

### **Contribution from Pam Roud**

Hello

Because parliament is so completely unrepresentative of the population, and yet remains as our democratic ruling institution, I have an idea that may be of interest. It is not revolutionary and I understand the need to consider major changes with care.

My idea is to establish reference groups to which questions about decisions can be put and the results reviewed and considered and published. Rather like a poll but with a controlled group with voting rights. The reference groups should be large and made up of sections of the population e.g. large numbers of women but in age categories, large numbers of older (define) people, a solid group of young representatives, significant numbers people from different parts of the country and some representatives from social groups such as disabled. Possibly use constituencies to find these people but somehow avoid the 'great and good' – we need real representation.

The reference groups should be set up and exist for a period of time – one year/ two and then refreshed. They should be anonymous.

How to get these people is difficult, and I don't have all the answers.

Pam

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