



Message from the WNC Director



Welcome to the Spring newsletter. It has been another busy but rewarding period for the Chair, Commissioners and the team here at the WNC.

At the time of writing, the General Election has just been announced and we all know the importance that women's participation in the democratic process. It is going to be an interesting month ahead but as a 'Non-Departmental Public Body' we are governed by Civil Service guidance during this period of campaigning and will shortly be issuing details on our activities during this time. We will be mindful of our obligations to maintain the civil service values of impartiality

and integrity and will not become involved in party political activities during the Election campaign. But please keep up to date with us on our website.

Yesterday, the 6th April, the Commons considered the amendments that the Lords had made to the Equality Bill. As you will all be aware, Baroness Gould together with the WNC Commissioners have had a busy year, influencing the contents of this important Bill and we are really grateful for the input from all our partners' during the Bill's passage through Parliament.

Baroness Gould and I were in the US during February and March, visiting Washington and New York and I hope that you enjoyed our daily blogs. We were able to share the historical body of work of the WNC with White House officials, which represented informative publications from a number of years which reflect your views and priorities. We hope the Council on Women and Girls is inspired by our longevity and impact.

This year's CSW which was eagerly anticipated as an important milestone, passed with little fanfare but NGOs who were present in New York maintained the spirit of the gathering, through continuing dialogue on a wide range of topics around the main discussions. I wanted to thank all of you for taking part in our numerous pre-CSW activities throughout 2009-2010, whether it was taking part in the consultation or the events across the Four Nations - as your views formed the backbone of our publication 'What's Beijing Got To Do With Me?' And our Side Event in New York and we were able to share your thoughts and ideas with women from all over the World.

Barbara-Ann Collins

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WNC Work updates

Outreach

We are very pleased to welcome the twenty six new organisations and individuals who have become WNC Partners so far this year.

We are always interested in recruiting new WNC Partners with an interest in Women's issues. Application forms for potential partners can be found on the WNC website at: <http://thewnc.org.uk/partnership.html>

International

Women in Public Life

The Women's National Commission held a series of successful regional events in England to encourage women to enter into public life. This is the first of its kind for the Commission and from the feedback received, has proven to be a very positive initiative. Events were held in London, Oxford, Newcastle, Cambridge, Norwich, Birmingham, Coventry, York, Leeds, Sheffield, Plymouth, Bristol, Nottingham, Leicester, Manchester and Liverpool.

The events were tailored to raise the awareness of the impact women can make in public life and were led by a WNC Commissioner. In addition, each event featured an inspirational guest speaker who previously or currently holds a public appointment. The guest speakers used the opportunity to share their journeys and experiences of getting into public life and offer useful and insightful advice to participants. Each event followed the same format and consisted of three interactive exercises. The first exercise was aimed at getting women to think about the barriers for women entering public life and what can be done to overcome these barriers. The second exercise provided advice and handy tips on how to fill in an application form. The third was a mock board meeting aimed at building women's confidence for participation in meetings. Participants were also presented with a selection of helpful materials (a toolkit) to enable them to take the first steps into public life.

Commission on the Status of Women 54

This year was the 54th session for the Commission on the Status of Women, held at the UN headquarters in New York. This year a review of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, to mark its 15th anniversary, was the focus of the Session and this is an important anniversary for the women's sector.

The WNC's role at CSW as a channel between women's organisations and the government, and also holds a side event during the conference, along with many other organisations, for delegates from around the world to attend and find out about work in the UK. This year the topic of the WNC event was 'The 4 Nations: What's Beijing go to do with us?' with representatives from each of the devolved nations giving a comprehensive review of one of the critical areas from a national perspective. The event was a great success and threw up some interesting points raised by the representing speakers and following discussions.

This year's session undeniably threw up some challenges with no Agreed Conclusions, which was to the great disappointment of many UK NGOs who were hoping to contribute to the developing Outcome Document. Instead the UN issued a Political Declaration, reaffirming commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action, however no mention of the new Gender Entity was made. The UK Mission in NY and the UK Delegation retained a positive relationship throughout the session, and their dedication and commitment to the work was truly exceptional. The promotion of the proposed Gender Entity is a lasting outcome of this year and something we shall be following in future programmes.

For a more detailed account of the WNC's experience of CSW, please see our blog with detailed updates from our Director:

<http://thewnc.wordpress.com/category/director/csw-2010/>

For the Outcomes of CSW54 please see the UN Website:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/outcomes.html>

WNC Goes To the White House

It was with great pleasure that the WNC accepted an invitation from the White House for a meeting with President Obama's Council on Women and Girls to discuss the work being undertaken in the USA on women and children, and its overlap with work here in the UK. Despite nearly missing the appointment due to a demonstration over the proposed Health Care reform, our Director and Chair made it to the meeting and had a fascinating discussion exchanging information and updates on our partners work and receiving a comprehensive overview of the priorities for gender mainstreaming in the US. And a chance spotting of Bo the presidential pooch rounded off a very successful visit!

During the trip there was a chance to drop in on two women's organisations based in Washington; the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (<http://www.rainn.org/>) focusing on sexual and domestic violence, and The Women's Collective (<http://www.womenscollective.org/>) dealing with women with HIV and AIDS. The two organisations were poles apart in terms of funding and resource, with one having a national profile and the other operating at local level. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet such passionate and dedicated people, and find out more about the work they do. Both RAINN and TWC were extremely keen to share ideas and updates on the work of the UK women's sector, providing some enlightening information about their work locally and nationally, and we very much hope to work with them and share information in the future.

A full account of the Washington trip and the work of RAINN and TWC can be found on the WNC blog: <http://thewnc.wordpress.com/category/director/csw-2010/page/2/>

Advisory Forum

The Advisory Forum met for the second time on 12 February, following its establishment at the end of 2009. It meets twice yearly, with the next meeting scheduled for early July. The Advisory Forum is comprised of three Groups: UN group, Europe & Commonwealth group, and Migration & Asylum group. They are chaired by WNC Commissioners Brita Fernandez Schmidt, Bea Campbell and Juliet Lyon respectively. Each group met for a morning session, in which topics such as

CSW 54, the European Roadmap for Gender Equality, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and health services for asylum seekers were discussed.

The afternoon session is an opportunity for all three Groups to come together and discuss a particular topic or theme. The afternoon session on 12 February served as a pre-CSW meeting, and was open to all Advisory Forum members and WNC partners attending CSW 54 in New York. WNC Chair Baroness Joyce Gould chaired the event, and Jane Esuantsiwa Goldsmith regaled the audience with some memories of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and reflections on Beijing +15. WNC Director Barbara Collins and International Policy lead Shelly Dowrich talked through the running of CSW and the WNC's role in New York.

