

NAWO @ WRC
Ground Floor East
33-41 Dallington Street
London
EC1V 0BB
Tel: +44 (0)20 7324
3045
info@nawo.org.uk
www.nawo.org.uk

Registered Charity:
803701



E - BULLETIN

October, 2012

October ISSUE

Inside:

News from the Chair	1
Rape Ignorance Highlights Deep-Set Misogynistic Values	3
Sexism in the 2012 Olympics	4
Debate Over 5th World Commission on Women	6
NAWO's October Events	7
Dates for your diary	8
Call for Papers	11

News from the Chair, Annette Lawson

Dear members,

This is an exciting and very busy time indeed. NAWO has many great events coming up. Further details are given under 'events' in this bulletin:

October 15 - *What rights do Rural Women Have?* At the House of Lords with ACWW – the Association of Country Women Worldwide – a follow-up to this year's Commission on the Status of Women on rural women which failed to agree an outcome.

October 16 *CSW for Beginners* at the Baha'i Centre, Rutland Gate, with Advance. Want to learn about CSW? Are you planning to attend and need preparation? This is for you!

October 19 *Compulsory quotas for women: what should the EU do next?* at Europe House following the announcement by Commissioner Reding about quotas for boards for the EU. NAWO gave evidence to the select committee of the House of Lords on this topic. As did the European Women's Lobby.

October 30 *Women's Voices should be Heard and Heeded*, at the Baha'i centre in Liverpool. Know people there? – please spread the word.

October 24

And don't forget UK Feminista's Feminist Lobby of Parliament. NAWO is a supporter. I am going. Are you? Make an appointment with your MP!

Preparing for CSW57– next year– on Violence Against Women and Girls New UK NGO CSW57 Liaison Group. Key words: *inclusion and effectiveness*

NAWO is engaged in forging a new alliance. We, together with others, have been bringing together first in open meetings and recently also as a 'Core Group' of about 25, as many women's organisations interested in the Commission on the Status of Women as possible. Next year – March 2013 – in New York, the major theme will be Violence Against Women and Girls – especially its prevention. So we needed women from the VAWG sector, women who know about CSW and the UN, women with networks and outreach both in the UK and internationally. But any organisation interested in CSW is welcome. NAWO is acting as the secretariat and will have a special page for the group on our new web site.

Issues and Recommendations

At the first meeting hosted by Jackie Jones at the University of the West of England, (she is a member of the European Women Lawyers Association and the Wales Assembly of Women) we agreed a general shape for the grouping, a name, and the essential skills also needed to run it and engage in it at different levels with different inputs. We also agreed to get a paper to GEO on issues and recommendations on the topic of VAWG, and, so that they would be able to include our ideas in their thinking well ahead of their negotiations with the EU which speaks with one voice at CSW, we agreed to try to get this paper to them before their preparatory meeting with NGOs (October 17th). An Issues sub-group led by EVAW (End Violence Against Women coalition) and with other knowledgeable women have produced a draft with much input from others. So this will be done! It will be amended again in the light of discussions at the October 17th meeting and with additional submissions.

Emerging Issues

And we agreed to seek to make widowhood the topic not yet announced for the 'emerging issue'. UN Women (UK NC), a NAWO member, is helping on this by sending the rationale produced mainly by Margaret Owen of Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD, also a NAWO member) through to UN Women and we are also seeking to get our own government to support this.

UN Women also produces the draft 'agreed conclusions' on which governments negotiate at the meeting and which we hope ends up as an agreed outcome document setting governments tasks to carry out which should improve the damage done to millions of women and girls globally through gender based violence in all its manifestations. Hence we will also seek to influence UN Women on their draft.

Liaising amongst NGOs and also with Government

The task of the UK NGO CSW57 Liaison Group is not only to liaise amongst ourselves but also to liaise with government before, during and following CSW. This we have been doing by keeping GEO informed, sending minutes of meetings and so forth.

If you are interested or know others who might be, please let us know

Next Open Meeting – January 23rd 2013 at Europe House

The next open meeting will be on January 23rd 2013 at Europe House, 32 Smith Square, in London. The first two were in Bristol and Birmingham. We hope the Irish Ambassador might come to talk since Ireland will hold the EU Presidency at that time and they will be 'the EU voice' at CSW.

