



**WALES WOMEN'S NATIONAL COALITION
MEMBERS E-UPDATE
July 2008**

Welcome to the new-look members' e-update from Wales Women's National Coalition!

There have been lots of exciting changes here over the last few months, with two new members of staff, continuing developments in the fields of gender and equality, and a busy schedule ahead for all of us. We are planning several events across Wales for this year, expanding our membership base, hoping to commission some new research, and continuing to provide a gendered perspective to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) and other public bodies.

From now on this e-update will be issued monthly to keep you up to date with our current work and future plans, share your information and keep you up to date with news around our key themes of women and civil society, women and poverty, and ending violence against women.

If you have any comments on the update, or any input that you would like us to include in future issues such as events, news, partnership opportunities or if you would like your organisation to appear in our monthly member profile, we would love to hear from you; email hannah-austin@wwnc.org.uk or telephone Hannah on 029 2047 8918.

...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...

DIARY MARKER

We are pleased to announce the following dates for your diary. Further information on these exciting events and booking forms will follow shortly

North Wales Conference: "Are we there yet...?"

Tuesday 23rd September 2008, Venue Cymru, Llandudno (10.00am – 3.00pm)

AGM and Members Forum Event

Thursday 16th October 2008, Ararat Community and Conference Centre, Whitchurch (1.00pm – 4.00pm)

Light a Candle Service

Multi-faith ecumenical service to mark the International Day to End Violence against Women
Wednesday 26th November, Llandaff Cathedral (10.30am – 11.30am)

South Wales Conference: "Are we there yet...?"

STAFF NEWS

This summer, WWNC is delighted to announce the appointment of two new members of our team:

Emma Richards joined us in June as Director on secondment from Chwarae Teg. Emma has previously worked on a number of projects tackling occupational segregation and the gender pay gap, and encouraging women into employment, enterprise and education, as well as working with service providers, employers and educators to tackle gender stereotyping. Emma's role over the next year is to maximise the potential of WWNC to truly reflect the voice of women in Wales to government at all levels and ensure that WWNC remains the key consultative body for gender equality in Wales.

Emma lives in Cardiff with her two children, is a member of the Institute of Leadership & Management and a local primary school governor.

Hannah Austin joined us in May, and since then has been working to take forward our policy agenda. Hannah is an English Literature and Cultural Criticism graduate from Cardiff University, and has been involved in equalities as a grassroots activist, campaigner and researcher for several years, particularly with women's charities, LGBT networks and human rights organisations. Hannah has volunteered with several of our member organisations including BAWSO, Cardiff Women's Aid and Amnesty International which has given her a wealth of experience in tackling issues relating to violence against women and women in poverty.

Hannah's is currently working on meeting members to ensure we are representing their needs as well as growing our membership base to reflect the diversity of women's lives. She is also responsible for our consultative work and works with partners in the voluntary and public sector to ensure that gender issues are fully reflected in policy development.

Suzy Barrett has a new post of Coalition Coordinator, having joined us in August 2007 as Administrator. Suzy continues to ensure that the central systems of the Coalition are running smoothly, and plays a key role in WWNC events management.

MBE for WWNC Chair

WWNC are delighted to announce that our Chair, Moira Randall, has been awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2008. Moira has been given this prestigious award for services to the Police and we send her well deserved congratulations.

NEWS & EVENTS

We are planning a number of exciting and informative events this year which are designed to gather the views, issues, concerns, experiences and expectations of women in Wales and ask the question “Are we there yet...?” (see the diary markers section at the front of this e-update). We will issue further information, invitations and booking forms shortly and would encourage you to share these with your networks of organisations and individuals. We need the input and support of our members and the women you represent to enable us to voice these views to government and ensure they are fully reflected in policy development.

Women in Wales Festival

WWNC had a presence at this year’s Women in Wales Festival, which was held on Saturday 28th June 2008 at the National Botanic Gardens, Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire. Moira Randall and Suzy Barrett attended the event and the day was a successful opportunity to meet potential new members and talk with existing members.

