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E - BULLETIN

December, 2012

Christmas ISSUE

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NAWO Members Consultation

NAWO will be very busy in the New Year with two events coming up in **January** and **February!**

Our first meeting will be the CSW57 event on **Wednesday 23rd January** at **Europe House** from **3:30-5:30pm**. This is an open meeting and we can confirm that Helene Reardon-Bond (GEO) will be speaking on behalf of the Government. If you are interested in attending the meeting please email Agnieszka.PIELA@ext.ec.europa.eu to register.

More details on the meeting will be available in the New Year.

We can also confirm the date for our AGM which will take place at **Europe House** on **Thursday 28th February** from **1:30-4:30pm**.

MEMBERS CONSULTATION FOR AGM: topic of conference

You decide:

Theme 1:

'**Prostitution and trafficking**' in which we will seek speakers from EWL and/or European Commission

Theme 2:

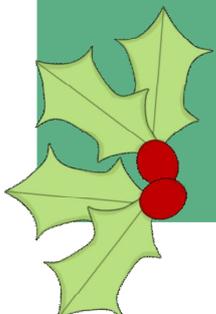
UN Violence against Women and Girls Convention – in preparation for discussions which will take place at CSW57 on holding a 5th World

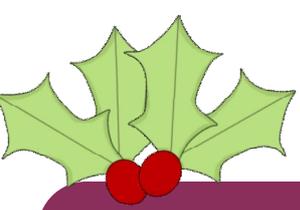
Conference on Women (2015) women are moving to develop a new United Nations Convention on VAWG. This will become the topic for a 5th World Conference.

Jackie Jones, Wales Assembly of Women and UWE and the Association of Women European Lawyers will be one of the speakers who, following a lead from UN Women and the Special Rapporteur on VAWG is working on the new convention.

Please let us know your preference of theme by **Tuesday 8th January** by emailing Annette anrulawson@gmail.com and admin@nawo.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your comments.





NAWO signatory on open letter to David Cameron and Nick Clegg

Open Letter from Civil Society Groups
on Human Rights Day

10 December 2012

Dear David Cameron and Nick Clegg,
Global Human Rights Day provides an opportunity to reflect on how we can secure progress on human rights, not only internationally but here at home. On this day we seek your assurances that the legal protection of universal human rights in the UK is safe.

The last twelve months have witnessed some developments for human rights in the UK. The UK has completed its second United Nations Universal Periodic Review process, has signed if not yet ratified the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, and we welcome recent commitments to ensuring equal marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples. Nevertheless the general direction of travel on human rights issues remains a concern. We often see people unable to access justice and fair process and the continued neglect and abuse of some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of our communities.

What has not changed over the past year is the increasingly worrying tone of our domestic debates about human rights and the Human Rights Act. In the UK, what should be a healthy debate about how best to secure the human rights of each and every one of us has, for far too long, lacked political leadership. This places our reputation for international human rights leadership at risk. It also jeopardises the progress we have made at home in

that our human rights obligations lead to real change for people in their everyday lives.

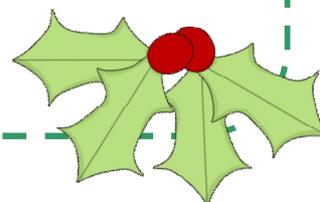
We know from the people we work with that human rights, and the Human Rights Act, play a powerful role in supporting us all through times of difficulty and protecting us from abuse and injustice when the system fails; helping to create a respectful and fair society. This essential role of human rights is all too often obscured; yet it is these unheard stories that demonstrate how essential human rights are to us all.

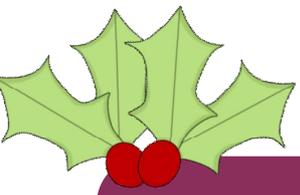
From the Magna Carta to the Human Rights Act the UK has a long and proud history of recognising the need for legal limits on the exercise of State power. The protection of human rights by the law is fundamental to our modern and diverse democracy.

The UK seeks to champion human rights abroad; now is the time to show leadership here at home, to re-connect the debate to the country's traditional values of fair play and our belief in basic human dignity and justice for everyone.

In the coming weeks you will no doubt be considering the report of the Commission on a UK Bill of Rights. As you do so we seek your assurances that the protection of universal human rights is safe in the UK. For us this means securing and advancing our Human Rights Act.

We look forward to your response.





