

WNC Violence Against Women Working Group and E-Network

NEWS UPDATE – 12 December 2008

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News, legislation and policy update

From: UNIFEM

UK Government supports the UNIFEM Say NO Campaign

On December 10 2008, at an event hosted by Vera Baird MP, Harriet Harman MP publicly endorsed the Government's support for the UNIFEM 'Say No' violence against women campaign, and the continued work to stop violence. The event was attended by MPs and Peers, and marked the final day of 16 days of activism to stop violence against women.

From: OBJECT

Breakthrough News! The Government has announced it will introduce legislation so that lap dancing clubs are re-classified as Sex Establishments to 'allow councils to take into account a wider range of local concerns'.

Please see link for full details:

<http://www.charityemail.org.uk/cr.aspx?hval=yz6UoN7n2BfhyGpdXV7GgHScISk%3d%40%3a%40776362%40%3a%40452600679>

From: WNC

Read related article on the campaign against lap-dancing by WNC Commissioner Bea Campbell:

The campaign against lap dancing clubs has been incredible. So successful, so soon. It was the convergence of interests from feminists to local government, campaigners for local democracy and MPs of all parties that helped harvest a win: the Queen's Speech promised the formula they wanted as part of a community empowerment program...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/dec/04/women-queens-speech-2008>

From: Fawcett

*The **Queen's Speech** on the 2nd December laid out the Government's legislative programme for the next year. So what does it mean for women? Here are the key areas we'll be focusing on in our campaigning work, the bits we welcome, and the bits we don't...*

Lap dancing campaign success: A huge thank you to everyone who's been involved with our lap dancing campaign - as a result of the campaign, it was announced that licensing of lap dancing clubs will be toughened up, giving local communities greater powers to control them. Our campaign with Object to reform licensing laws has been incredibly popular, with a fantastic amount of public support - it is that support that helps us translate our goals into legislation. The campaign will continue to ensure the bill passes safely - so stay tuned.

Equality bill: There's been a spate of bad news around the gender pay gap recently - shortly after [Women's No Pay Day](#) on October 30th, it emerged that the gap actually increased last year. The equality bill was the perfect opportunity to introduce legislation to close the pay gap, but unfortunately this opportunity has been wasted. While new transparency rules will require public bodies to publish information about gender pay gaps, they won't apply to 70% of the private sector. Mandatory pay audits for ALL organisations are what's required to tackle this inequality: Fawcett will continue to lobby Government for legislation that puts an end to the pay gap.

Welfare reform bill: Worrying news around welfare reforms which will increase obligations on lone parents to look for employment and impose new sanctions (withdrawal of benefits) on those deemed as not taking active steps to find work. Fawcett has spoken to Work and Pensions Secretary James Purnell to address the failings around the welfare reforms: [click here to read the letter summarising Fawcett's concerns.](#)

Flexible working: After Peter Mandelson's alarming suggestion that he was going to scrap improvements in parents' rights to flexible working in October it's a relief to hear that all parents with children aged 16 and under will have the right to request flexible working from April 2009 (currently, only parents with children under six have this right). Not just good news for parents, but good news for business as well, as all evidence shows that flexible working has a positive impact on work performance and helps reduce stress levels.

Child poverty bill: We're delighted that the Government is being bold and making their target of eradicating child poverty by 2020 legally binding. We know that to meet it will require a similarly bold approach to [tackling women's poverty](#) - as seven out of ten children in poverty are in lone mother households or households where the mother is on low income or no income. We'll be lobbying Government to ensure they recognise that taking action to support mums is absolutely crucial to achieving this target.

From: Government Equalities Office (GEO)

A fact-sheet on the Equality Bill has been produced by GEO:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/publications/Equality_Bill_fact_sheet.pdf

From: Equality & Human Rights Commission

Briefings on the Equality Bill

The EHRC issued a Parliamentary Briefing on the Equality Bill for the Queen's Speech debate -

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/policyresearch/briefings/Pages/ParlBriefingEqualityBillDec08.aspx>

From: TUC

TUC launches guide to help young people find *A Place to Live*

A Place to Live is a new housing advice guide for young people. The comprehensive leaflet presents the housing options available for young people, from living with parents or in rented accommodation, through to buying their own home.