European Women's Forum Beijing +15

The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (January-June 2010) hosted the European Women's Forum–Beijing+15 in the Palace of Congress of Cadiz on 4th- 5th February 2010.

The Event was attended by official delegations of the 27 Member States and a number of Ministers. Unfortunately the UK Minister Vera Baird, who was due to speak on the second day of the conference was detained in London on political business, and WNC Director Barbara-Ann Collins was recommended by the UK Government to speak for the UK. Barbara had been invited to join the Delegation as a representative of UK civil society, together with invited NGO representatives from across the EU.

The WNC was invited to attend the meeting on the basis that we would report back to our partners on activities at the conference and, where appropriate, the outcomes. The forum also provided the opportunity to influence the discussions on what was important to women in the UK following our consultations exercises, conferences and focus groups with women across the four nations throughout the last year. A strong message was sent that women's grass-roots organisations had an important role to play.

For more information about the Forum and WNC's participation, visit our website: <http://www.thewnc.org.uk/work-of-the-wnc/international-articles/eu/299-european-womens-forum-beijing-15.html>

Prior to the Presidency meeting, Harriet Harman and the Spanish Equalities Minister Bibiana Aido Almagro co-hosted the 2nd Women in Power Summit in Cadiz on 3rd February. This event brought together a significant group of EU women ministers, spanning a wide range of portfolios, and from 17 member states to champion gender equality, and to call for a more balanced representation in public life. The UK Minister for Women and Equality made a speech and the event saw the successful publication of a Political Declaration. Full details can be found on the GEO website.

Equalities and the Equalities Bill

The Equality Bill completed its third reading in the House of Lords on the 23rd March. The main amendments made to the Bill in the House of Lords were:

- adding a power to prohibit caste discrimination as part of race discrimination.

- making explicit that reasonable adjustments for disabled people include reasonable steps to provide information in accessible formats, when the way information is provided would otherwise put disabled people at a substantial disadvantage.
- ensuring that all people who conduct religious marriages can continue to opt out if they reasonably believe a marriage involves someone who has changed gender.
- extending protection against discrimination because of pregnancy and maternity to pupils in schools.
- adding provisions that can be used to require political parties to publish anonymised information on the diversity of their candidate selections, as a means of increasing transparency on the involvement of all groups in the political process.
- removing the prohibition on civil partnerships taking place in religious premises.
- clarifying that “substantial” (which is used in relation to the disability provisions in the Bill) means something which is not minor or trivial.
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The Bill returned to the House of Commons on the 7th April, where the Lords' amendments to the Equality Bill were considered. The Commons accepted all of the Lords' amendments without a vote and the Bill has therefore completed all its parliamentary stages. We understand that the Bill should receive Royal Assent on the 8th April.

The Equality Bill has been agreed by Parliament with cross party support for the overwhelming majority of its provisions, many thanks to all our partners who have assisted us with monitoring and contributing to the development of the Bill over the past year.

To view the WNC position paper and briefing on the Bill please go to http://www.thewnc.org.uk/publications/doc_download/425-wnc-position-paper-and-briefing-on-the-equality-bill.html

For more information about the Bill please go to http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_bill.aspx

WNC Working Groups

The VAW Working Group and its sub groups – the Sexual Violence Policy Monitoring Sub-Group, Domestic Violence Action Sub-Group and the Joint Sub Groups meeting on the funding crisis facing the sector – met in March 2010. Government officials from various departments attended the VAW Working Group to discuss the delivery and implementation of the cross-departmental violence against women and girls (VAWG) Strategy for England. The group welcomed two new members, Katharine Moseley, manager of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre North Wales, and Sandy Brindley, national co-ordinator for Rape Crisis Scotland. The next meeting will take place on the 30 June 2010.

The Women's Safety and Olympics sub group met in February 2010. Tessa Jowell, Minister for the Olympics, attended the meeting to discuss her findings from a recent

trip to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, and ways to address women's safety at the 2012 Games. The next meeting will take place on the 19 May 2010, where the group will hear from the Chair of the Sexual Health Planning Group for 2012.

A regular VAW E-News has been circulated to VAW Working Group and E-List members, based on information sent in to the WNC for distribution to the sector.

WNC Commissioner and VAW Working Group Chair, Professor Liz Kelly, has been invited to join the newly established Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy (England) Ministerial and Delivery Board meetings to represent VAW stakeholder views. Inter-Ministerial Group Meetings are comprised of ministers and officials from across government and items discussed relate to presentations on reviews, advisory groups or taskforces on VAWG that are due to report or have reported recently; updates on key pieces of work in the VAWG strategy; items showing how thinking on certain issues is developing and obtaining ministerial agreement to secure a way forward. The VAWG Delivery Board, which involves senior officials from across government and is chaired by the Home Office, is responsible for the oversight of the actions to which all individual departments, public services and local areas have agreed, and approves all plans and authorises any deviation from those plans. Officials from the VAWG Strategy Delivery Team will also have regular communication with the WNC Violence Against Women Working Group members to allow for wider consultation with the VAW sector as the Strategy is developed and implemented.

WNC report published – ‘A Bitter Pill to Swallow: Report from the WNC Focus Groups’

A Bitter Pill to Swallow, the report from the WNC focus groups to inform the Department of Health (DH) Taskforce on the Health Aspects of Violence Against Women and Girls, was published in March 2010. The DH Taskforce commissioned the WNC to organise and facilitate 14 women's focus groups with survivors of violence who have recently used NHS services in England. The DH asked the WNC to particularly consult women who have experienced domestic violence, sexual violence and forced marriage; women from Black, minority ethnic and refugee communities; older women, disabled women, and women who have recently used statutory mental health services. Between September - November 2009, the WNC consulted 211 women across England, gathering a huge amount of information about women's experiences of using health services. *A Bitter Pill to Swallow* documents their experiences and recommendations for improving the response of health services to violence against women and girls, and is available to view here:

http://www.thewnc.org.uk/publications/doc_download/430-a-bitter-pill-to-swallow-report-from-wnc-focus-groups.html

WNC submission to the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee: Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill – offence of engaging in paid-for sexual activity

In March 2010 the WNC made a submission to the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee regarding the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill in support of the amendment to introduce a new offence of engaging in paid-for sexual activity. Prostitution is one of the clearest expressions of gender inequality in our society; by tackling prostitution at the point of demand, meaningful action can take place to challenge the normalisation of the sex industry in Scotland, which is having a negative effect on all women. For more information about the Bill and to view submissions from our partner organisations please go to:

