

# Supporting Family Friendly Local Government

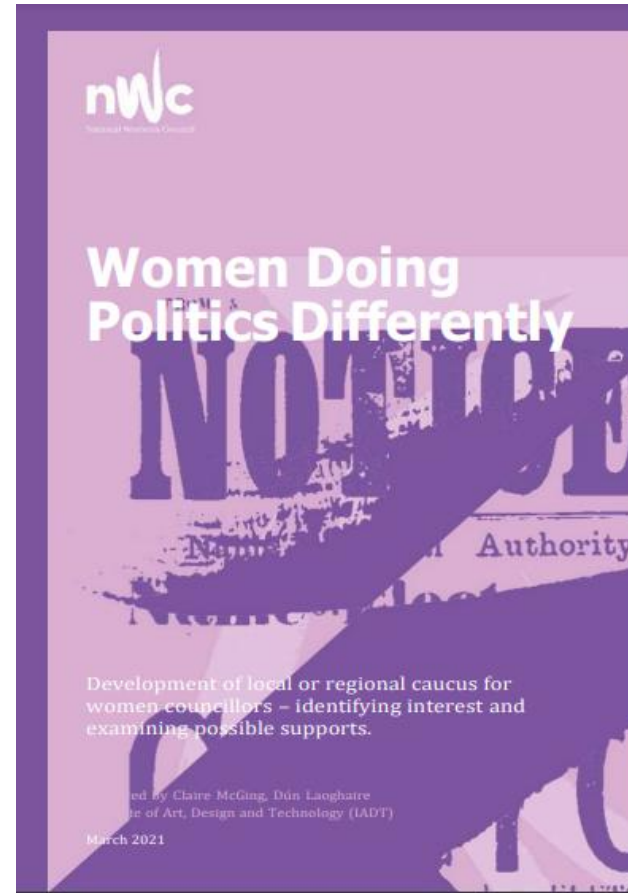
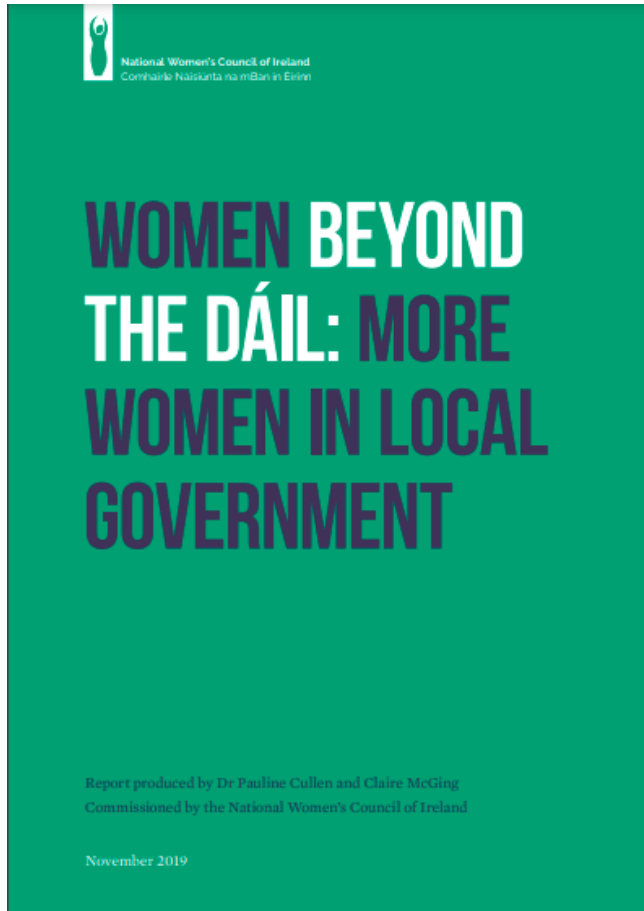
Silke Paasche, Head of Communications and Membership,  
National Women's Council