NAWO - a framework partner for the European Parliament

NAWO's application to DG COMM to be accepted as a suitable framework partner for the European Commission in relation to the European Parliament was successful. This means we can now apply for grants to do work especially, at the moment, relating to the recognition and understanding of the EP among UK citizens. This is building up to the next European elections in 2014. We look forward to working further with our partners in the European Parliamentary Office.

And finally – JOIN NAWO!!! We need YOU!

Or, if you have not yet done so please renew your membership,.

Contact Vicki at admin@nawo.org.uk for forms and any other help needed.

Rape Ignorance Highlights Deep-Set Misogynistic Attitudes

It's been a tough few weeks for certain public figures who have come under intense scrutiny for ignorant and insensitive remarks made after wading in to a very public debate surrounding what constitutes rape. The polemic issue of sexual violence has once again been brought to the forefront of media debate after U.S. Republican congressman, Todd Akin, claimed that abortions after rape were not a necessity because, "the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down" and that female recipients of unwanted sperm have an intrinsic way of expelling it, concluding by stating that there was such a thing as a "legitimate rape". His shocking ignorance of basic biology aside, Akin's uninformed opinion on the issue of rape shows a deep, complex misunderstanding of the issue and a worrying sexist prejudice towards women. The outrage continued when Respect MP George Galloway, in defense of accused rapist, Julian Assange, claimed that having sex with a sleeping woman was not rape but merely "bad sexual etiquette". His unfounded and dangerous views were only compounded by Ecuadorian President, Rafael Correa, who stated that a man who shares a bed with a woman once can never be accused of rape, with the view that 90-95% of the planet would agree with him.

It has, however, been an even tougher few weeks for rape survivors, for those women who have suffered the most personal and humiliating act of violence against their bodies and minds and who have now had to hear three very public figures deny their pain and unwittingly defend their attackers. These comments show a dangerous and deeply entrenched opinion on the inherent division in relationships between men and women and ultimately the state of gender inequality not only in the United Kingdom but in countries all over the world; let us not forget that violence against women is borne out of the profound gulf that exists between men and women's equality. This disturbing culture of rape denial is a prime example of the deeply worrying misogyny that runs through our society like a stream, trickling down in to the very fabric of our social consciousness.

Not only have these very wrong and insensitive comments forced rape survivors to relive their horror by being forced to defend themselves, but these three men have also only served to perpetuate well-versed rape myths. Galloway and Correa's assertion that rape is impossible once a woman is in the so-called "sex game" with a man would surely be disputed by the thousands of women each year who are subjected to a consistent barrage of domestic violence, including rape, from their partners. In fact, a quarter of women living in the U.K will experience violence at the hands of a current or former partner. This also brings us to unravel another standard rape myth that still lives amongst many rape deniers; that rapists are strangers, madmen that jump out at unsuspecting women from bushes or back alleys on dark nights. The truth is that as many as 84% of rape victims are assaulted by family members, friends or acquaintances. Correa and Galloway's opinion also leads us on to the notion that once a woman is married or in a relationship with a man it is her "duty" to sexually gratify him as if she is merely a medium through which "masculine" "dominant" sexuality can be exhibited. This suggests that a woman is not free to do with her body what she will.

Moreover, Akin's view that there is such a thing as a "legitimate" rape suggests that there is a rape hierarchy, reflecting MP Ken Clarke's assertion last year when he spoke of "serious" rape, as if rape could be anything but serious. The creation of a hierarchy of rape seriousness not only reflects the rape myths stated above, but serves as another medium through which to deny the suffering of abused women and keep them under the control of a dominant order.

The extreme sexualisation and objectification of women in the media, persisting polarized gender roles attributed to men and women and the notion that women are the passive

receivers of male sexuality all work to propagate gender inequalities that can lead to rape and domestic violence. Despite all this, rape is **not** inevitable; although it is treated as a natural occurrence that women must do their best to avoid, it is not. Our culture- misguidedly but with its best intentions- teaches women to alter their behaviour so as to make themselves less rapeable; young women are told to wear less revealing clothes whilst on nights out, taught to carry rape alarms, travel in groups, not get drunk, look after their personal space- the list is endless.

Rape is not a natural occurrence, it is not a natural hazard, it is not inevitable, but grows out of gender inequalities that we must work hard to topple. Opinions on rape must change; the blame must stop being shifted on to the victim, but left with the only culpable party. Women never put themselves in a situation where they are raped; their attacker does that for them. Rape must stop being denied, excused or ignored. Although now a cliché, nothing can explain the issue better than these words: "no" means "no".