VAW Partner news

Race On The Agenda (ROTA)

ROTA's Female Voice in Violence (FVV) Project, which assesses the impact of gang and serious youth violence on women and girls, now moves into its third year. Since the launch of our first report in February 2010 there have been significant developments in the project, including

- The launch of a new a new Female Voice in Violence microsite, which has information on the project, the research programme, publications, events and the Coalition,
- A new Coalition of organisations to monitor progress against the report recommendations and support the third sector's engagement in the issues the report raises. You now have an opportunity to join the Coalition as a network member, or as a member of the Coalition Working Group. We must receive your application for the working group by Thursday 22 April. Applications to the coalition network will be taken on a rolling basis.
- FVV National Research Programme, which will continue to build an evidence base on the impact of gangs and serious youth violence on women and girls, with research planned in Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham over the next twelve months. An Introductory Report to the national fieldwork and more information is available on the website.

For more information please go to <http://www.rota.org.uk/pages/FVV.aspx>

Scottish Women's Aid

Scottish Women's Aid has recently responded to the Scottish Parliament Public Petitions Committee's deliberations on the questions raised by Petition 1307. This Petition raised two key issues: the need for services for men who have experienced abuse by a partner, and the relevance and appropriateness of the gender based analysis of violence against women adopted by the Scottish Government. Written submissions from Scottish Women's Aid and other agencies can be found here – <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/petitions/submissions/sub-10/10-subIndexForPE1307.htm>

Rape Crisis England and Wales

When Boris Johnson was elected Mayor of London he promised to expand services to support victims of rape in London, by funding three new Rape Crisis Centres and providing funding to London's only remaining centre, after two were closed in the last decade. He recently announced that three new centres would open across London by the end of this year, in West London, North London, and East London. Funding is also being provided to London's only existing Rape Crisis Centre in Croydon. For more information please go to <http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/news.php>

Welsh Women's Aid

Welsh Women's Aid (WWA) welcomes the launch on 25 March of the Welsh Assembly Government's first national strategy to tackle all forms of violence against women. WWA also welcomes the recognition from the Assembly Government that stronger guidance is needed for local authorities to safeguard women-only services, and the reviewing of funding streams for children's workers in refuges, both of which are crucial to ensure that women and children fleeing domestic abuse receive the support they so urgently need.

However, a few concerns remain, in particular, that violence against women is still being treated as a separate issue from domestic abuse - despite the fact that domestic abuse is by far the most commonly experienced form of violence against women – and the pre-existing, gender-neutral, All Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy (2005) is not being integrated into the new Violence Against Women Strategy.

To read WWA full response, see <http://www.welshwomensaid.org/news/28986.html>

Women's Aid England

Women's Aid is petitioning the Isle of Wight council to identify resources as an urgent priority to prevent the closure of the Island Refuge Service and Outreach Services and to urge the council to maintain this vital provision of safety and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children on the island. For more information about the campaign and to sign the petition please go to:

<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/petition.asp?section=0001000100100015§ionTitle=Isle+of+Wight>

Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP)

From 12 April 2010 GLDVP will be extending its geographical and thematic remit to become AVA (Against Violence and Abuse), a national second tier service working to end all forms of violence against women and girls. This will mean that we are able to provide our training, advice, information and consultancy services to organisations based across the UK who wish to improve their responses to issues relating to ending violence against women and girls.

Building on the success and achievements of the GLDVP the key aims of AVA are:

- To challenge, enable, encourage and support all agencies and communities to contribute to achieving our vision of a world free from violence against women and girls
- To offer a range of high quality and expert services to facilitate specialist and generic agencies to contribute towards our vision
- To identify and fill gaps in the field, find innovative solutions to current and emerging situations and inspire an effective strategic approach to reducing and preventing violence against women and girls.

Those currently on our mailing lists will continue to receive our monthly newsletter and we will continue to provide a forum for organisations to advertise jobs and training via our new website www.avaproject.org.uk. Our email addresses will operate in the following format from the 12 April Firstname.surname@avaproject.org.uk

However we will also continue to receive email to our GLDVP addresses until further notice. We look forward to working with you in our new capacity and encourage you to visit our new website to access further information on how we can help support your organisation.

Refuge and Respect

Refuge and Respect are to launch a new domestic violence resource manual for employers in order to assist companies and HR departments in aiding employees who are victims or perpetrators of abuse. The manual, to be launched at an event on **April 27th**, will include draft policies and templates, posters, testimonies and a CD-Rom of material for use in raising awareness of the issue. The event will include speakers such as Nicola Sharp, head of policy and parliamentary affairs for Refuge, at a location to be finalised later this month.

For more information on the event please contact Janqui Mehta at janqui_mehta@refuge.org.uk

National Union of Students

WNC Commissioner and NUS Women's Officer, Olivia Bailey, launched the NUS women's campaign's 'Hidden Marks' report in to women students' experiences of harassment, stalking, violence and sexual assault. In the report, the women's campaign calls for institutions and students' unions to work together to do two key things: develop a cross-institutional policy to tackle violence against women, and adopt a 'zero-tolerance' policy to harassment and violence. To view the report please go to:

http://resource.nusonline.co.uk/media/resource/NUS_Hidden_Marks_web_1.pdf

WNC Commissioners

The WNC Board met in Eland House on Wed 16 December for the final meeting of 2009. Baroness Gould welcomed our two new Commissioners, Jan Floyd-Douglass and Olivia Bailey to the Directorate as well as welcoming back Professor Liz Kelly and Bronagh Hinds, who were reappointed following the autumn recruitment exercise. Baroness Gould was also delighted to confirm existing Commissioner Adele Baumgardt's appointment as Commissioner for Wales. One final appointment is still to be made to bring the Board back up to its full complement of 16.

In a break with the customary format of holding the Learning Exchange the evening before the Board Meeting, Commissioners instead took the opportunity to attend the House of Lords in order to listen to the debates following the second reading of the Equality Bill. This was discussed in some length at the main board meeting with further amendments being made to the WNC position paper, published on the WNC website. Commissioners also concentrated on the VAW strategy developed in conjunction with the Home Office and focus groups run on behalf of the Department of Health, recognising the enormous contribution WNC has been able to make to these important policy areas.