Sharing Childcare

Maternity leave is the most commonly used term when referring to time taken off after the birth of a child; note the emphasis on the mother. In the U.K, when it comes to maternity leave and switching from a full time role to a part time, it is mainly women whose responsibility it is deemed. A largely assumed part of a women's role is multi-tasking, juggling and balancing between work and a personal life. However it takes two people's involvement for a child to be conceived and so it should take two people's involvement to raise a child; responsibility should be shared. This is a point of view it seems Nick Clegg is in agreement with, Clegg recently announced plans for parents to be able to split maternity leave between them.

A key development is the ratio being decided by the parents, rather than employers. 9 months of the maternity leave will be paid at the current statutory rate, the rest of the leave unpaid. This would move the U.K towards a structure similar to that of Sweden where paternity leave and maternity leave are openly offered. With the strive for more women in higher positions of power, this is a substantial development offering women the ability to take less time off and share the responsibility with fathers.

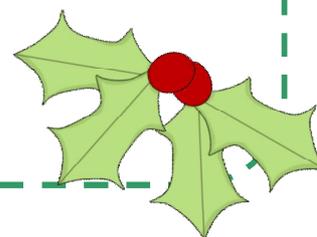
Furthermore, Clegg also announced plans for all employees regardless of child status, to be able to demand flexible working hours. This is meant to enable grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members to be able to aid with childcare, sharing the responsibility. Although, with employers only being required to consider the request and not necessarily grant it, there is still room for improvement. Previously only parents with children could request flexible working

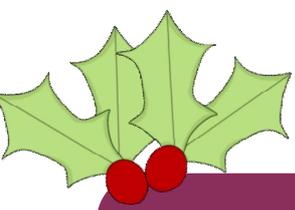
hours, burdening single parents. However, the new rules will enable other members of the family to help out, who previously under the old guidelines had no employment statutes upon to request such hours, being dependent on the good nature of employers for such grants. The plan will come into action in 2015.

In relation, the government also has plans to deregulate childcare, believing that the proportion of those leaving the childcare career are due to over regulation. However, this could allow irresponsible and ill equipped individuals to slip into childcare. Many are unsettled by this new plan, it all remains to be seen whether or not this will positively or negatively impact the childcare industry.

Lastly, Maria Miller, Minister for Women and Equalities, revealed plans to funnel £2 million into new childcare businesses. The money will be allocated depending on the size of the business with sums ranging from £250 to £500. The money is meant to help with certification and legal and training fees. This is in response to Nick Clegg's promise to decrease childcare fees.

Esi Christopher





Woman denied abortion in Ireland dies

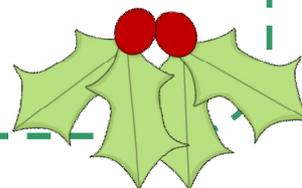
The death of a woman in Ireland suffering a miscarriage who was repeatedly denied an abortion has inflamed support for the changing of Ireland's strict anti-abortion laws. Currently, abortion in Ireland is illegal. However, in 1992, The Supreme Court ruled that abortions are permissible in instances of extreme threat to the mother's life. Despite this, Irish doctors are hesitant to terminate pregnancies, and some 4000 women a year are forced to travel to England where abortion has been legal since 1967.

Savita Halappanavar repeatedly asked for an abortion on 21st October at University Galway Hospital over a three day period only to be reportedly told by doctors, "this is a Catholic country". Halappanavar's husband, Praveen, stated that doctors identified the fact that Savita was miscarrying within hours of her arrival at the hospital yet refused to terminate her pregnancy as the baby's heartbeat could still be heard. Savita spent her last days in agony, vomiting and passing out before dying of blood poisoning.

Savita's father, Mr Andanappa Yalagi has urged the Irish government to change their abortion laws to prevent more women dying in the same "inhumane" way that his daughter did. According to Mr Yalagi, "she requested several times and my son-in-law requested, telling them, 'We are not Catholics, we are Hindus, please do the abortion immediately because her life is in danger', but they continued to refuse. You would think that for humanity's sake they would have carried out an abortion."

Only two months prior to Savita's death, Irish doctors claimed that, "We confirm that the prohibition of abortion does not affect, in any way, the availability of optimal care to pregnant women."

Ruth Wallis



Sexual objectification still an everyday occurrence for many women and girls

The issue for this article is something that I've personally experienced and I'm sure many of you reading will have as well; that is, public sexual harassment. For the purpose of this article, we'll focus on an incident I experienced recently.

