers they need to be punished so they don't do it again – my research suggests that upwards of 13,000 women in London each year suffer financial loss or lose their jobs as a result of pregnancy discrimination. This is simply unacceptable. The laws that outlaw pregnancy discrimination must be much more robustly enforced and penalties must be adequate to deter discrimination. I am pressing government to ensure that enforcement is equal to this task.

I believe it should be mandatory on all public bodies to ensure that all private suppliers they have contracts with are upholding the law on equality – which is the policy I have set in London.

I also believe the London Mayor should be able to take regionally appropriate steps to tackle the particular characteristics of women's pay inequality in the capital and would aim to discuss this with government as part of the dialogue developing a Single Equality Bill.

I will use the full extent of my powers in London to ensure that anti-discrimination and equality law is promoted and upheld: I will establish and develop a Commission for Equality in London to assist with this task.

## A safe city: no tolerance of violence against women

I will build on my ground-breaking policies to make London as safe as possible for all women, in all parts of life.

My strategies on domestic violence, against rape and sexual violence, to deliver safer public transport and the visible policing and safety of public spaces have already had a big effect.

The number of women murdered through domestic violence has dropped by 57 per cent since 2003 – down from 43 to 19 last year. New data shows that 9 of the 12 boroughs working in partnership with the GLA and government have also shown a decrease in serious domestic violent attacks. I will build on the policies that have led to this important improvement in women's safety, taking forward this crucial work through the London domestic violence strategy to co-ordinate and give a lead to the work of the police, London councils, the NHS and other agencies. There are four specialist domestic violence courts in London and the number of offenders charged in London doubled between 2000/01 and 2005/06. There are 860 places in refuges providing a safe space for women and their children. I believe this provision is important and would work towards seeing it improved.

Funding has been provided to put nearly 6,000 extra police officers, plus nearly 4,000 police community support officers on the streets, and the number of uniformed officers has thus been brought up to nearly 35,000. Two hundred additional British Transport Police have also been funded for the London Underground and Docklands Light Railway networks.

Our Safer Travel at Night campaign has led to a big fall in usage of unlicensed minicabs. I have ensured that all London's 40,000 minicab drivers are licensed and undergo criminal record checks. Cab related assaults have fallen by nearly half since 2003. I will continue to take rigorous enforcement action against illegal cabs and to run late night marshalled taxi ranks and other schemes which make it easier to find a safe way home at night. Together with services such as more night buses, better street lighting and improved station security my policies will also continue to make the 'last mile home' at night as safe as possible.

Reported incidences of rape have fallen by 25 per cent since 2002. My policies have ensured women who have been raped or sexually assaulted have increased access to specialist support, through a Project Sapphire Unit in every borough. These also provide specialists in investigating rape and sexual assault.

I now want to build on the improvements in police approaches to sexual violence by driving up the rape conviction rate, encouraging the Met to increase priority towards this area further, and to take more steps to improve the effectiveness of rape investigations through better forensic techniques.

I want all London parks and green spaces to be welcoming and safe places and will work with boroughs to increase the numbers of park attendants. To fulfil their maximum potential for leisure and health, parks, open spaces and play areas must be safe and welcoming and I will work with police and local councils to make it a priority for Safer Neighbourhood Police teams to co-ordinate with park wardens, play wardens and other staff to ensure there are agreed plans for patrolling all park areas. I also aim to deliver

---

500 new public play areas across London and will work with government and councils to this end, ensuring that these are safe for all. I am committed to strengthening community involvement by developing work with Safer Neighbourhood Teams, local community and faith groups.

I have taken steps to discourage the growth of prostitution and the trafficking of women and girls. The sex industry relies on the exploitation of women and girls often trapped by poverty and debt. It often involves extreme violence towards women and encourages deeply misogynist attitudes in men. Research cited by the government in its consultation on prostitution in 2004 indicated that two-thirds of prostitutes had experienced client violence and 28 per cent reported being the victim of attempted rape. A high proportion of women in prostitution have been children in care or who have suffered abuse. Many other women have been trafficked into prostitution. It is vital to prosecute the traffickers while supporting those women who have been trafficked. I have called on government to ensure there is joint working between government, police and immigration service so that women can be helped out of the terrible positions they have been trafficked into without fear of deportation or punishment. I have also called on government to develop a national campaign to raise awareness about prostitution, aimed at discouraging demand, and to develop appropriate resources to encourage and support women out of prostitution including for trafficked women.