The Commissioners met again in February, but this time the Board located to Riverwalk House on Vauxhall Bridge. Eland House refurbishment has reduced both the size and number of suitable meeting rooms and there is no longer space big

enough to accommodate the entire board. The Learning Exchange on 9 February afforded the opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion on the strategic future of the Commission; how the Board and Commissioners operate and are supported by the Directorate; and how new work activities are developed and progressed. Recognition of the Commission's work over the past year re-affirmed WNC as a cross-government organisation, having worked closely with several departments. Some positive planning steps were put into place in order to bring the business planning timetable further forward into the year and an additional day was agreed in March to address specific work priorities for 2010/11 and beyond. Two major pieces of work that have subsequently been completed since the February meeting have been the Single Equality Scheme and the Stakeholder Evaluation, results of which will be circulated once analysis has been completed.

Baroness Margaret Prosser, Chair of the Women and Work Commission and former Chair of WNC and Professor John Hills, National Equality Panel both gave excellent presentations on the two recent reports from their respective groups concerning women in the economy. The Board felt this area was one of particular relevance and would be incorporated into future business planning for the coming year.

In addition to attending board meetings, Commissioners have been kept busy individually with virtually every one chairing one of the Women in Public Life events taking place around the country.

Jan Floyd-Douglass writes about her experiences in a separate article.

Commissioner Close up – Jan Floyd-Douglass

I was appointed to the WNC in November 2009, and it has been one of the most enlightening periods of my life – already!

My background is very firmly rooted in senior leadership roles in multi-national corporate organisations, and for much of my day to day activity, continues to be so. In addition to my WNC work, I run my own business performance consultancy, mentor many people and am a Trustee for Winston's Wish, a child bereavement charity. Unsurprisingly, my areas of specific interest are women in public life and women on boards.

My passion and focus for my WNC role centres on my utter belief in equal status for all women in all aspects of our lives. To this end, I drove and led a number of very successful women's equality, development and wider D&I programmes whilst at previous employers (simultaneous to my executive roles), so I know what can be done.

A key objective is to work with senior business influencers and policy makers to create better or different routes for more women to win positions of power and influence. This is a major personal goal crafted from experience and my favourite challenge, 'Why wouldn't we?'

Further, I have chaired single sex and mixed sex committees and boards. The best decisions, the greatest energy, came from mixed sex boards - and I know many other senior leaders who feel the same.

Previous experience also suggests that often businesses just don't know the *how* of setting up a women's programme, as opposed to not wanting to, and I am starting to drive some WNC work around providing the 'how'. In addition, increasing numbers of organisations are now beginning to have a women's equality focus in the same way they had a 'green' focus about five to ten years ago. We will be able to use the lessons from these role models to support others implement and monitor their own initiatives.

I think that one of the reasons we were able to develop and implement successful women's programmes was because we approached equal status for women from a business case perspective. This wasn't difficult bearing in mind that females account for over 50% of our population, and as importantly to a corporate concern, they control or heavily influence a large proportion of disposal income and assets. Our premise was that in every other area of marketing and sales, businesses ensured their pitch to potential purchasers was fit for purpose e.g. appealing to the buyer enough to make them want to buy - and - recommend it, so why would we not market to women with the same goal?

Of course, the smart corporates recognise the power and influence that women have in our economy, and invest in how best to reach them (and their purses). They are successful because they understand how we like to be approached – and how not to.

This point links neatly to my time in New York recently as part of the WNC team attending the United Nation conference on CSW (Commission for the Status of Women). I loved every tiring minute of it, and met some truly astonishing and humbling women, but that's another story...

I gave a presentation at a WNC side event for NGOs around how women are depicted in the media. I researched UK and Europe, and my findings indicated that women are frequently alienated due to the way we are represented in the media by businesses trying to sell us something.

Personally, I will not buy from any seller whose depiction of women I find demeaning or derogatory. I respond with something I call 'soft militancy'. The example of this I gave in my presentation was how I had emailed some car manufacturers after buying a competitor's car last year, advising how I loved *their* car (ideal looks, spec, price, reputation, etc) and that I could afford to buy one. The note also advised that I had not done so purely because of how they *chose* to depict women in their ads. I will continue to do this with every product that offends, and so do my friends now.

As my favourite challenge goes, 'Why wouldn't we?'

Partner Close up - Jeannie Bloomfield

I first became aware of the WNC's work when I was invited to a focus group about domestic violence, and as a former victim many years ago I was interested to see how things had progressed regarding government strategies.

I have since attended several more events and I was very impressed by the passion the women in charge show in making our country a safer and equal place for women to live in.

I decided to become a partner in the WNC-acting for my Women's Institute who are also a force to be reckoned with where women's issues are concerned. The National Federation of women's Institute's -hq@nfw.org.uk is part of the End Violence against women campaigning coalition which works to end all forms of VAW and the lack of support services available to women especially those living in rural areas.

The WI is striving for a culture change so that violence against women becomes unacceptable. If you feel as passionate about an issue as I do help the WNC and the WI to put things right for us.

Messages from Our Partners

(The following messages are provided by WNC partners and do not necessarily represent the views of the WNC)

ActionAid: Appointment of Minister on International Violence against Women

In ActionAid's new report [Destined to fail? How violence against women is undoing development](#) we recommended that the UK Government put violence against women at the heart of its foreign policy by appointing a minister on VAW internationally.

On International Women's Day, the Government [announced](#) the appointment of Baroness Kinnock to lead its work on global VAWG – a great success for international women's day. The mandate of the new role includes working with the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth office, the Ministry of Defence and across the UN membership to develop a strategic approach to the UK's existing international VAWG work and to identify policy improvements.

The next challenge is to ensure this new role becomes a permanent fixture of Government with the authority and resources to make ending VAWG a foreign policy priority. We are calling for all MPs to sign the [EDM](#) tabled in support of the new post.

Alliance for Choice, Northern Ireland: Alliance For Choice were successful in getting the support of UNITE the Union and Irish Congress of Trade Unions Women's conferences in Eastbourne and Belfast to support the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland. Over 40 women from NI per week to travel to England and pay privately for abortions that are available to women elsewhere in the UK on the NHS. Kellie O'Dowd successfully got the support of these Unions when she presented motions to the annual conferences on 26th February and the 6th March respectively.

In 2008 nearly two thirds of Northern Irish people polled (62 per cent of 700 people interviewed) say that abortion should be legal in cases of rape or incest, according to a survey from **fpa**. The strong support for women's right to choose is contrary to the myth that people in Northern Ireland do not want to see abortion available under any circumstances.