By Ruth Wallis, NAWO Media and Communications Intern.

Sexism in 2012 Olympics

Despite that very British hobby of grumbling about the London 2012 Olympic Games in the lead-up to their inception, Britons are exuding an until now unseen shining patriotism, basking in the warm glow of the raging success that the Games turned out to be. Despite some early hiccoughs that seemed to crystallize the gloomy predictions that many were fearing the Games would turn out to be (the embarrassing debacle of organizers displaying South Korea's flag instead of North Korea's before a women's football match and hundreds of seats left empty after corporate bodies did not turn up), London 2012 has been proclaimed as the greatest Olympic Games of all time

It has, most importantly, been branded "The Women's Games"; sportswomen such as Victoria Pendleton, Jessica Ennis, Beth Tweddle, Anna Watkins and Katherine Grainger, have deservedly been enjoying the attention, praise and admiration that they have earned after winning Olympic medals. In fact, Olympic medals won for Team GB by women count for 36% of the overall medal haul; the first Team GB medal was won by Lizzie Armitstead in the women's road race and women on the U.S. Olympic team outnumbered men for the first time in history- 268 to 261.

This, of course, is excellent news for female sporting achievement, bringing the issue of women's representation in sports media and the gendered perception of women as being weaker, less competitive and mere sporting spectators in to the public consciousness. However, in a world where gendered identities run so profoundly and so dangerously deep, can the Olympic Games leave a lasting legacy for women in sport- in both encouraging more girls to be physically active and providing greater coverage for current sportswomen- or will the media and sporting organizations slip back in to its old ways of perpetuating polarized gender constructs that posit men as the primary focus for sporting achievement?

In many ways the 2012 Olympics have been seen as a leap forward for women's equality; it was the first time that every single country sent at least one woman as a representative. Even Saudi Arabia sent two women and Tunisia's Habiba Ghribi was the first woman to win her country a medal- despite Tunisia's constitution stating that women are "complementary".

However, despite these steps made to guarantee sporting gender parity, the status of women in sports still suffers greatly from deeply entrenched gendered behaviours

that posit "femininity" - softness, delicacy, attractiveness- as the primary characteristic that women should possess. Let us look, for example, at the case of Belarusian shot put winner, Nadzeya Ostapchuck, whose strong figure was ridiculed by many over social media, with calls for gender testing, comparisons to Road Dahl's *Matilda* villain, child abuser Miss Trunchbull and relentless comments on her appearance and weight. This consistent barrage of abuse is in keeping with the large-scale proliferation of images that sexualize and objectify the female form; it is seen as an inanimate object to be judged instead of something powerful that can achieve physically. Turkish columnist, Yuksel Aytut even described the appearance of the female athletes as "pathetic". He commented how, "their breasts- the symbol of womanhood, motherhood- flattened in to stubs as they were seen as mere hindrances to speed. I am not even talking about female javelin throwers, shot-put athletes, weightlifters, wrestlers and boxers. Their appearance is just pathetic." The fact that Ostapchuck falls out of the gendered ideal has led to endless abuse, suggesting that a woman is seen first as an inanimate object and secondly- if at all- as a professional.

Another example of this is Caster Semenya, a South African athlete who was forced to go through a humiliating 11-month trial to prove that she was a woman due to her "masculine" physique. These women don't fit in to warped ideal of what a woman should look like- and so lose their status of even being women.

Added on to this is the ingrained notion that women are inherently weaker, delicate and fragile; when Ye Shiwen, a 16 year-old Chinese swimmer won gold at the 400m, beating her personal best by 5 seconds and swimming the final 50m faster than Ryan Lochte, America's fastest man, her power was described as "disturbing". She was immediately accused of doping. The fact that Shiwen's talent is described as "disturbing" is disturbing in itself; it reveals deeply engrained sexist attitudes that claim women's natural inferiority, showing incredulity that a female could ever swim

faster than a male.

Images of feminine fragility were further perpetuated by Andrew Brown, who wrote an article in *The Telegraph* after having watched Gemma Gibbons win a silver medal for Great Britain in the women's judo; "with those judo contestants- and I realize this will probably sound appallingly sexist- I couldn't help wondering about their soft limbs battered black and blue with bruises," he pondered before going on to compare the athletes to "two drunken women bashing ten bells out of each other outside a Yates Wine Lodge on a Friday night". Brown has perpetuated the idea that women are weak and delicate, and instead of applauding their sporting prowess, condescended them purely because they are female.