I oppose the spread of 'lap-dancing' clubs, which are often a front for prostitution, and raise similar concerns for the safety of women working in such clubs and for the environment of the local areas in which they are situated. Classifying such clubs as Encounter Establishments (as is the case for sex shops), would allow greater regulation. I will lobby government on this and use my powers to discourage such establishments.

My priorities for the future will include the further development of pan-London strategies on all these issues – such as have been extremely effective on domestic violence, childcare and transport safety – by helping ensure that all boroughs achieve the levels of good practice now set by the best and by encouraging government to take action that lies outside of the Mayor's powers.

## An inclusive city

The diversity of women and women's concerns are reflected in all my policies. The policies advocated by any Mayor of London must take into account the fact that 33 per cent of London's women are black, Asian or minority ethnic, that London has a greater proportion of single parent, mainly women headed households, and that there are many thousands of women in London who are lesbian, disabled or older, providing crucial support to families and friends.

Any Mayor of London must have policies that are inclusive for the broad diversity of women in London. While there are many concerns that women have in common, there are also concerns that specific groups of women will have and which London's Mayor must listen to, understand and respond to.

The lives of women living in London depend crucially on the future of London's public services. Although most women working in London work in the private sector, women make up 60 per cent of the London workforce in the public services sector and are the greatest users of public services. What happens to public services very directly affects women's lives.

Services like housing, transport and health need to be appropriate and accessible to women's lives.

My approach to London's transport over the last eight years is a prime example of how starting from what women need can have a profoundly positive impact on a service. To meet women's needs, public transport needs to be flexible to cater for the range of complex local journeys women often have to make in their daily lives – linked to the family responsibilities that much more often fall on women such as shopping, taking children to school or doctors, caring for relatives, as well as going to work. Women are more likely to walk and to use buses than men and less likely to use a car or van or rail or underground. London now has more buses, more routes and more frequent services, as well as the world's largest accessible bus fleet enabling greater and easier use of public transport by parents accompanying children or with pushchairs as well as Londoners who are disabled or wheelchair users. Additionally, my policy of free travel for children supports London families, aiding movement around the city. It particularly helps lone parent families, which are on lower incomes and 9 out of 10 of which are female-headed.

I aim to build on this by ensuring the programme for increased access improvements to the Underground is taken forward.

Door to door services for disabled Londoners will be protected and extended so there is a consistent entitlement and common services across London. I will defend the Freedom Pass for older and disabled Londoners, which will benefit women in particular, and fund it so that it can be used 24 hours a day. The limitation that it cannot be used before 9 am will be abolished.

With affordable housing the number one priority for Londoners, I want to deliver and build on my new housing strategy, launched in September 2007. I have secured government funding to allow me to ensure 50,000 more affordable homes over the next three years – on a mixture of rented and owned. There will be more larger family size homes. My new policy will require developers to provide 10 square metres per child or teenager of decent play or recreation space on or in the immediate neighbourhood of any housing development, increasing play space for under 5's, 5-11's, and 11-18's. Together with the Mayor's Youth Offer this will provide many more play and activity places for children and young people.

All new homes will be built to 'lifetime' standard and 10 per cent will be wheelchair accessible, supporting the needs of disabled women. Affordable homes are particularly important for the many female-headed households struggling to get by on lower incomes, yet Boris Johnson and the Conservative Members of the London Assembly have opposed my target that 50 per cent of all new homes should be affordable and support Tory councils like Wandsworth being allowed to choose to deliver as few affordable homes as they like.

