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ALL FOR WOMEN  **MAKING WAVES**
#IWD2021

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Nusrat Ghani, MP

The curious thing about being a Conservative MP, is how some on the left can't cope with us. Being BAME, working class, an immigrant, a feminist and Conservative seems alien to them. But us women have had to deal with controlling attitudes all of our lives, being told to know our place, manage our expectations and keep in line.

Well, I chose to step out of line and even though I never expected to be an MP, I'm proud to have made a little bit of history for our party and country. Growing up we never spoke about politics and I couldn't see anyone like me in politics, but as Nelson Mandela said – Everything is impossible till it's done.

Over the last 3 elections I have witnessed the party becoming more diverse with more colleagues from different backgrounds and experiences joining us. But we need more representation from BAME women, that can only happen if women put themselves forward as candidates. So, I need you on the green benches with me!

I won't sugar coat life as an MP, it's tough, its relentless, intrusive and the abuse continues. But, and it's a big but(!), the authority and power that comes with being an MP means you can make a huge positive difference to the communities you serve and help set the agenda for our country. That's an enormous privilege and extremely satisfying. So, ignore the niggling doubts and the naysayers, put yourself forward and join me in Parliament.

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