Bangor University: The Gender Equality and Diversity Summer School at Lifelong Learning Bangor University is running again this year. The summer school can stand alone as a short CPD programme and/or form the

foundation block of the part time MA Women's Studies at Bangor. The 5 day programme is held over two weekends (July 9-11 and Sept 3-4) and will shortly be open for booking on www.bangor.ac.uk/

Successful completion of the summer school gives you 30 postgraduate level credits to put towards either a fuller qualification such as the MA or your personal continuing professional development programme. The module fee is £567, accommodation is available, at a range of rates, either at the University or in Bangor itself, further details on the website. For an informal discussion and more information, contact: Shân Ashton, Email: s.ashton@bangor.ac.uk Office: +44 (0)1248 383224

Darfur Training Committee: The Darfur Training Committee of Edinburgh is planning to send more trained volunteers from the Darfur diaspora in the UK to Khartoum later this year to enable the women there to claim their human rights, the number depending on donations received and the security situation at the time. Meanwhile, we have been asked to speak to groups in Scotland as well as inviting people to our meetings. We are also gradually changing the Committee into mainly one of Darfur women only and with correspondence courses to enable them to take more responsibilities to achieve our goals.

Eaves housing: Eaves housing are please to announce that The Sojourner Project has been extended until the end of August 10.

The Sojourner Project is for women with no recourse to public funds, who entered the UK on a spousal visa and are eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) under the Domestic Violence Rule.

We are able to take referrals up to the 2nd July 10.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Sojourner Project

Duty Worker on 020 7840 7147 or sojourner@eaveshousing.co.uk

Jo Clarke, Project Manager will be happy to discuss any queries also. Jo Clarke can be contacted on 0207 840 7123.

Fawcett Society: The Fawcett Society and over 40 other organisations in a pre election campaign to ask all the parties 'What about women?' The campaign has submitted a range of questions on how the parties policies in areas from the economy, crime to family life will impact on women and women's equality. Visit www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/whataboutwomen for more information on the questions, what the parties are saying and how to get involved. The more organisations and individuals that ask the question the higher up the agenda women will get."

Rights of Women: Calling London-based women's organisations: join the Women's Legal and Policy Network!

Rights of Women has established a Women's Legal and Policy Network, for organisations based in London that have an interest in participating in policy work and campaigning on women's rights in the UK.

The network meets three times a year and membership offers the opportunity to keep up to date and influence law and policy in the UK and lend your voice to new and emerging campaigns.

The network is open to representatives from London based voluntary and community organisations working to improve the status and situation of women in the UK.

To find out more and see if you are eligible to join, contact Katherine Perks, Rights of Women Policy Officer on 020 7251 6575 or at katherine@row.org.uk.

Romani Cultural and Arts Company:

The national launch of the welsh

'Romani cultural and arts company'

27th may 2010, marks the formal launch of the 'the Romani cultural and arts company' in Wales. AM, Helen Jones will announce of the winners of the art competitions that took place in Newport and Cardiff schools. A large number of children, designed stunning posters to advertise the forthcoming gypsy, Roma and traveller history month celebrations in the summer. These events will build on the success of the last year's celebrations, over 250 people attended this event of which the majority were professionals from the statutory and voluntary sector and important icons from the wag.

Please join us for the free history month celebrations, from 10 - 2pm on the 17th, June at the riverfront theatre and arts centre, Newport and on the 29th June at the pier head building, Cardiff. For more information please follow the web links

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8571201.stm>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/southeastwales/hi/people_and_places/arts_and_culture/newsid_8127000/8127176.stm

Stonewall: Stonewall runs a free info service for individuals, organisations, and employers. Our free phone Info Line on 08000 50 20 20 is open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5.30pm. We also take enquiries via email at info@stonewall.org.uk

We can provide information and referrals for topics such as: Civil partnerships, Employment, Hate crime, Parenting, Discrimination and much more.

To add your details to our database please complete the form via the following link;

http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_home/whats_in_my_area/2710.asp

Townswomen's Guilds:

Townswomen's Guilds is heavily involved at present with all manner of issues relating to food, following our work with the NFU on beef and sheep farming and our ongoing involvement with DEFRA with a proposed mandate regarding UK Food Security that will be discussed at our forthcoming AGM. A forthcoming conference on addiction to prescription drugs is set to take place in September and we have also, through the use of surveys in our quarterly membership magazine, been looking at issues surrounding domestic violence – including violence amongst young people and the effect this can have on children growing up in a violent environment – and the adoption of children removed from their birth families by Social Services.

Wales Women's National Coalition:

Wales Women's National Coalition, in conjunction with the Fawcett Society and the Wales Assembly of Women, are holding a pre-election debate, involving parliamentary candidates, where we will be asking them 'What about Women?' Political parties will be asked about women on their respective political agendas. We want to know how parties' proposals will impact upon women.

For more information/booking please contact Suzy Barrett:

Tel: 02920478918

Email: suzy-barrett@wwnc.org.uk

You may also check out our website for further details/updates:

<http://www.wales-womens-national-coalition.org.uk/what-about-women-a-pre-election-debate/>

Join the event on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=111032358909107>

Women's Networking Hub: Muslim Women Take Part is a programme of training delivered to Muslim Women

across Birmingham to become more active within their own lives and the wider community. The programme focuses on the following areas:

- **Learning** – recognising the skills, knowledge and expertise that people contribute and develop by taking action to tackle social, economic, political and environmental problems.
- **Equality** – challenging the attitudes of individuals, and the practices of institutions and society, which discriminate against and marginalise people.
- **Participation** – facilitating democratic involvement by people in the issues, which affect their lives, based on full citizenship, autonomy, and shared power, skills, knowledge and experience.
- **Co-operation** – working together to identify and implement action, based on mutual respect of diverse cultures and contributions.
- **Social Justice** – enabling people to claim their human rights, meet their needs.

For further details contact: Shahida Choudhry, Email: shahidachoudhry@aol.com
Mobile: 07968 771 449

Women's Views on news: There is a real bias towards men in the news. As a group of women journalists, we decided to do something about it by setting up a not-for-profit online daily news service (www.womensviewsonnews.org) to provide news about women, for women.

We want to change the way the world sees women in the news and we are

looking for other women journalists (or anyone aspiring to become a journalist) who'd like to volunteer to help us. In return, we offer all our budding writers the chance to learn about news writing, sub editing, marketing and the use of social media, among other things.

We source our stories (all the major news of the day) from online national and international daily news sources, press agencies, voluntary organisations and blogs in much the same way as any newspaper or online news service, but from the perspective of women. It also includes features articles and opinion pieces, but the focus is always news.