Life expectancy is the ultimate barometer of equality – and with women's life expectancy and infant mortality varying sharply between more and less affluent boroughs of London I will lobby government for resources to particularly hard-pressed areas and work with boroughs with the aim of ensuring there is a clear picture of service provision and that services are delivered fairly, evenly and appropriately to women. I will support measures to improve equality in all areas of women's health. I will continue to promote and seek more resources for the work of the London Health Commission.

---

I am aware at the concern that has grown about falls in London borough support for the women's voluntary sector and will continue to do what I can to encourage funding for key services such as rape crisis support.

The strong positive response to the London Partnerships Register, which I set up in 2001, played a critical role in government's decision to bring in the Civil Partnership Act 2004, giving same-sex couples the right to register their partnerships legally. Roughly one third of the couples who used the London Partnerships Register were women, and between the coming into force of the Civil Partnerships Act on 21 December 2005, up to December 2006, 1,059 of the 4,488 civil partnerships that took place were female, with London being the most popular region within the UK in which to register a civil partnership. I will continue to develop policies in support of equality and against homophobia.

I have supported a wide range of cultural festivals and events, supporting the diversity of Londoners, ranging from events like the Rise festival to support respect for all cultures and oppose racism, through the annual Pride celebrations to major consultation events like capitalwoman and London Schools and the Black Child. All speak in varying ways to the concerns and needs of women in London.

I will continue to place consultation with London women at the core of my approach to policy development.

## A city with greater family and household equality

With a lower proportion of women in employment than elsewhere in the UK – particularly women with children – higher levels of children living in poverty, twice the national proportion of families living in overcrowded conditions and 46,000 households with children living in temporary accommodation – policies to support families and women with children have been central to my administration.

I will build on the London Childcare Strategy, which is already delivering additional, subsidised, flexible childcare to more than 7,000 families. Affordable childcare is particularly important for single parent families, which there are more of in London – the great majority headed by women. While across the UK 68 per cent of women with children are in employment, in London only 53 per cent are – a gap that demands the combination of policies I have taken forward, including affordable childcare, encouragement to employers to provide more jobs on a part time basis and accessible, flexible and affordable transport.

I will build on my policies to reduce child poverty in London. London is a city of immense wealth and with a powerful economic base, but it is one of great social and economic contrasts. Child poverty is an appalling reflection of this. To help tackle child poverty I established the London Child Poverty Commission to lower the proportion of children living in households in poverty in London. My strategy includes supporting the creation of more part-time jobs at all job levels, reducing the costs of childcare, improving skills, working to ensure that in-work benefits take account of London's higher costs and increasing the take up of tax credits in London from its current relatively low level.

I will extend this programme of support with a major new programme in support of carers. With funding from the London Development Agency, the London Carer's Alliance

will be established this summer. The Alliance will support London's 600,000 carers, the majority of whom are women. However, carers need more support and I will discuss with central government improving the delivery of carer's allowance to low income carers so that London's higher costs are taken into account and do not penalise carers. Carers save London around £8.7 billion a year, but are often living on low incomes or are excluded from jobs and the chance of a social life.

I will lobby central government to extend the right to request flexible working to all carers, not just those caring for close family members or in the same household and I am calling for anti-discrimination rights for carers increasing flexibility and social inclusion – so that the kind of flexibility employers are required to give disabled people to prevent them being excluded from the labour market is extended to carers.

## A city where women have a voice

I have made support for women's representation, services and consultation a top priority and will build on this if re-elected.

Women are under-represented in senior jobs, public life and politics – nationally as well as in London. That has to change. In some areas – such as the number of women MPs – London is doing better than nationally, although women are still not 50 per cent of MPs. But in key areas – like the proportions of women in City jobs, the picture is very poor.

At the current rate of progress, campaigners have estimated that it will take about 200 years to get an equal number of women in the House of Commons and 60 years to get an equal number of women directors of FTSE 100 companies. Recent steps taken in other European countries, such as Norway and Spain, should be investigated for the lessons they may contain.

Through the Women in London's Economy programme I have researched and highlighted the problem of women's under-representation in senior positions and the impact on the gender pay gap. I have worked with best practice employers to promote positive approaches and highlighted the need for good practice to be given stronger legislative support. I aim to build on this programme of engagement, consultation and policy development over the next four years.