Perhaps the best legacy of the 2012 Olympics is that women have finally emerged from the shadows of male sportsmen; they have proved that they are no longer mere spectators but as determined, ruthless and above all, talented, as men to be able to sprint across the finish line. However, there are still deeply ingrained, toxic attitudes towards women in sport that must be toppled.

By Ruth Wallis, NAWO Media and Communications Intern.

Debate Over 5th World Commission on Women

On the 8th of March, 2012, the United Nations Secretary General, Ban ki Moon, and President of the General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, officially made a joint proposal for a Fifth World Conference on Women (5WCW) scheduled for the year 2015, 20 years after the last summit on women was held in Beijing where the influential Platform for Action, the 1995 agenda for women's empowerment, was formed. Aimed at monitoring the effectiveness of the Beijing platform and reflecting on new emerging issues since 1995, the 5WCW has been called "collective accountability and recommitment to women's rights and empowerment."

According to the proposal, the 5WCW will not focus its energies on existing international laws and policies regarding women, but on deeply entrenched stumbling blocks that women and girls face that hinder their economic, political and social advancement. It also aims to focus on positive repercussions of laws and opportunities as well as celebrate the passing of political and historical achievements over the past couple of decades, such as laws concerning violence against women and girls, educational initiatives, mobilization of women and women's groups in response to the AIDs crisis and the inception of UN Women, to name but a select array of successes. The proposition of the 5WCW however, has been met with mixed reviews from women's rights organisations and activists.

It has been suggested by 5WCW mobilizer, Jean Shinoda Bolen, that it could act as "a rallying point that would raise consciousness and network women worldwide...at a time of transition...that addresses new and emerging issues affecting women since the Beijing Conference in 1995." It is seen as the opportune event with which to create "a significant opportunity for citizens, women and men to robustly debate and reposition women's rights and

gender equality as central to the post Millennium Development Goals agenda", as well as put the issue of women's human rights back on the international schedule. It is also hoped that the 5WCW will strengthen the perceived fragmentation of the women's movement and offer more durable solutions to create peace, harmony and equality for all women and girls.

Despite this however, there is a spectrum of opinions over the proposal. There are many who feel that such international conferences are both unnecessary and limited in their ability to incite positive change. It is feared that another World Conference for Women will simply discuss, and so perpetuate, existing problems, working only to create new language and rhetoric for deeply entrenched issues, but failing to promise genuine commitment to the cause. It is also feared that through the opening up of the debate, it would simply reiterate the failure of earlier agreements proposed by the UN framework as well as inciting a possible backlash on previously agreed international arrangements such as issues regarding sexual and reproductive rights.

Added on to this is the distinct lack of representation among women's rights organisations and civil society as a whole to the conference. Women's rights organisations, which have been sorely underrepresented in international discussions, have demanded full participation in the 5WCW, including promotion and where it is held, creating channels for tension and dispute.

If a 5th Women's World Conference is to go ahead, NGOs have stressed the importance of including grassroots representation in the form of both female and male youth in a bid to raise awareness of gender discrimination and suggest practices to overcome it. Female representation from all walks of life, including Diaspora, ethnic, rural and marginalized women's organisations must also be included in to the debate, not just a select array of intellectuals and those in power.

NAWO's October Events

"What universal rights do women share?"

NAWO and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW)

15th October, 2012, 10.30 am- 12:30

Committee Room 3, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0AA

The UN's Commission on the Status of Women in March 2012 focussed on the needs and status of rural women globally. Member states failed to reach an overall conclusion.

The event will be chaired by Baroness Verma and speakers include:

- **Lady Fiona Hodgson CBE** (NAWO member, women's activist)
- **Vicky Cosstick** (UN Women)
- **Martha Saunders** (NAWO member, youth caucus)
- **Jo Almond** (ACWW Secretary)
- **May Kidd** (ACWW world president)

Cultural, political and economic differences among member states of the UN led to a failure to reach any overall conclusions- a very serious matter for the world's rural women, most of whom are poor. Given this lack of unanimity, is it possible to speak of human rights applying to rural women? Would it be possible to produce a draft character of rural women's rights, focused on helping to build consensus without ignoring cultural and political specificity?