According to the most recent survey by the Global Media Monitoring Project in 2010, less than a quarter of the people who featured in broadcast and print news worldwide were female and only 16 per cent of all stories focussed specifically on women

Literally thousands of stories about, by and for women are never told sending a message that women's experiences and opinions are just not as important or valid as those of men. WVON challenges that approach and redresses the imbalance in women's favour. Our mission is to give a voice to the women whose stories and experiences of the world are all too often ignored.

As well as looking for women who are interested in writing for the blog, we are also looking for people to support it by reading it as often as possible and by telling as many other potential readers and writers about it as well.

To contact us, go to www.womensviewsonnews.org or e-mail Alison Clarke on alimclarke@gmail.com

Zinthyia Ganeshpanchan Trust: The Zinthyia Ganeshpanchan Trust is a local community organisation working

with women who may have found their way into sex work and crime or those who have been long term unemployed. With funding received from the European Social Fund they have commenced a "Drop In" service based at the Tudor Centre on Mowmacre Hill Leicester LE4 2JB with a dedicated career guidance officer. From April the "Drop In" service will be expanded to three city centre locations at the Ajani Women & Girls Centre 3 Mill Hill Lane Highfields Leicester LE2 1AH. St Matthews Centre 10 Malabar Road Leicester LE1 2PD and the Belgrave Neighborhood Centre Belgrave Road Leicester. Sessions run from 10.00am – 1pm and offer any woman who feels that she can benefit from the services, a relaxed, secure and friendly environment. All services are confidential and non judgemental.

The trust has also launched a new social enterprise called TomorrowTogether based at 8 Princess Road West Leicester LE1

6TP which undertakes a cleaning, catering and leaflet distribution scheme assisting those women who have been long term unemployed or who are lacking in skills. For further information call 0116 254 5256. The project is hosting its launch event which is a Cheese and Wine tasting on 26th March between 4pm and 6pm. Also planned is a Spring Fair on March the 20th at the Tudor Centre and Coffee Morning and Book sale in early April.

Since starting the service in September the Trust has helped a number of women gain skills, development training or voluntary placements. "We are extremely happy with the progress of the trust and would like to thank our funders, supporters and volunteers. We continue to strive to transform the lives of women in the community. For more information call 07590408944 or email zinthiyaganeshpanchan@yahoo.co.uk

Partner Events

Funny Women: Funny Women Second Sunday Showcase

We have spring comedy a plenty for you in just two weeks time when we showcase new talent alongside some of our favorites from seven years of Funny Women Awards.

Date: Sunday 11 April 2010

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Basement Studio, Leicester Square Theatre, 6 Leicester Place, WC2H 7BX

For bookings please call 0844 847 2475

League of Jewish Women

The League of Jewish Women is organizing an evening with the author, former war correspondent and former independent politician Martin Bell OBE.

Date: Monday 12th April

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Friends House

Tickets are £12.50, include tea, coffee and Danish and are available from the LJW office, contact 020 7242 8300. As a war correspondent for the BBC Martin has covered some of the world's most difficult and dangerous news stories including Vietnam, Angola, Northern Ireland and Bosnia where he was seriously wounded by shrapnel. In 1997, he took the decision to stand as an independent MP for the constituency of Tatton, a seat which had previously been held by Neil Hamilton who was at that time embroiled in 'sleaze' allegations.

For more information please contact Jackie Baines at JackieB@theljw.org

Women's employment enterprise and training unit

Panel Debate and Network Event: EDP Future 50: Where are the Women?

Date: Monday, 12th April 2010

Time: 5.30pm-7pm

Venue: National Skills Academy, St Andrew's House, Norwich, Norfolk.

The EDP Future 50 is a list of companies that should be applauded for enterprising spirit and talent for innovation – so why are there only 2 women in last year's list of "ones to watch" for the future?

This interactive Panel Debate will explore this and ways to encourage more representation for women in business in our region. The aim is to identify positive outcomes to take forward for the future.

If you have a view or question or just want to hear current opinions, book your place today. Call Jeanette Flemons at WEETU on 01603 230625 or email Jeanette@weetu.org. Cost £15.00 per person including wine and canapés.

Rights of Women: Victory for the rights of women: marking the entry into force of Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009

On 1 April 2010, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 enters into force. We invite you to attend a FREE seminar and debate to find out why this change in legislation is a crucial step towards ending violence against women.

Date: Tuesday 20 April 2010

Time: 1.30 – 3.00 pm

Venue: BSG House, 226-236 City Road, London EC1V 2TT

For more information and to book your place, contact events@row.org.uk or call us on 020 7251 6575.

Scottish women's Convention:

Meet the WNC Scotland Commissioner

Agnes Tolmie, SWC Chair and Board invite you to an informal evening to find out more about the Women's National Commission.

Date: Friday 30th April

Time: 5pm- 7pm

Venue: STUC, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6NG

The WNC is an independent body that takes the views of women to the UK Government on a wide range of policies. The UK Government makes many of the policy decisions that affect women's lives in Scotland, including immigration and asylum, pensions and benefits, equality legislation, and employment law.

Come along and meet the Scotland WNC Commissioner, Ann Henderson, find out more about the WNC's work, and discuss informally the role that the WNC and the SWC can play in making sure that the views of women in Scotland are heard at UK Government level. Wine, cheese, and light refreshments provided.

For catering purposes could you inform the SWC if you will be attending. 0141 248 8186 or mary@scottishwomensconvention.org

Smart Opportunities for Women

Recruitment and Professional Development

Date: Tuesday 4th May

Venue: The Ballroom, Acacia Hall, High Street, Dartford, Kent. DA1 1DJ

Features: careers fair, pension's clinic, image igloos, health and beauty

treatments, w2w workshops, free CV reviews etc. For more information, please email events@smartopportunitiesforwomen.co.uk or visit our website at www.smartopportunitiesforwomen.co.uk

Standing Together

The 112 – 2010

Date: 8th May 2010

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence are organising a charity bike ride. We are attempting to cover 112 miles in one day - that is one mile for every woman who dies per year as a result of domestic violence. This was a great success in 2009 and we are looking to make it bigger and better in 2010. The aim of the event is to:

- Highlight the issue of domestic violence
- Ensure people understand the damage caused by domestic violence
- Raise funds to combat domestic violence through a coordinated response to this crime

For more information visit: www.standingtogether.org.uk or contact Laura Burtenshaw on 0208 748 5717 or admin@standingtogether.org.uk

Or to sponsor the event, visit our page at <http://www.justgiving.com/Standing-Together-Against-Domestic-Violence>

UNIFEM UK

The national Annual General Meeting of UNIFEM UK

Date: Saturday, 15 May

Time: 1.15pm

Venue: Conference Room at Fortnum and Mason, Piccadilly

The AGM will start at 1.15pm and is open to members only. It will be followed from 2.30pm by an afternoon event which is open to all. This will feature a panel discussion with speaker from UNIFEM HQ on progress towards the formation of the proposed new women's agency at the UN. There will be drinks reception at 4.30pm.