The capitalwoman conference that I established in my first year as Mayor has now become a mass, multi-layered event attracting around 4,000 women. It is a conference and policy consultation event, a cultural and performance hive, features training workshops, exhibits, presents careers information and promotes women in sports. The event demonstrates that women are, at the very least, no less interested in politics and policy development than men – but are simply too often sidelined. Crucially capitalwoman showcases the diversity of women's cultures in London. The success and vibrancy of capitalwoman has led me to support an International Women's Month – and, if re-elected, from March 2009 I will sponsor a month of events supporting and promoting women's equality.

I support more funding for women's services and organisations in London. Women's organisations are an important resource – which should be improved not reduced. I will work with voluntary sector organisations to retain and improve single group funding so that diverse women's organisations receive the funding they and their communities need.

---

But there is only so much the Mayor can do. So I want to see stronger law to allow entrenched discrimination and disadvantage of women combated by powers to improve women's representation in senior positions of employment, non-traditional areas, and in public life. This can be done by strengthening the law on positive action. Such steps would be good for equality, strengthen political life and public bodies and would be good for business: research for the US based organisation Catalyst has shown that companies with the highest representation of women in senior management achieved better financial performance. For all these reasons I am strongly advocating that the government introduce a strengthened law on positive action in the forthcoming Single Equality Bill.

## Working for London's Women – key achievements so far

I have developed and supported a wide range of policies for women's equality and I remain committed to building on these achievements if re-elected. Key achievements so far include:

- **More affordable childcare:** One of my earliest policies was the development of the London Childcare Strategy. Now the London Childcare Affordability Programme provides subsidised, flexible childcare for more than 7,000 families – improving women's employment options and reducing the strain on families. The programme is now being extended to cover older children.
- **Improving women's pay equality:** all parts of the GLA have conducted equal pay audits and the proportion of women in higher paid jobs has increased. My procurement policy means that private contractors have to meet public sector anti-discrimination legal standards or lose the contract. I am actively lobbying central government to improve the law on equal pay and its enforcement. I will build on my Women in London's Economy programme of research, consultation and promotion of best practice, working with London, employers, trade unions and equality organisations.
- **Action on low pay:** most low paid workers in London are women and, as promised, I established the London Living Wage unit to set a realistic 'London Living Wage' – currently £7.20 – which all GLA direct or sub-contracted employees are paid as a minimum. I will continue to promote the Living Wage to increase the number of employers who are committed to it.
- **No tolerance of violence against women:** the pan-agency London Domestic Violence Strategy was introduced as the first UK city wide strategy of its kind in 2001: I have made sure the Metropolitan Police treat domestic violence as a serious crime. Since 2003 the number of domestic violence murders has been reduced by 57 per cent.
- **Rape and sexual assault tackled:** there is now a Project Sapphire Unit in every borough, providing targeted investigation skills and victim support, while a network of rape Havens provide specialist counselling and medical support for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted.
- **Safer and better public transport for women:** the Safer Travel at Night campaign, increased numbers of night buses and raising awareness about the dangers of unlicensed cab use has led to improvements in transport safety, including a 46 per cent reduction in cab-related sexual offences. Safer Transport teams are providing a visible presence on many bus routes.
- **Priority seats for pregnant women:** signs on the Underground promote responsibility by asking passengers to give their seat if there is a woman with a child or who is pregnant who has no seat.
- **More affordable homes:** I have prioritized policy development and delivery to ensure the supply of more affordable homes, including options for renting and larger family homes, with many accessible properties to benefit the needs of disabled women.
- **Supporting families by free travel for children:** My policies mean that all under 18s in full time education travel free on London buses and all under-11s also travel free on the tube and DLR, with under-16s entitled to a flat 50p Oyster fare on the tube. People on Income Support, including many single mothers, travel for half fare.