Third Sector Partnership Council

WWNC continues to represent gender on the Third Sector Partnership Council, which is the key mechanism for maintaining regular dialogue between the voluntary sector and the Welsh Assembly Government. As part of its role on the Council, WWNC also attends Ministerial meetings across all portfolio areas to champion gender equality and raise matters of interest or concern with Assembly Members, Ministers and senior government officers. For more information on our involvement, email emma-richards@wwnc.org.uk.

Sex Trafficking in Wales

WWNC attended an event at the Senedd on 18 June, at which representatives from our members Amnesty International and the National Federation of Women’s Institutes handed over a petition to the First Minister calling for better services for women in Wales who have been victims of trafficking for the sex trade. The event was hosted by Joyce Watson AM, Chair of the All Party Group on the Trafficking of Women and Children. Amnesty’s Report *Under the Covers* showed that there may be 150 women in Wales who have been trafficked for the sex trade at any one time.



You can download Amnesty’s report and read the press release from the event here: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10458>

CONSULTATIONS

Welsh Assembly Government's Single Equality Scheme

Consultation has now closed on the Welsh Assembly Government's Single Equality Scheme, which aims to bring together, for the first time, the seven key equality strands: age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief/non-belief, transgender and sexual orientation.

We have responded to the consultation document and attended an event for the Scheme, along with many third sector organisations, in St David's Hotel on 11 June. We also have a presence on WAG's External Expert Advisory Panel, providing a gendered perspective for the Scheme.

All departments at WAG have received feedback from the consultation and are currently working on action plans. In September, all departments will attend a seminar to 'join up' their action plans, which will then be published. In the autumn, the Single Equality Scheme will be launched and the departmental action plans will be published with it. It is hoped that third sector organisations will have an opportunity to provide feedback to WAG on the action plans, although WAG have not confirmed this yet.

WAG have recently decided to recognise transgender as a distinct equality strand, following feedback from the consultation and the announcement of 'Framework for a Fairer Future' by Harriet Harman MP, Minister for Women, in June.

More information on the scheme is available online at:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/closed/equalanddivcloscons/singleequality/?lang=en>



Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: A Template Integrated Strategy on Violence Against Women for the UK

WWNC has contributed a Welsh perspective to this recent Amnesty draft strategy. The End Violence Against Women (EVAW) campaign, a groundbreaking coalition representing seven million individuals and organisations across the UK, has set out a blueprint for action for the UK Government, following research showing that 8 out of 10 people want a cross-departmental strategy to tackle the problem.

The draft strategy was published this month, and is available at the End Violence Against Women website: <http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/index.php>.



Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 41st Session

The UK was examined on its report to the UN CEDAW Committee on 10 July 2008 at the 41st CEDAW Session, which is currently taking place in New York (from 30 June to 18 July). CEDAW is a powerful tool that serves for the purposes of articulating, advocating, and monitoring women's human rights.

WWNC has provided a Welsh perspective to London-based Women's National Commission (WNC), who sent representatives to New York for the official examination. We also wrote several questions for WNC to use as supplementary information at the examination.

Further information on CEDAW's 41st session can be found at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws41.htm>

If you would like a copy of any of our responses to the above documents please visit our website www.womensvoice.org.uk or for more information e-mail hannah.austin@wwnc.org.uk.

Draft Wales Intergenerational Strategy: Building a Society for All Ages

Following a period of initial consultation, the Welsh Assembly Government now wishes to formally consult on the proposed Intergenerational Strategy Document. They are particularly interested in the views of both groups of children and young people and older people.

The deadline for responding is 30 August 2008. If you would like us to include your comments in our response, please forward your response to us by **15 August 2008**. Alternatively, you can submit your own response. Further details are available online at:

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/olderpeople/news/draftwales/?lang=en>

MEMBER PROFILE

This month, we look at BAWSO (Black Association of Women Step Out). Established in 1995, BAWSO is an all-Wales voluntary organisation, providing specialist service to Black and Minority Ethnic women and children, made homeless through a threat of domestic abuse or fleeing domestic abuse in Wales. It is affiliated to Welsh Women's Aid and works closely and in partnership with other Women's Aid organisations.