Please contact info@unifemuk.org to register for this event.

Dinner (pre-paid) will be available in the Fountains Restaurant, Fortnum and Mason, from 6pm. Booking details will be available on the website shortly at www.unifemuk.org

Rights of Women: Save the date!
How does the UK measure up?

In June 2010 Rights of Women will be holding a conference to assess UK compliance with international obligations to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women. Come and debate with leading

practitioners and campaigners on how you think the UK measures up.

Date: Tuesday 22 June 2010

Time: 9-5pm

Venue: Hamilton House, London

More information will be available soon at www.rightsofwomen.org.uk.

Smart Opportunities for Women

Recruitment and Professional Development

Date: Wednesday 22nd September

Venue: The John Wigan Room,
Oakwood House, Maidstone, Kent.
ME16 8AE

Features: careers fair, pension's clinic, image igloos, health and beauty treatments, w2w workshops, free CV reviews etc.

For more information, please email events@smartopportunitiesforwomen.co.uk or visit our website at www.smartopportunitiesforwomen.co.uk

Consultations

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has launched two consultations to support the implementation of the Equality Bill. The EHRC is consulting on their codes of practice, and their non-statutory guidance. Both the codes and the non-statutory guidance are designed to make sure the Equality Bill is understood and that people know how the Bill will affect them. The Codes of Practice have a specific audience (ie those who deal with law), however the non-statutory guidance is designed to be for more general use. For this reason, the WNC will be responding to the non-statutory guidance as this is the guidance that will be of most relevance to our partners. If you would like to contribute to our response please contact sophie.howes@communities.gsi.gov.uk by Tuesday 6th April.

For more information about these consultations and to view the consultation documents please go to

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legislative-framework/equality-bill/equality-bill-consultations/#non-stat>

Single Sex Services Consultation

In February, the WNC launched a short consultation about single sex services. We asked women to tell us whether they valued women's services where they exist and whether they felt it was important to have the choice to access women-only services in some cases, for example if a woman has experienced violence. The response received from partners and others has been overwhelming; we received nearly 300 responses, many of them detailed and rich with evidence about how women feel about accessing women-only services and gaining funding for their provision. Unsurprisingly, women who responded strongly supported the provision of women-only services and expressed concern about the future of many women-only services who are struggling to survive. We are currently Analysing the data and will be drafting a fuller report outlining the findings from this consultation shortly. Many thanks to all our partners who took part.

Government Equalities Office

Consultation on a Strategic Action Plan for the VAWG Third Sector:

The Government Equalities Office has developed a Strategic Action Plan with the support of other government departments to look at what the Government could be doing to support the sustainability of the violence against women and girls third sector. GEO are keen to gather views from the VAWG third sector, commissioners and others with an interest in the work. The Women's National Commission, which successfully raised the need to address the sustainability of the third sector with government, has agreed to manage this consultation on GEO's behalf. The consultation period will run from **Thursday 01 April** to **Friday 23 July 2010**. If you are unable to download the documents or complete the questions on Survey Monkey please contact us on **030 3444 4083**.

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/violence_against_women/strategic_action_plan_consultation.aspx

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QVVNPSB>

Messages from Government

On 8 March the government launched a newly developed poster and leaflet designed to raise awareness of FGM. FGM is a cruel and brutal practice that the government is determined to tackle. The poster draws attention to the negative health effects of FGM, the illegality of the practice and signposts to the FGM website www.fco.gov.uk/fgm.

The leaflet is a generic document, designed to convey key messages about FGM and challenge existing myths about the practice. You can download copies of the posters and leaflets from the new website and you can order hard copies from Hannah.Buckley@fco.gov.uk

Department of Health

In 2009 the Department of Health set up a Taskforce to identify the role and response of the NHS in relation to violence against women and children and to make recommendations on what more could be done to meet their needs. As well as an overarching steering group, the Taskforce comprised four sub-groups covering sexual violence against women, sexual abuse against children, harmful traditional practices and trafficking, and domestic violence. The WNC were invited to sit on the Taskforce steering group, and some WNC partners sat on the Taskforce sub-groups. The individual sub-groups reported individually, and their key findings and recommendations make up the main report, which was launched on the 11th March.

To view these reports go to:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/DH_113753

Welsh Assembly Government

Social Justice and Local Government Minister Carl Sargeant launched 'The Right to be Safe' Violence Against Women Strategy for Wales. The integrated strategy and implementation plan will address all forms of violence against women in Wales, that extend beyond domestic abuse, to tackle issues such as 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. To view the Strategy please go to:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/safety/domesticabuse/publications/besafe/?jsessionid=GnzBL7bLLwJ2W4rmlhWJb78HFq8QQQLY4Z2LVqJhRvpTLszPNd8!565326005?lang=en>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Baroness Kinnock will take on a new role leading the Government's work to tackle violence against women overseas. Baroness Kinnock will focus on coordinating UK efforts to tackle the problem, working across departments including DFID, the MOD and the FCO. The appointment, which was announced on International Women's Day, is the first time such a dedicated responsibility has existed. For more information about Baroness Kinnock and this new appointment please go to:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/who-we-are/our-ministers/g-kinnock>

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has launched the Domestic Programme Fund for 2010/11. The Programme aims to provide funding to partner agencies for small projects in the UK to achieve key objectives underlined in the FMU's two year Action Plan. Further details, including on how to apply, will be added to the FCO website shortly and the application deadline for submissions will be 11 June 2010. If you are interested in applying and would like to know when further information is available please send an email to fmufco.gov.uk.

For more information please go to <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/domestic-prog-fund>

Stern Review:

Baroness Vivien Stern CBE has published her review into how rape complaints are handled by public authorities. The review examines the whole process of a rape complaint from the moment a rape is first disclosed until the court has reached a verdict. The Government has also published an interim response to her review, which welcomes the review and accepts the direction it sets. There will be a fuller response to Baroness Stern's review and recommendations later in the year. To access the Stern Review please go to:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/PDF/Stern_Review_acc_FINAL.pdf

Women in Focus: Promoting Equality and Positive Practice Report

On 11th March, the Government Equalities Office in partnership with the Ministry of Justice launched their strategy to divert women from crime, promote equality, and better meet the needs of women offenders. The report, which is entitled 'Women in focus: promoting equality and positive practice', summarises the results of consultation events held across England and Wales during 2009.

