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Gender and Policy in France

Gill Allwood and Khursheed Wadia

'This very well-informed book sets its detailed case studies within a wider context and brings together empirical accounts with explanations of underlying ideas and approaches. Refreshingly clearly written, it will be invaluable for those interested in comparative politics and public policy as well as in women's studies.' - Anne Stevens, Emeritus Professor of European Studies, Aston University, UK

Parliaments made up of more than 80 per cent men have, since 2000, passed laws on contraception, abortion and domestic violence. Men have decided whether girls can wear the Islamic headscarf to school, whether prostitutes should be criminalized rather than their clients, and whether the number of women involved in making these decisions should be increased. The relation between gender and policy is far more complex than whether or not women participate in decision making. Taking as a premise that *all* public policies are gendered, this book considers selected policy issues which illustrate aspects of the relationship between feminism, gender and policy; a relationship which is increasingly recognised as complex, dynamic and variable. The complexity is best amplified, for example, when attention is focused on intersections of race and gender, class and gender, or both, in policy debates and decision making, raising questions about meanings of universalism, equal rights and citizenship.

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GILL ALLWOOD is Reader in Gender Politics at Nottingham Trent University, UK and author of *Feminisms in France* and, with Khursheed Wadia, *Women and Politics in France: 1958-2000* and *Refugee Women in Britain and France*.

KHURSHEED WADIA is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick, UK. She has written extensively on gender, ethnicity and politics and is author, with Gill Allwood, of *Women and Politics in France: 1958-2000* and of *Refugee Women in Britain and France*.

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