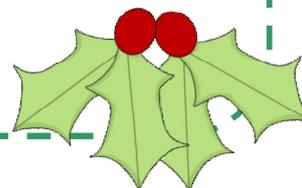
At a bus stop I noticed a man stood to the side who was staring intently at my rear; I quickly attempted to board the bus, with the situation making me increasingly uncomfortable. I seated myself and moved to forget about the earlier moment when the man reappeared. He enquired as to whether he could take the seat I was sat in and if I could move to sit on the inside. I replied that I would be getting off shortly, so he was welcome to sit on the inside. Another part of the reason, was that I would have been boxed in by this man that as I stated earlier, had made it apparent that he was fixated with my body. He fervently refused; if he could not sit in the exact seat I was currently sitting in, he would not sit down at all. As the bus continued its journey, multiple seats opened up until the bus was almost half empty yet still he refused to sit down unless it was in my seat. When I left the bus, he again glared at my body until I was out of his sight.

A case of sexual harassment or objectification? I will leave that decision up to you. This incident was not verbal- or worse, physical- however many are. Rejecting the incriminating individuals in these situations can have varying consequences, such as more offensive abuse or a physical altercation.

Sexual harassment is now a common occurrence for women in this day and age. In the 21st century and 2012 it is outrageous that such sexual objectification pervades our society and is accepted as normal. How much further must we as a society advance before women are not publicly scrutinised? Surely we have proved ourselves to be more than physical objects capable of great feats, intelligence, character and hard work.

But how can the issue be resolved remains the question? My answer is by decreasing the amount of sexually objective female material that is circulating the world, so that the younger generation are not bombarded by such sexist ideals and representations. Perhaps through them, a more positive environment for both sexes can evolve.

There has, however in recent years been a resurgence in feminist activism. Two campaigns, "No More Page 3" and "Everyday Sexism", are two movements that have been gaining national recognition to highlight, campaign for and put an end to the proliferation of images and attitudes that serve to objectify, demean and undermine women and girls. No More Page 3 was set up by Lucy Holmes after her anger at The Sun's depiction of women during the London 2012 Olympics. Despite the fact that Jessica Ennis had that day won gold in the heptathlon, the biggest picture of a woman in



the entire newspaper was a picture of a young girl posing for the camera with her breasts exposed. Page 3 does not just serve to objectify women but it also warps both male and female sexuality to subjugate female sexuality to be passive. To sign the petition, please type this link into your URL: <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/dominic-mohan-take-the-bare-boobs-out-of-the-sun-nomorepage3>.

Everyday Sexism creator, Laura Bates set up the online collection of sexist experiences and realities to document all types of daily sexism that women encounter- from the small incidents put up with (the lingering glance over your bust by a male colleague) to the highly serious incidents of abuse that are endemic of gender inequalities (rape, incest, domestic violence). To contribute to the blog, please follow this link: <http://www.everydaysexism.com/>

Incidents such as the one detailed in this article are the reason why campaigns like No More Page 3 and Everyday Sexism are so important.

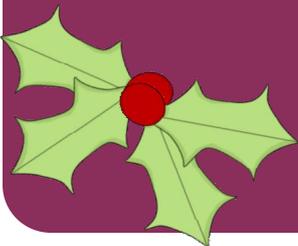
Goodbye to Vicki

NAWO HQ wants to say goodbye to our current coordinator who is leaving to be the coordinator for Rosa, the UK fund for Women and Girls. We will announce our new coordinator in the New Year.

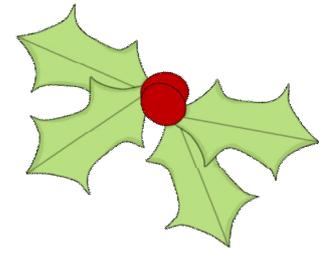
Merry Yuletide from NAWO

The NAWO office will be closed from 24TH December to 2ND January

We would like to wish you all a Merry Xmas, Happy Chanukah,
Good Solstice Dreaming and a Very HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Dates for your diary



Million Women Rise

9th March, 2013.

Trafalgar Square, Central London

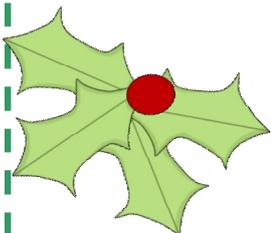
A woman's right to live free from violence and / or the fear of violence has not been achieved. Women continue to be attacked and violated in many different ways, in our homes, on our streets, on our public transport, at our places of work. The government, the TV and newspapers do very little to address this issue; instead they often blame women for wearing the wrong clothes or being in the wrong place.