The leaflet also includes National Union of Students (NUS) guidance for inspecting a property, and sections on what housing will cost, what housing benefit is available, what to do in a housing emergency and where else to turn for advice.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/newsroom/tuc-15714-f0.cfm>

From: Council of Europe

Council of Europe Secretary General Urges Members to Take Additional Actions to Support Victims of Domestic Violence

Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis chose 24 November, the day before the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to tell member nations they must do more to support women who are victims of violence. He specifically urged member nations to go beyond passing laws to setting minimum standards for victim services.

http://www.stopvaw.org/Council_of_Europe_Secretary_General_Says_There_s_More_to_Do.html

From: Northern TUC Women's Group

Taking Back the Streets Starts in Durham

On a cold Saturday night in November the **Northern TUC Women's Group** led the march to reclaim the night. 'Reclaim the Night' has been a London-based annual event for the last

5 years, where mainly women, but also other campaigners challenging violence against women, take to the streets to raise the profile of this issue and take back the freedom to live free from fear. Read full details: <http://www.tuc.org.uk/equality/tuc-15665-f0.cfm>

Recent news stories

Jill Insley for The Observer (business) has written a feature about how domestic violence is often reinforced by financial control over a victim. She meets a woman who escaped her partner, but not his debts. Research shows that almost 90% of domestic abuse victims suffer economic abuse.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2008/dec/07/domestic-abuse-financial>

The Sunday Herald in Scotland reports that whilst Scotland has a progressive approach to tackling domestic abuse and is known for being pioneers in both legislative and policy terms, the system continues to fail women who have no access to public funds when they experience domestic abuse.

http://www.sundayherald.com/oped/opinion/display.var.2473540.0.violent_men_dont_care_about_visas.php

The News of the World reports on how 5,000 women are attacked every year by unlicensed cab drivers yet an investigation shows that many still are willing to risk their lives.

http://www.fabulousmag.co.uk/features/feature_taxi_home_045.php

The Guardian reports on how Ministers have ordered action to tackle sexual bullying and harassment in the classroom, in response to increasing concerns about the exploitation of teenage girls. Ed Balls, the Children's Secretary has ordered bullying experts to draw up guidance to tackle inappropriate language, advise teachers on how to manage cases of harassment, and encourage healthy friendships between teenage girls and boys amid concerns of misogynistic attitudes linked to gang culture.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/dec/06/new-guidelines-sex-exploitation-schools>

Several papers reported on the gang rape of a 14 year old girl by a group of nine teenage schoolboys as 'punishment' for insulting their leader. They received a prison sentence for a total of almost 56 years.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2008/dec/09/crime-hackney-rape-gang>

Publications and newsletters

From: the Scottish Government

National Statistics Publication for Scotland

This bulletin presents statistics on domestic abuse, based on details of incidents of domestic abuse returned by the eight Scottish police forces in 2007-08.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/11/21110133/0>

From: Bristol University

Report: Evaluation of the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Croydon

The report of the evaluation of the Integrated Domestic Violence Court in Croydon has been published by the Ministry of Justice:

www.justice.gov.uk/docs/evaluation-court-croydon.pdf

From: Eaves Housing

SVAAN update, December 2008.



SVAAN Update
December 08.doc

From: New Economics Foundation (NEF)

Report: UNLOCKING VALUE - How we all benefit from investing in alternatives to prison for women offenders

This report, published recently, provides evidence to show that there are huge benefits from investing in alternatives to prison for women.



nef report - unlocking
value.pdf

From: the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

A new study on 'honour' crime has been published allowing prosecutors to be better able to tackle the cases. As part of the study, a project was run in Lancashire, London, West Yorkshire and the West Midlands from July 2007 to March 2008 which tasked specifically trained prosecutors with identifying and monitoring forced marriage and 'honour' crime.

The study aimed to "identify the number and pattern of these cases and any issues facing prosecutors in accurately identifying, managing and prosecuting them".

During the nine-month pilot period a total of 35 cases of forced marriage and/or so 'honour' crime were identified and of these cases, 21 were concluded and analysed.

The cases involved 33 victims and 47 offences ranging from murder, kidnap and false imprisonment through to common assault and public order offences.

The study also found that all the defendants in the pilot were male and where there was one victim and one defendant their relationship was mostly spouse/ex-spouse.

Among the recommendations issued as a result of the report, prosecution guidance to lawyers will be revised to address the issues raised and the CPS will look at improving sources of advice, training and the involvement of external speakers in that training to help understand cultural issues.

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/pressreleases/174_08.html



CPS_Pilot_Findings_
Forced_marriage_HB



CPS_Pilot_Recommen
dations_Forced_mar

From: Welsh Women's Aid (WWA).

Please find attached the National Assembly for Wales inquiry into domestic abuse report which was launched on Wednesday 3rd December and the press release that WWA sent out to the media. The Report's recommendations include:

- That the Welsh Assembly Government meets the needs of children and young people, including core for funding children's workers in refuges, more preventative work to be done in schools and more support services in place for children who disclose abuse;
- Provide a more cohesive and resourced response to the needs of black and ethnic minority women with no recourse to public funds (NRPf) under Home Office Immigration rules;
- More account to be taken of older people who are victims of domestic abuse and closer working with the UK Government to secure funding for an 'Access to Justice' pilot project focusing on vulnerable older witnesses;

- Consideration to be given to the needs of men from different backgrounds and circumstances affected by domestic abuse. The needs of disabled people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people also need to be met more effectively.