The strategic management and overall responsibility of the organisation lies with the Board of Directors, which consists of BME women from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds. The Board reflects the nature of the communities that BAWSO serve, and members have various relevant skills and experiences. BAWSO reserves one third of the Board for ex service users.

On the operational level, the organisation has grown steadily and the current delivery of services is the responsibility of 69 paid staff and 143 volunteers and interpreters. The day-to-day management of the organisation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive.

BAWSO provides a central core of specialist support together with language and translation services, specialist volunteers, professional mentoring and positive image programmes designed to invigorate the self confidence of BME women. These complement BAWSO refuges and deliver a culturally sensitive service attuned to the needs of BME women. The list of specialist projects provided by BAWSO is as follows:

- Advice and Information Project
- Floating Support
- Outreach & resettlement Project
- 24 Hour Help Line
- Personal Development for Service Users Project
- Childcare Programme
- Volunteering Project
- Language & Interpretation service
- Mentoring for boys
- Advocacy & campaigning programme
- Research, monitoring and evaluation
- Education and Raising Awareness Project
- BAWSO Training Service

BAWSO have received Accreditation of Support Provider by the Welsh Assembly Government, and have also been awarded the Quality Mark by the Legal Services Commission 2003 and the Investors in People Award in November 2005.

For more information on BAWSO's work, see their website: <http://www.bawso.org.uk>, or email: info@bawso.org.uk. They have offices in Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham; regional addresses and contact details are available on their website.

Each monthly e-update will include a profile of one of our members. If you'd like your organisation to feature in this space, please get in touch: hannah-austin@wwnc.org.uk

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT



STONEWALL CYMRU Youth volunteers project

Stonewall Cymru will be having a stall at the Eisteddfod in Cardiff from Saturday 2 August until Saturday 9 August, and are urgently looking for volunteers to help staff the stall. If you are willing and able to help out, whether or not you speak Welsh, please contact Ele: Eleanor.hicks@stonewallcymru.org.uk.

Stonewall will also be holding their annual meeting at the Eisteddfod on Wednesday 6 August from 1pm in the Pabell Cymdeithasol (Communities Tent) on the theme of LGB Welsh learners. If you would like to attend please confirm your attendance with Ele on the above email address.

Stonewall have been awarded funding by the Russell Commission to run a youth volunteers project until the end of March 2009. They are looking for young people (16-25) to help them in events, outreach, media monitoring and contact development. For more information contact Ele.

Stonewall Cymru are constantly expanding volunteering opportunities. If you are interested in admin, website management and content, media monitoring, helping at events, outreach, media contact, developing contacts, fundraising, helping to deliver training or if you have a particular skill you think would be useful, please contact Ele. Stonewall volunteers live throughout Wales so you don't need to live near Cardiff or Bangor to get involved.



ENVIRONMENT WALES

Volunteers wanted for Grants Panel

Environment Wales provides grants and support for a better Welsh environment and is looking for people with an interest, or involvement, in the environment or voluntary sector to become members of its grant panel.

Being on the panel is a wonderful opportunity to see at first hand how small amounts of funding can help projects develop capacity and put ground-breaking ideas into action. Panel members also help ensure that our grants are awarded in a way that will deliver key environmental goals as well as value for money. Support and out-of-pocket expenses will be provided.

If you think this opportunity may interest you please contact Katie James on 029 2043 1727 or at info@environment-wales.org for an information pack and application of interest.

If your organisation is recruiting volunteers and you would like to advertise in this space for free, please contact Hannah-austin@wwnc.org.uk

OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

New Measures to Increase Diversity in Public Appointments

On 14 July 2008, Harriet Harman MP, Minister for Women & Equality, and Ed Miliband MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, announced new measures to increase the number of women, disabled people, and black, Asian and minority ethnic people appointed to the boards of public bodies, so that they reflect the wider population.

Only a third (34.4%) of public appointees are currently women, although women make up more than half of the population. The Government intends to increase the number of women appointees to at least 40% by 2011.

As part of the drive, the Women's National Commission has this month started a new project to

increase the numbers of women applying for public appointments. This includes improving advice and information on its website, involving its 500 partner organisations, increasing awareness of opportunities, and encouraging women to apply. Ms Harman also announced that the Government will commission further research into barriers such as why more women don't step forward or apply for roles.