AILG Conference, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022



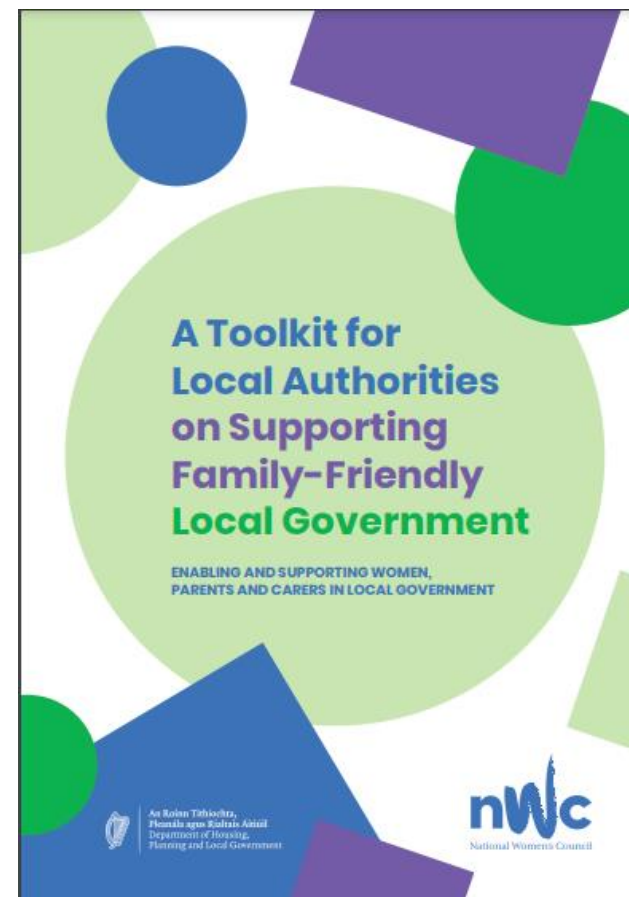
National Women's Council

# More women in (local) politics is a key priority for NWC



# A Toolkit for Local Authorities on Supporting Family Friendly Local Government

- A Family Friendly Local Government that ‘works’ for women and people with caring responsibilities
- Practical tools focused on civil servants but equally relevant to Local Councillors
- Spark debate and action without being prescriptive – all of this is doable!
- Opportunity for Local Authorities to take a leadership role.



# What do women and people with caring responsibilities need?

## Enablers and Barriers – Policy Level

- Equality, diversity and inclusion policies
  - Maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave
  - Childcare – Make childcare an eligible expense
  - Breastfeeding
  - Hybrid Working
  - Sexual harassment and bullying
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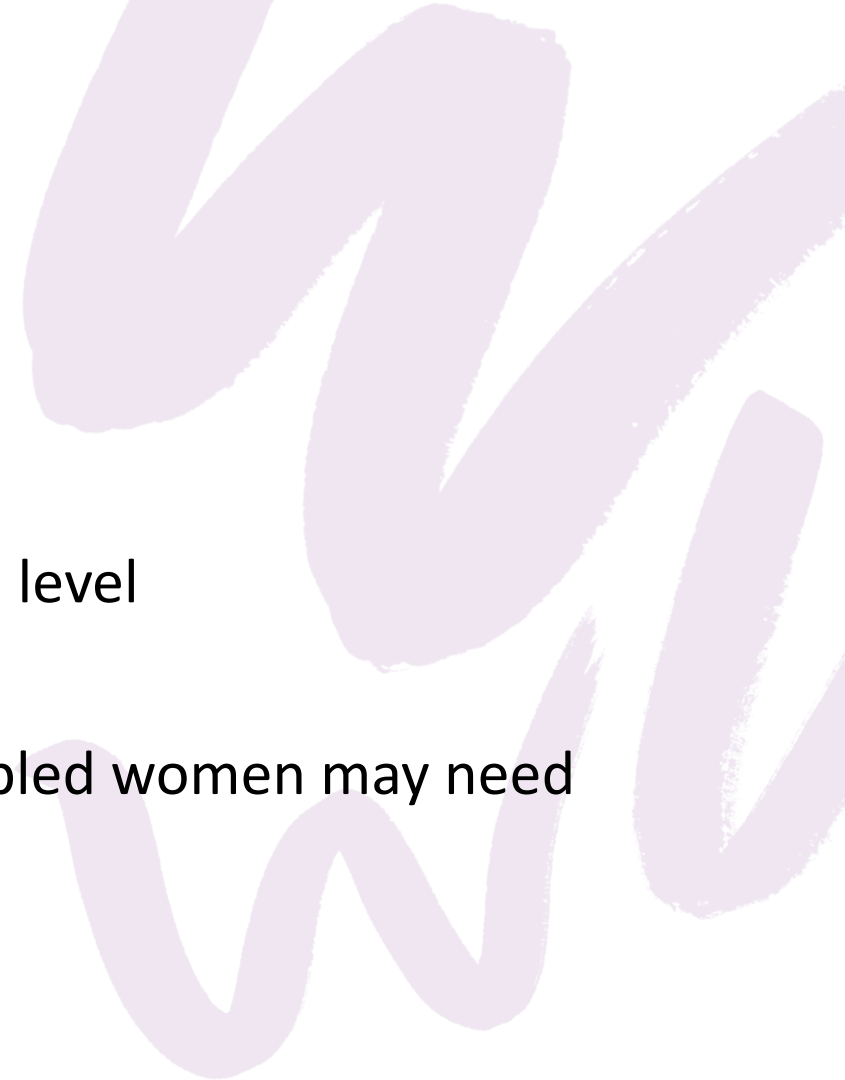
Enablers and barriers – Practical measures

- Efficient and effective meetings - no one fits all solution
- Strengthen induction, training and development
- Support local women's caucuses
- Plain English, accessible information



# Challenges and context

- Rural – urban divide
- Importance of Local Government as a pipeline for national level
- Intersectionality – migrant women, Traveller women, disabled women may need additional supports



# Gender Quotas for Local Election Candidates

- Opportunity to introduce Gender Quotas for Local Election candidates ahead of the next Local Elections
- NWC has formed an alliance with other stakeholders toward this aim



**Thank you!**

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