- 
- **Introducing the London Partnership Register:** I was proud to make one of my earliest steps the assertion of equality for lesbian and gay couples: a third of couples who registered their partnerships were women, and the Register paved the way to the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which has since been used by many London women couples. I have also taken a number of other major steps against homophobia, including working with schools to stamp out homophobic bullying and supporting rights for lesbian couples in assisted reproduction.
  - **Safer and greener public spaces:** low carbon street lights will save energy and provide better light, creating more visible night time streets, footpaths and parks, and further improving safety.
  - **Supporting and consulting London women:** the capitalwoman conference, which attracts about 4,000 registrations each year, is the centerpiece of a rolling programme of consultation through which I engage London women in development of policies.
  - **Supporting diversity and multiculturalism:** diversity is London's hallmark – 33 per cent of women in London are from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and I have supported London's diversity by policies to ensure London government workplaces and the service the GLA delivers are more representative of London's communities, supporting wide-ranging cultural events and ensuring community and women's organizations are consulted in my policies. A wide range of other events like Disability Capital, capitalwoman, Women in London's Economy, Pride, Capital Age and many community events have been developed and supported and reflect other aspects of London's diversity.
  - **Delivering an accessible London:** with many policies, ranging from ensuring all buses are low-floor to developing an accessible housing register and delivering lifetime homes, my policies have tackled the barriers to disabled women playing a full and equal part in London's life. Within the GLA my policies have increased the number of disabled people in employment. I have delivered a major increase in support for door-to-door services for older and disabled Londoners: free fares on Dial-a-Ride and increases in Taxicard funding. If re-elected I will aim to make Dial-a-Ride a service that is centrally delivered in order to remove the variation that exists between boroughs and means that the quality and level of service provision varies markedly.
  - **Free travel for older women:** I have defended and supported the extension of the Freedom Pass, providing free travel for everyone over 60, and particularly benefiting women. I will extend the Freedom Pass so that it can be used 24 hours a day.
  - **Reducing hate crime:** with 33 per cent of London's women coming from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, action against hate crime is a priority. Whether victims are targeted due to their ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender or disability, or for any other feature, it is essential that all of London's diverse communities have the right to live free of hate crime. I have made this tackling hate crime a high priority for the police and racial and religiously motivated incidents in the city have declined by more than 50 per cent since 2000, even though they have risen in the rest of the country.
  - **Youth support:** I have also supported families by adding £20 million to the government's funding to increase provision for young people in evenings and at weekends.

## Boris Johnson on Women

**Boris Johnson's views on equality and on women make a virtue of inequality. Far from fighting sexism and discrimination, Boris Johnson refers to women in terms that would be at home in a lad's mag but are entirely inappropriate for a Mayor of London. His comments have included:**

'Conservatives: 'accept that material inequality is inevitable, and that trouble comes from too zealous an attempt to change this.' (*Lend Me Your Ears p126*)

'We seem to have forgotten that societies need rich people, even sickeningly rich people, and not just to provide jobs for those who clean swimming pools and resurface tennis courts.' (*Lend Me Your Ears p384*)

'...There is one measurement I hesitate to mention, since the last time I did, I am told, the wife of the editor of the Economist cancelled her subscription to the Daily Telegraph in

protest at my crass sexism. It is what is called the Tottometer, the geiger-counter that detects good-looking women. In 1997, I reported, these were to be found in numbers at the Labour conference. Now - and this is not merely my own opinion - the Tories are fighting back in a big way.' (*The Spectator 10 February 2001*)

[On driving a Ferrari]: 'I seemed to be averaging a speed of X and then the M3 opened up before me, a long quiet Bonneville flat stretch, and I am afraid it was as though the whole county of Hampshire was lying back and opening her well-bred legs to be ravished by the Italian stallion.' (*Life in the Fast Lane p261*)

[On driving an Alfa Romeo] 'She was blonde. She was beautiful. She was driving some poxy little Citroen or Peugeot thing... And she had just overtaken me... And let me tell you, I wasn't having it. 'Because if there is one thing calculated to make the testosterone slosh in your ears like the echoing sea and the red mist of war descend over your eyes, its being treated as though you were an old woman by a young woman... the whole endocrine orchestra said: "Go. Take." You can't be dissed by some blonde in a 305. (*Life in the Fast Lane p26*)