Domestic Abuse



Welsh Women Aid

Inquiry Report - e - fin: press release in respo

From: Women's Aid England

Power to Change is a new European resource to help victims of domestic violence. It is a practical guide to running support groups and self-help groups with victims and survivors of domestic violence.

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/domestic-violence-articles.asp?itemid=1841&itemtitle=guide+to+running+support+groups§ion=00010001002200370001§iontitle=articles%3a+domestic+violence+services>

From: Council for Europe

Council of Europe has published studies on improving data collection and on minimum standards for victim support and protection; and the Final Activity Report Task Force to Combat Violence against Women, including Domestic Violence (EG-TFV)

http://www.coe.int/t/dc/files/themes/violence_femmes/minimum_standards_en.pdf

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/EG-VAW-DC\(2008\)Study_complete_text.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/EG-VAW-DC(2008)Study_complete_text.pdf)

[http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/EG-TFV\(2008\)6_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/e/human_rights/equality/EG-TFV(2008)6_en.pdf)

From: United Nations Releases

Good Practices in Legislation on Violence against Women

A report of the expert group meeting organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been released.

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw_legislation_2008/Report%20EGMGPLVAW%20\(final%2011.11.08\).pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/vaw_legislation_2008/Report%20EGMGPLVAW%20(final%2011.11.08).pdf)

Conferences, training and events

From: Refugee Council

Vulnerable Women's Project Conference - 5th February 2009

Please find below, and attached, an invitation to a conference presenting the work of the Refugee Council's Vulnerable Women's Project. This is a three-year programme run by the Refugee Council and funded by Comic Relief which addresses the issue of rape and sexual violence against refugee and asylum seeking women through individual casework, policy and campaigning. The event is for practitioners and policy makers working in the field and will consider the project's findings on the impact of rape on refugee women and best practice in client care, examine policy changes which could ease the social conditions of refugee women affected by rape and launch the advocacy and campaigning phase of the project.

The event is invitation-only, due to space constraints, so please book your place by contacting the organisers directly.



VWP Conference
Leaflet Final.doc

From: University of York

Call for Papers: Gendering East/West: A conference in celebration of 25 years of Women's Studies at York

The shift in feminist theory from understanding gender as state to gender as process has been accompanied by an increasing sense of the need for dialogue about the ways in which gender is articulated, embodied and enacted within and across different cultural, social, political and economic locations.

Such dialogue may operate within regions, prompted, for instance, by engagement with diverse migrant groups, or across regions, e.g. in the examining of questions of modernity in India, Japan, Turkey or Iran compared to the UK. How do East and West engage with each other as power balances are shifting, and what role does gender play in this engagement? How is gender (re)figured in the east and in the west as a function of changes in these localities, and in the relations between them?

Please send abstracts of 250 words to the Centre for Women's Studies at gender@events.york.ac.uk by **10 February 2009** putting in the subject-line of your email: 'Conference submission'. The paper presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Deadline for registration to the conference is 30 March 2009.

For full details of the conference and booking forms, please see the CWS website: www.york.ac.uk/inst/cws

Consultations

From: DWP / JobCentre Plus

Attached is a consultation from jobcentre plus on their policy to accept and advertise jobs from within the “adult” entertainment industry. The consultation period runs until **27th Feb 2009**.

Please let WNC know if you have any response to the questions.



Advertising
vacancies from within

Jobs, research, tenders

Stonewall is recruiting new trustees – please pass on to anyone who might be interested

Stonewall is holding an open recruitment process to find up to three more trustees to support our work. Interviews will be held in December for appointment early in 2009. Talented people of all sorts help shape our work not just as employees and volunteers but as board members too. We started open external recruitment in 2005, which is best practice in the charity sector. Since then we've found a number of highly capable trustees from many backgrounds. We hope to recruit new trustees of a similar calibre this time.

Stonewall now works to promote equality across Britain in a range of areas from education to employment. Since 2005, the charity has also effected an extensive review of its accounting and fundraising functions designed to protect the organisation's medium term financial security.

Candidate trustees will be able to demonstrate knowledge, skill or experience - ideally at senior level - in at least one area among: communications, branding and PR; finance; fundraising; asylum initiatives; awareness of lesbian, gay and bisexual issues in Scotland; change and process management; working with lesbian, gay and bisexual people with plural identities, including as members of black and ethnic minority communities.

Further background and details of how to apply are available on the Stonewall website at www.stonewall.org.uk/jobs or from dale.roberts@stonewall.org.uk or on 020 7593 1851

If you have any news, information or publications you would like circulated to the WNC Violence Against Women Working Group, please e-mail Maria Turay maria.turay@communities.gsi.gov.uk or Eleri Butler Eleri.Butler@communities.gsi.gov.uk