Suggested responses for single gender panel invitations

Men asked to speak on an all-male panel

Thank you for the invitation to speak at your event.

I have taken the Women in Renewables Leaders’ Pledge. This means that I have agreed to step up as an inclusive leader and actively promote the achievements of women working in the clean energy industry. It also means I am no longer participating in events or panels that do not embrace gender diversity.

I am very keen to speak at your event, but gender diversity is far too important to compromise. Events like yours offer a chance for people to hear (and learn from) a wide range of experiences and points of view, and I think we both agree that the more diversity there is, the better.

I thank you in advance for your understanding and support in ensuring panels and events are gender diverse both now and in the future.

If the organiser has sought and failed to achieve gender diversity and the event is core to your role:

Thank you for your efforts to secure gender diversity. I note that this wasn’t possible on this occasion, which shows that as an industry we all need to invest in ensuring we demonstrate we have the culture, structures and interest in attracting participants from the whole talent pool. I will participate in your event providing that I can use this platform to call out the importance of gender diversity to me and our industry as a whole.

Women asked to speak on an all-female panel

Thank you for the invitation to speak at your event.

I have taken the Women in Renewables Leaders’ Pledge. This means that I have agreed to step up as an inclusive leader and actively promote the achievements of women working in the clean energy industry. It also means that I am no longer participating in events or panels that do not embrace gender diversity.

While the Leaders’ Pledge was set up to provide a greater platform for women’s voices, its ultimate aim is for everyone’s voices to be heard equally.

That’s why I need to make a small request before participating in your event: I would like to be introduced by a man who will also briefly explain the Women in Renewables Leaders’ Pledge and why gender diversity is so important for women, men and the continued success of our industry.

I know that we share a similar set of values and objectives, particularly around gender diversity, so I hope you will be able to accommodate this request.