If you think this needs to change, then join us on a public demonstration to show those in power that it's just not good enough! We need to show our mass dissatisfaction; we need to be strong together and in large numbers. Unity is strength; the voices of many are louder together than a single voice.

Together and united we are ending male violence against women and children. If you want to see change for yourself, your children, your families, your communities then come out and say no to violence against women!

The Million Women Rise (MWR) Movement is made up of thousands of women who are united by outrage at the continued daily, hourly, minute-by-minute individual and institutionalised male violence enacted against women worldwide.

We believe that every woman and child has a right to live free from violence and that ongoing violence devastates not only the lives of the individuals directly affected but also the communities of which they are part. We want to highlight the continuation of all forms of violence against women, and demand that steps are taken to put an end to this.



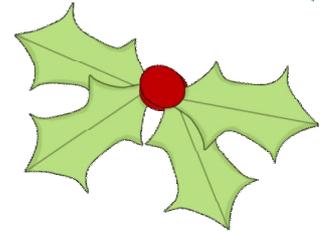
To join Million Women Rise on 9th March 2013, please follow this link and sign up-

<http://www.millionwomenrise.com/join-mwr.html>

Call for Papers

Feminist and Women's Studies Association UK & Ireland

Submission Date: 4th January 2012



This one-day symposium hosted by the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary, University of London aims to bring together postgraduates and academics to explore how the issues of feminism, influence and inheritance animate or problematise their work and practice in the field of literary study. Through this conference we aim to begin a discussion about the challenges and anxieties, but also the significant rewards of engaging with our substantial feminist inheritance as scholars working in English Studies today. It will seek to consider how contemporary research relates to the rich, complex and extensive history of feminist research in the discipline and explore how new directions in literary study might be informed by the work of the past.

It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on inter-generational relationships between feminist researchers, on the informal or formal networks of support that exist or have existed for women academics in the field and on the way the traditions of feminism relate to the contemporary research and teaching environment.

We are delighted that Marion Shaw – Emeritus Professor, Loughborough University – will give a keynote address titled 'Old Feminism, New Feminism'.

We welcome papers that engage with any aspect of the theme of "Feminism: Influence: Inheritance". Topics may include, but are not limited to:

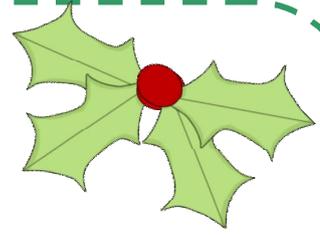
- The perils or promise of ideas of post-feminism; how might the tradition of feminist writing relate to changing theoretical/methodological approaches, or to changing research and teaching priorities (internal and external), within the field?
- The challenges of teaching feminism
- Feminist/ anti-feminist models of inheritance and influence
- Literary representations of the dynamics of feminist inheritance: how is the issue of feminist inheritance understood in the works of particular writers, or in particular texts?
- Negotiating the feminist scholarship in your field
- Assessing inheritance: who are the feminist writers whose influence is most significant within the field; where are the gaps and silences in contemporary understandings of the feminist inheritance?
- Approaches to dealing with problematic feminist legacies

Please send abstracts of no more than 250 words for 20 minute papers to feminism.influence.inheritance@gmail.com by **4th January 2013**. Please include your name and a short biographical statement.

Call for Papers

University of Brighton

Submission Date: Friday 14th September, 2013



The theme for the 20th Annual Lesbian Lives Conference is The Modern Lesbian.

Conference conveners of this two-day international and interdisciplinary conference now welcome proposals from academics, scholars, students, activists, documentary and film-makers, writers and artists.

- Lesbians and (post-)modernism
- Lesbians and The New Woman
- Lesbians in the history of sexuality
- Lesbians and modernity
- Lesbian mobilities, migrations, movements and diasporas
- Age, aging, generation gaps, lifecourses and has'bians
- Bisexuals, bi-queers, and other (post-)moderns
- Modern transitions, trans modernities, Trans people
- Gender violence/s
- Lesbians (and) technologies
- Modern media and lifestyles

The conference organisers welcome proposals for (A) individual papers, (B) sessions, (C) round table discussions, (D) workshops and (E) visual presentations or performances.

E-mail proposals of no more than 300 words to LGBTQ@brighton.ac.uk.

If your proposal is for the film strand, please include a URL to the work, which should be available to view online (please ensure that you include any password details if it is not publicly accessible). Please do not send hard copies to us.

