

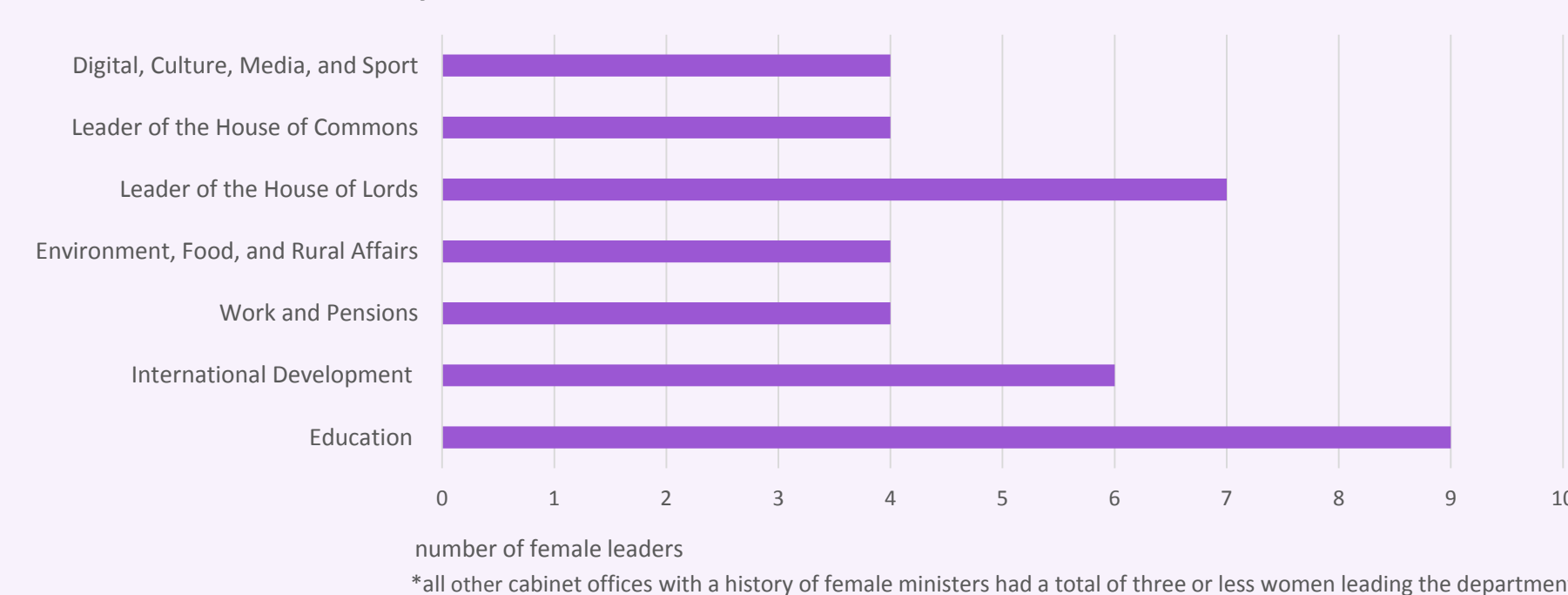
Gender and the Development Agenda: female agency and overseas development, 1964-2018.

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Introduction

With 2018 marking the centenary of the *Representation of the People Act 1918*, the history of women in British politics has been of particular public interest. Despite their presence since its 1964 creation, the influence and experience of women in the Department for International Development (DFID) lacks scholarly attention. My project provides a novel perspective to contemporary themes of gender, diversity, and political agency.

History of Female Cabinet Members since 1929



Has the issue of women's rights become internationalised?

Key considerations

- Has DFID and its predecessors provided an avenue for women to exercise political agency?
- Have women's rights become established in the development agenda?



Ministry of Overseas Development

- Harold Wilson created 1964
- Barbara Castle appointed as first minister
- Department for International Development**
- Tony Blair created 1997
- Clare Short appointed as first minister

Development: a token department for token women?

Judith Hart: 'When I first went to the House of Commons, women were expected to concern themselves only with welfare matters. The breakthrough into economics and foreign affairs has only occurred during my time.'

Press Releases on India visit July 1977, HART 07/02 Hart Papers, People's History Museum, Manchester.

Valerie Amos: 'I don't consider development *per se* to be a feminine or feminist subject if you look at the elements of it I know that there are notions around philanthropy ... and that women warped issues around concerns about family, women, and girls, but I think it would be very simplistic to talk about development as a 'female' subject.'

Interview by Helen Ette, 7 September 2018.