A leaflet showing the number of women, disabled, and minority ethnic appointees on public bodies by Government Department is available from: <http://www.equalities.gov.uk>

CPS Strategy on Violence Against Women

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has published its Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plans in recognition of the importance the Service places on improving the prosecution of these crimes and supporting victims in the process. The Strategy and Action Plans can be read here: http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/vaw/VAW_strategy_action_plans.html



Violence Against Women: A Student Perspective in Wales



Amnesty International and NUS Wales have recently published a survey that shows shocking acceptance amongst higher education students in Wales of violence against women, including domestic violence and rape.

Over 700 students took part in the survey, which revealed some worrying trends:

- 64% of students know women whose boyfriends or partners have hit them
- 41% know women whose boyfriends or partners have coerced or pressurised them into sex
- 34% think a woman is totally or partially responsible for being raped or sexually assaulted if she is drunk

Amnesty and NUS Wales have recommended that the Welsh Assembly Government consider a 'comprehensive campaign aimed at preventing violence', starting with challenging attitudes towards such violence. You can read the press release here: http://www.amnesty.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=17808

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)

Chair (closing date 31 July 2008)

Council Members (closing date 1 September 2008)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is the regulator for nurses and midwives in the UK. We are looking to appoint members to our new Council which is expected to be in place by January 2009.

In response to a series of government recommendations that seek to reform and modernise the

system of professional regulation, the NMC's new Council will undergo a number of changes in its size, structure and composition. The Appointments Commission will be conducting a recruitment campaign on our behalf to appoint a Chair and 13 other members on a Council, which for the first time, will comprise equal numbers of nurse and midwife and lay members.

For more information about the posts, as well as about NMC's new Council, go to <http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=3213>.

Nursing & Midwifery Council
23 Portland Place
London W1B 1PZ
www.nmc-uk.org 020 7637 7181 (switchboard)

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)

The Welsh Assembly Government is now seeking to appoint one new member to the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), with the appointment starting 1st January 2009. The CCW is the Welsh Assembly Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment throughout Wales and its inshore waters. The Council currently has a budget of over £40 million and nearly 500 staff employed in offices across Wales. With its headquarters in Bangor, the CCW Council (or Board) is made up of 12 members including the Chair. Further information on the work of the Countryside Council for Wales can be found on its website – www.ccw.gov.uk.

As a Member of the Council you will help provide effective leadership to the CCW - in particular in developing its overall direction in the context of the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic objectives. You also need the ability to play a strong role in the corporate governance of the CCW, including helping ensure that its budget resources are effectively targeted and utilised; also that key partnerships and alliances are maintained and developed.

To complement the existing mix of skills on the CCW Council, the Assembly Government is looking for an individual with specific experience and expertise in the field of biodiversity, land and habitat management and the rural economy.

Your appointment would be part-time (minimum of 2.5 days per month) and for a minimum fixed term of 3 years. The posts are remunerated, currently £8,317 per annum.

It is the policy of the Welsh Assembly Government to promote and integrate equality of opportunity into all aspects of its business including appointments to public bodies. It welcomes and encourages applications from groups currently under-represented, including in particular on this occasion, applications from women, minority ethnic communities and disabled people. The principles of fair and open competition will apply and appointments will be made on merit.

For an application pack and further details, please contact:

Public Appointments Unit, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Tel : (029) 2082 3042/3068 Fax: (029) 2082 6869

e-mail: publicappointments@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is 4th September 2008. Application forms received after this date may not be considered.

Interviews are currently expected to be held in the week beginning 20th October 2008.

A large print, Braille or audio version of this advert can be obtained by request by telephoning 02920 823042.

GET IN TOUCH!

If you would like to comment on any of the issues raised in this newsletter, to have any of your events or news included in the next e-update, or to discuss anything else, please don't hesitate to contact us:

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This month in history...

80 years ago this month, in July 1928, women were finally given an equal right to vote under the same Equal Franchise Act. This allowed all women over the age of 21 the right to vote – the same eligible age as men at the time.