To book for either event e-mail Vicki at admin@nawo.org.uk. Seats rapidly going so book ASAP to confirm your place.

CSW for Beginners

Baha'i Centre, Rutland Gate, London, SW7 1PD

11:30-17.00

Aimed primarily at those who want to learn more about CSW and may be hoping or intending to attend CSW for the first time in March 2013. Please bring a packed lunch with you, drinks will be provided.

NAWO to revamp its briefing paper in the light of changes in New York.

"A Woman's Place Is Europe: Should we legislate quotas?"

Europe House, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU

19th October 2012

Should the EU legislate on quotas for women in public company boards? Some countries, both inside and outside the EU, have already gone down this route, in an effort to improve women's representation at the top in business. But is this the best approach and should it be adopted across Europe?

Just days ahead of the announcement of a long awaited European Commission's proposal which might kick-start legislation in this area we will debate these issues with:

- Mary Honeyball MEP** (London, Labour)
- Anthea McIntyre MEP** (West Midlands, Conservative)
- Helena Morrissey**, CEO Newton Investment, founder of The 30% Club
- Petter Sørlien**, Mission of Norway to the European Union
- Moderator: Andrew Hill**, Management Editor, Financial Times

RSVP: Agnieszka.PIELA@ext.ec.europa.eu

Dates for your diary

NAWO EVENT: 'Women's Voices should be heard and heeded'

Tuesday 30th October

Baha'i Centre, in Liverpool from 1:30-4.30

Speakers include:

Zarin Hainsworth (NAWO trustee)

Dr Sylvia Forchap Likambi (Founder and Chief Executive of Voice of Nations)

Maggie O'Carroll (CEO, The Women's Organisation, Liverpool)

The event focuses on developing a new system that will bring women's voices to government.

Discussion topics will be 'gender architecture' focused, i.e. discussing issues that women on Merseyside currently face and deal with and how organisations are able to best aid them and lobby for changes to meet their needs.

Please RSVP to admin@nawo.org.uk

Charity Poker Tournament

Thursday 18th October, 2012,

Distillers Bar, London

Details: On Thursday 18th October 2012, Eaves will be hosting a fabulous charity poker tournament to raise money for vulnerable women who have experienced violence.

This exciting tournament of Texas Hold'Em Poker for beginners and enthusiasts alike will be taking place at the trendy Distillers bar near the City.

The evening will kick-off at 6pm with a drinks reception, and the knock-out poker tournament will commence at 7pm. Enthusiasts can expect some great poker, beginners will be given an introductory session before they play at 6:30pm, and non-players can take advantage of the music, magic and comedy on the night.

For the programme and booking: To fill out a reservation form, please visit <http://www.eavesforwomen.org.uk/news-events/events/all-in-for-eaves-charity-poker-tournament-609943>.

UK FEMINISTA

Wednesay 24th October, 2012, Parliament.

11.00-13.00 Rally event and training; 14.00-16.00 Lobby your MP at the Houses of Parliament.

Details: Women's equality has been sidelined in parliament for too long.

It's time for action. Come together with activists from across the country at a feminist lobby of parliament and call on our politicians to stop eroding women's rights and start driving forward women's equality.

On 24 October we'll be calling on politicians to take action to...

- [End violence against women and girls](#)
- [Strengthen democracy and improve the representation of women across society.](#)
- [Promote equality in the economy, work and family.](#)
- [Ensure equality in justice and rights for women.](#)

With a range of organisations we've brought together key actions that our politicians can take in this parliamentary term to drive forward women's equality.

To get involved: visit <http://ukfeminista.org.uk/event-details/feministlobby/sign-up-2/>

Dates for your diary

WWAFE 2012 SEMINAR SERIES– WOMEN & THE POLITICS OF POWER

Seminar 3, 24 October 2012

House of Lords, Committee Room1

5.30pm for 6pm-8pm (please arrive in time to pass through security)

Details: WWAFE continues the 2012 seminar series in the spirit established by WWAFE Founder Elizabeth Sidney. The first and second seminars in March and June 2012, '[The Parliament, The City & Civil Society: Women as Change Leaders](#)' and '[Justice vs Injustice: Women in the Justice System](#)' were fully subscribed, so don't miss out.

'Confronting Power & Powerlessness – Women, Family Life, Finance, Fashion & Freedom'

What women do and how women live our lives outside the home is influenced by what women do and how women live our lives inside the home. 'Having children' – or not having children - is a question most women face at one time or another. Whether married or not, the institution of marriage influences our lives.

