

Frances Separovic's form letter to encourage greater diversity among conference speakers:

Dear XXX,

I would like to ask if the YYYY Mtg has a Conference Speaker Equity Policy.

I am trying to ensure that conferences with which I am associated have a reasonable gender balance. As I am sure you will know, conference speaker lists sometimes don't reflect the diversity of the community/delegates. I believe it is critical for the future of science that young women and men can see real evidence that scientists can succeed regardless of gender or background.

One way of doing this is to make sure that diversity is explicitly addressed in conference policies and programs and that these policies are made visible.

One of the meetings I was previously involved in as an organiser (Lorne Proteins Conference) now publishes its policy and its stats. <http://www.lorneproteins.org/policies/>. If there is something similar for YYY meetings I would be very pleased to hear about it.

If you have a documented Conference Speaker Equity Policy, I would be very pleased if you could point me to this information then I can make sure my co-organisers are aware of the policies.

Regards
Frances