



**NAWO AGM 3 April
Jubilee Room Houses of Parliament Westminster
Minutes**

The meeting started with a challenge as to whether there was a quorum. After a count it was agreed the meeting was quorate and should go ahead.

Welcome and introductions were given by the Chair Zarin Hainsworth. Thanks were expressed to Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP for hosting the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies had been received from:

Nazzy Amin

Evelyn Fraser SWC

Carmel Momen

Lynn Everson BPW

Late apologies were received from Shahida Choudry because of a serious incident closing her rail station.

Minutes of last AGM 9 July 2018

These had previously been circulated.

Minutes accepted. Proposed: Janet Harris. Seconded: Maureen Meacher.

Trustees Report (Circulated previously)

This was introduced by Wendi Momen

Annette Lawson had sent comments - see email.

She felt that the penultimate para was not clear. "read it's reality" Zarin explained this meant to look at who you are and take account of where you are.

There were a couple of grammatical amendments also suggested and it was **agreed** the Annual Report would be amended accordingly. It was also **Agreed** to amend Advocacy for life course not life cycle.

Report agreed. Proposed: Sally Spear. Seconded Margaret Clark

Jane Grant asked about branches. Zarin noted that as per indicated in the Annual Report there are currently two: one in Gloucestershire, and the other Wellingborough. NAWO hopes to add Edinburgh and Exeter during the course of this year.

Also Northampton University would like to have a branch.

Accounts

Wendi Momen introduced the Examiners report previously circulated.

Margaret Clark asked if there was any interest on funds? It was explained that funds get spent pretty quickly and therefore there is seldom interest.

Annette Lawson asked why the Cash fund £10220 end Dec 2018 unrestricted was so high.



Wendi explained that NAWO was keeping some money against a grant funded project query from 5 yrs ago from EU of 5K as a matter of prudence. Wendi gave an update: we have appealed but are still waiting for an answer. NAWO is still hoping we won't have to pay. The suggestion was made to the Board to consider not keeping the money but spending it as necessary. Noted for decision by the new Board.

Motion a

That the Trustees Report and Accounts are accepted as a true record of the period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Motion b

That Ardeshir Laloui be appointed independent examiner of the Trustees Report and Accounts for the year 2019

Accounts accepted. Proposed: Annette Lawson. Seconded: Linda Dearlove.

Election of co-opted Committee members.

Eleanor Lisney
Shahida Choudry
Nazzy Amin
Agreed as above

Election of new MC member

Jackie Jones, Past trustee from Wales
Agreed

Chair's Report

Zarin explained it had been a year of Challenges and Celebrations.

Challenges

The challenges were Resources and Current Climate. Monies available for the sector working for women and girls has been restricted due to austerity and there is therefore lots of competition for available funds including from philanthropy. Due to the lack of funds and the competition for them, sometimes organisations within the sector act as if in competition rather than working together. This is challenging for NAWO.

NAWO has no paid staff and therefore relies on trustees. NAWO also has a number of interns and volunteers without whose kind endeavours NAWO would not be able to undertake the work it does, but it also takes large amounts of time to manage by the Chair and officers. With no staff, some areas of cohesion are more challenging.

NAWO has enabled NAWO members to grow. However, some move on, and do not feel loyalty to the organisation that helped them.

NAWO has great potential but is limited by resources.

The current climate is one where there are many forces at work in the world and we live in a time of polarisation and increasing populism. There are many challenges that the women's



movement needs to counter. More than ever before people are feeling that they are not heard. At the EDF meeting for Presidents of member organisations, their report on this issue was shared and this is a concept that has influenced the thinking of the NAWO Board. If Civil Society organisations do not reach their audience/members/clients they too are not fit for purpose. NAWO must ensure that it's members feel listened to and we have to get the message out loud and clear about NAWO is a platform for local women to have a voice and influence national and international processes. And also retain the loyalty of those we have helped on their journey.

Celebrations

There have been massive achievements to celebrate and we could have put much more into the Annual Report. They are considerable especially considering the current climate and the lack of resources. These include:

International.

NAWO continued to work as the Secretariat for the UK NGO CSW Alliance and organise delegations and events at the UN Human Rights Council, CEDAW, CSW, UPR and work with UKSSD and on the VNR consultations.

Policy.

NAWO continued to write to parliamentarians and Ministers and work with the GEO on Brexit, status of charities, and other policy areas.

Alliances.

NAWO continued to work with a variety of groups and alliances included EDF, WRC, BIHR, Fawcett, IC Change, Brexit lobbying groups, Stop the Trafficking, UKSSD, UN Women UK, EHRC, CAP on a variety of issues including Brexit, Trafficking, CEDAW and abolition of prostitution.

Social media.

We increased our social media presence through twitter, instagram and other platforms.

Young Women's Alliance.

This on-going project is changing lives. Those young women (and men) who attend events and are part of the Alliance constantly testify to the positive change this work has made to their lives.

Awards for All Action Learning Conferences.

NAWO applied to Awards for All, for funding for a project with the Young Women's Alliance to hold two action learning conferences with the aim to increase awareness and provide skills. This has been a significant achievement. More than 2500 people have been reached with increased awareness on a number of international legal instruments and issues such as FGM/C and trafficking. The participants have been provided with various skills such as providing workshops, social media skills, writing to MPs. Students, teachers, parents, other staff, MPs etc have all been reached through the project in two different locations:



Northamptonshire and Gloucestershire. The project over achieved against the initial proposal and came in just under budget. There was a lot of sacrifice from all involved, but was a huge success. A full report will be available on the NAWO website.

Zarin thanked all NAWO members for their participation and support. And thanked all the volunteers and interns. All the trustees were thanked with especial mention of Pat, Margaret and Wendi and particularly Wendi who has been the Treasurer and Hon Sec. Zarin gave presents to each of the trustees present. Annette Lawson was thanked as Ambassador and Jane Grant thanked for her initiating NAWO and constant support and the work of Barbara Cleary for her continuing support of NAWO and work for NAWO as Ambassador, currently in Japan representing NAWO at the G20 women's event.

AOB

Thanks were given to Zarin by Wendi along with a card and Gift token appreciation. Margaret Clark also thanked Wendi with a card and gift token.

Janet Harris said she was conscious of the challenges and that a focus of NAWO had been on Europe. She wondered if she should continue to send information on Europe. It was noted that the European Women's Lobby had plans in place to keep the UK involved in some way and therefore NAWO's European angle would still be valuable. Therefore it was noted that whatever happens it is still important to keep everyone informed about Europe. Margaret represents NAWO on UKJWC. As Zarin was Alternate, the new Board will decide on future representation. NAWO members will be informed of the Europe newsletter. It was noted that NAWO used to have a European Network but for the last year it has been dormant.

It was announced that it had been decided to have a Director post for NAWO which Zarin will fill as an interim measure on a volunteer basis.

The situation of the Palestinian women was noted. The Palestinian Authority has signed CEDAW yet they are not supporting women in a meaningful way. NAWO was asked to support the alliance of women's organisations in Palestine.

The situation of the Kurds was noted and the actions taken by Margaret Owen. NAWO members were asked to investigate ways of raising awareness of the situation of the Kurds especially in Rojava.

Annette presented a gift of chocolates for everyone.

Zarin reviewed the decisions of the meeting for latecomers.

Meeting closed.