- Where do women, women's rights and women's role stand today in the domestic sphere?
- Is domestic power related to power in the outside world?
- Do we need domestic power in order to survive in the world?
- Is financial freedom in the home essential for women's freedom outside the home?
- Can we achieve autonomy in a world where women are more and more subject to cultural demands as to body shape and body cover?

Women's rights advocates speak out strongly to advance women in political leadership and above the glass ceiling, as well as recognising the importance of women's rights in civil society and the justice system. What of women in the home, in family relationships, and under the influence of domesticity? All of us have home lives – whether single or partnered, parents or grandparents, as daughters and aunts, mothers and sisters, and through extended family membership. Religion has played a strong role in shaping 'the family', just as it has played a part in dictating domestic relationships and fashioning laws governing marital breakdown, yet British law has moved on from the religious to the secular in determining women's rights in marriage, vis-à-vis children, in property ownership, as to rights of income and maintenance. Is this so for all women living under British law?

Speakers:

Professor Mary – Harvard University – '**Financial and Property Division on Divorce or Relationship Breakdown**'

Anne-Marie Waters – One Law for All – '**Dress & Devotion to an 'Ideal' – Does Image Subjugate Woman Inside & Outside the Home?**'

Dr Mary Clare Martin – Greenwich University – '**Children – A Bounty & A Burden?**'

Ahlam Akram – WWAFE & BASIRA - '**Women in the Family – Secular vs. Religious Law & Rights**'

To book: Please forward your registration details including full name (given and family names) and address to: administrator@wwafe-women.org . All details will remain confidential within WWAFE and will be provide to Baroness Gould only for security purposes at the House of Lords.

Upon receipt, a notice of confirmation will be e-mailed to you. Please print it out and bring it with you to the House of Lords on the day, to ensure that your entry is facilitated. It may be wise to come early as sometimes there is a lengthy queue at the main entrance for visitors.

Dates for your diary

Conference about Domestic Abuse and Children (Women's Aid)

Monday 26th November, 2012. 9.30-15.30.

The Y Theatre

Details: A unique event mixing training with explosive drama! An in-depth exploration, of what domestic abuse really is and how it really affects the education, social, emotional, psychological, physical & cognitive development of our children. A must for anyone working with children and families in a educational, legal, health or social care setting.

Booking: For more information please contact Clare Walker on 0116 288 6186

Lone Worker Safety Expo 2012 (Women's Aid hosted by PPSS Group)

The Olympia Conference Centre, London

Tuesday 29th November 2012, 08.45-17.00

Details: Our LONE WORKER SAFETY 2012 will be structured around lone worker safety and focus on health & safety professionals, lone workers themselves, managers, team leaders and senior members of staff who work within organisations where lone working takes place. Our 2011 event was attended by professionals from a variety of sectors e.g. public sector enforcement, housing, social and health care, nursing, utilities field representatives and public transport. However, we would like to welcome everyone who shares our genuine passion for lone worker safety or lone worker protection.

To book: Contact Jonathan Sweeting on 0845 5193 953

Call for Papers

Student Essay Competition at the Feminist and Women's Studies Association UK and Ireland (FWSA).

Submission Date: 1st November, 2012.

The FWSA is delighted to announce that they are now accepting submissions for their 2012 competition. To encourage a new generation of feminist scholars, the FWSA sponsors an annual student essay competition for work which is innovative, interdisciplinary and grounded in feminist theory and practice. The top six entries will be published in the Journal of International Women's Studies and the winner will, in addition, receive a year's free FWSA membership. Students at any stage of their studies at a British or Irish university are encouraged to submit work which has not previously been published and is not currently under consideration for publication elsewhere or under consideration under competitions elsewhere which result in *any* form of publication.

Entries should be **6,000 to 7,000 words** (including footnotes, excluding bibliography) and must be submitted electronically, including a completed competition coversheet. The essay must be submitted as a single MS Word document attachment, including bibliography and cover sheet. Please use your surname as the file name. Please note that entries without this coversheet will not be considered.

All essays should be submitted to **administrator@fwsa.org.uk**. For detailed entry requirements, guidelines, the competition coversheet, and joining options, please visit <http://www.fwsa.org.uk/prizes/essayprize/> or e-mail administrator@fwsa.org.uk.

The deadline for this year's competition is 1st November 2012.