Limits to Development, 1964-1997

- Cold War concerns: development as 'soft power'
- Domestic economic benefits: Aid and Trade Provision
- Popular racial attitudes



Michael Cummings, Daily Express, 18 December 1964.

'COW! ... It's cheap cows like you that let the nation down.'

'This slag kisses niggers'

Public correspondence to Castle, December 1964, MS 261, Castle Papers, Bodleian Library, Oxford.

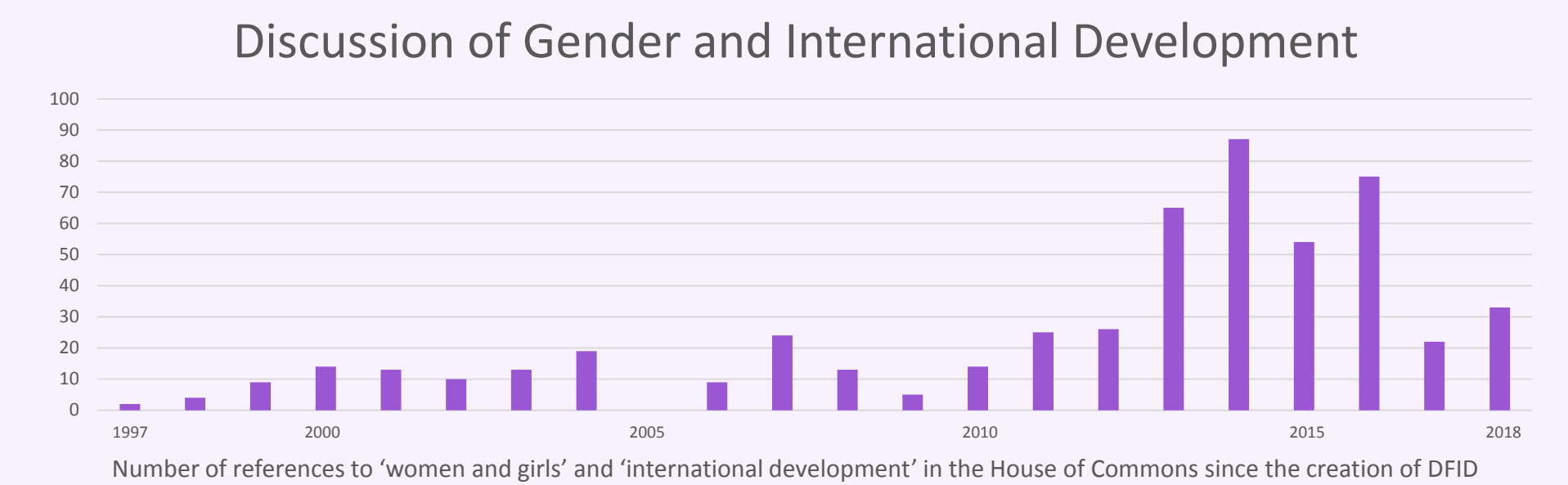
Reactions to meeting between Castle and Malawian PM, Hastings Banda, Dec. 1964

Towards greater consensus, 1997-2018

- C20 Conservative gov.: institutional itineracy
- Conservative commitment to 0.7% GNI on aid:
 - 2010 Manifesto
 - International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act, 2015



Mainstreaming Women's Rights



- Millennium Development Goal Three, 2000-2015
- International Development (Gender Equality) Act, 2014
- Sustainable Development Goal Five, 2016-2030

Changing language of women's rights

'Family planning' & 'population control' → 'poverty reduction' & 'women's education' → 'empowerment' & 'gender equality'



#HerPotentialOurFuture

Contemporary relevance: Sexual Exploitation Scandal

- #MeToo influencing revelations and reaction
- Response – gender equality in aid sectors and donor countries



Conclusion

- Movement from welfare-based 'female' subjects
- Increased prominence since 1997 creation of DFID
- Reciprocal relationship between women's rights in the domestic and their place on the development agenda

Next steps: Interviews with Baroness Chalker and Justine Greening



Barbara Castle:
Cabinet Minister, 1964-65



Judith Hart:
Minister, 1969-70; 1974-75; 1977-79



Lynda Chalker:
Minister, 1989-1997



Clare Short:
Cabinet Minister, 1997-2003



Valerie Amos:
Cabinet Minister, 2003



Justine Greening:
Cabinet Minister, 2012-16



Priti Patel:
Cabinet Minister, 2016-17



Penny Mordaunt
Cabinet Minister, 2017-