To view the report please go to:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/302021_14133_GEOWomenInFocus_acc.pdf

Home Office

The Sexualisation of Young People Review:

The author, psychologist Dr Linda Papadopoulos was commissioned by the Home Office to look at how sexualised images and messages may be affecting the development of children and young people and influencing cultural norms. She also examined the evidence of a link between sexualisation and violence. The review forms part of the government's strategy to address 'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG). To view the review please go to:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexualisation-of-young-people.html>

Guidance into Domestic Homicide Reviews:

Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. This will come into force later this year, at which point the Home Office will issue statutory guidance. The Home Office has published interim guidance, which is designed to assist agencies in carrying out DHRs pending the implementation of section 9. Its operation will be monitored in order to inform the development of the statutory guidance.

To view the interim guidance please go to:

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/violentcrime/violentcrime014a.pdf>

Policing and Crime Act comes into force:

The Policing and Crime Act came into force on the 1st April, which includes provisions for prostitution. The Act makes it illegal to purchase sex from a person who has been forced. The strict liability clause included in the Bill means that a person commits an offence whether or not he knows that the person he is buying has been exploited. To find out more about the Policing and Crime Act go to:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/home-office-circulars/circulars-2010/006-20101/index.html>

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe has set up an Ad Hoc Committee on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CAHVIO) which began its work in April 2009. At its most recent meeting (22-24 February 2010), the CAHVIO completed the first reading of the Draft Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. Further information about the convention and the work of CHAVIO can be found at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/violence/default_EN.asp

Training

Rights of Women

Rights of Women provide training for organisations on essential issues concerning women's rights including: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women and children from violence; gaining protection from forced marriage; protecting and supporting trafficked women in the UK.

To view the full 2010 training programme visit www.rightsofwomen.org.uk or contact training@row.org.uk / 0207 251 6575.

Women's Resource Centre

Want to get your message across?

The Women's Resource Centre and CLINKS are holding a free one-day training course. Learn to use the media to your advantage and attract the right sort of attention!

Date: 21 April 2010

Venue: Central London

Download a booking form at www.clinks.org/training.aspx

Want to make the case for women-only services?

The Women's Resource Centre and CLINKS are holding a free one day training course to help organisations make the case to funders and stakeholders about the need for, and value of, specialist women-only services for offenders. The course will include a presentation by the New Economics Foundation, information on the Gender Equality Duty and much more.

Date: 27 April 2010

Venue: Central London

Download a booking form at www.clinks.org/training.aspx

Tender

One Day Training: Awareness and Good Practice when working with women experiencing violence and abuse in relationships

Date: 19th May 2010

Venue: Central London

This training will equip participants with an understanding of the issues for women experiencing violence from men they know, the pressures on women to stay in violent relationships and the impact on children witnessing and experiencing domestic abuse.

The day is aimed at staff in any agency who may be called upon to support, advise, treat, or otherwise assist a woman experiencing violence from a man she knows. If you would like to book a place or find out more information about the training and costs, please contact Susie McDonald at Tender Susie@tender.org.uk or call 0207 431 7227

Vacancies

Central America Women's Network (CAWN)

Job title: Research and Communications Internship

Closing date: 13 April 2010 at 10 am

The Central America Women's Network (CAWN), a London based organisation, is offering this internship opportunity to an enthusiastic and motivated individual prepared to gain experience and become involved in all aspects of a women's international organisation. The Research and Communications Intern will be expected to support the organisation in administrating the research and communications' side of work, both at the national and international levels.

To apply for this position please send your CV along with the Equal Opportunities monitoring form to Katherine Ronderos by email to: katherine@cawn.org
When applying for this position please quote 'CAWN Internship' on your subject line.

This unpaid position is for minimum 3 days per week -depending of candidate, and it is expected a time commitment of 6 to 9 months. Interns can claim back expenses for food and travel to and from CAWN's office, up to £10.00 per day unless otherwise agreed.

Please download the Role Description and Equal Opportunities & Monitoring Form from our website at <http://www.cawn.org/html/involved.htm>

Job title: Management Committee Members

Closing date: Ongoing

CAWN is currently looking for new members of its Management Committee who will be Co-Directors of the organisation.

CAWN Co-Directors provide strategic guidance and policy advice for planning and implementation its work at both national and international levels. They are legally responsible for and entrusted to control the resources ensuring these are used effectively. Based on feminists' values, CAWN Management Committee works in a horizontal manner, reaching decisions through consensus.

A commitment of about 3-4 hours per month is expected in addition to the attendance of meetings. Co-Directors participate in occasional working groups on: Governance, Fundraising and Research.

This is an unpaid position. We expect a commitment of a minimum of 2 years.

If you are interested in applying for this position please see our website for the role description and person specification: www.cawn.org

Job title: Research and Fundraising Assistant

Closing date: 13 April 2010 5pm

The purpose of this position is to lead and support CAWN's fundraising efforts. This will include researching potential funding opportunities, drafting grants proposals and concept notes, and coordinating applications with partner organisations in Central America and Europe.

This position is a part-time and fixed term position of 25 hours per week for 26 weeks. This opportunity is being funded through the Future Jobs Fund and to be eligible candidates must have been receiving the Job Seekers Allowance for at least six months.

This is a trainee contract and currently the wage being offered is the National Minimum Wage of £5.80 per hour.

To apply please submit a CV and Cover Letter to:

Alwyn.mclennan@urbanfutures.org.uk

For more information about this position please download the Job Description and Person Specification from our website at <http://www.cawn.org/html/involved.htm>

The Women's National Commission (WNC) is the official independent advisory body giving the views of women in the UK to the Government. Established in 1969, the WNC now represents over 540 partners throughout England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Our strategic direction is set by a publicly appointed Board of Commissioners representing various sectors within the women's lobby.

If you would like to become a WNC partner, please log on to our website and complete the application form. http://www.thewnc.org.uk/about_us/wnc_partners.html

If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please send your information to wnc@communities.gsi.gov.uk. Please make your contributions no more than 100 words

providing links to more detailed information or to your website. Note that we are unable to accept logos or graphics.

Responsibility for the content of these notices belongs to the partner organizations submitting them. While every effort is made to ensure accuracy, WNC cannot be held responsible for the content of those pages referenced by an external link.

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