



**National Alliance of
Women's Organisations**

Charity No: 803701

**Annual Report
for the Period
*1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019***



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1. Reference and Administration Details

1.1. The Charity

Charity Name: National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO)

Registered Charity Number: 803701

Charity's Principal Address: 89 Eastern Avenue Gloucester GL4 6PQ

Telephone and Email: directornawo@gmail.com, 0203 8020416/ 07786311198

Website: www.nawo.org.uk

1.2 Management Committee Members

1.2.1. Management Committee duties

The work of NAWO is directed by a Management Committee (MC) comprising voluntary MC members. The MC is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation, ensuring accountability and maintaining fiscal oversight and delivery of the work plan.

1.2.2. Officers and members of Management Committee 2019

Joint Chairs: Jackie Jones/Lou Armitt Joint April 2019 – October 2019

Chair (Temporary) Pat Black (*Start Date October 2019 - current*)

Treasurer: Margaret Clark (*Start Date April 2019 - current*)

Vice Chair: Justina Mutale (*Start Date April 2019 – current*)

1.2.3. Managing Committee Members during 2019

Momtaz Rahim - Hon Sec

Fatoumata Diallo - Intern and volunteers manager

Shahida Choudray

Eleanor Lisney

Nazzy Amin

1.3 Names of Advisors and Staff

1.3.1 Bankers

HSBC, PO Box 160, 12A North Street, Guildford GU1 4AF

1.3.2 Independent Examiner

Ardeshir Laloui

1.3.3. Volunteers

Farzin Yourtchi - Finance

Lauren Smith, Gemma Welsh, Tori Keene, Lucy Cole, Lucy Owen – YWA, Newsletter, YWA National Alliance of Women's Organisations (various members)

2. Structure, Governance & Management

2.1. How the Charity is constituted

NAWO is an unincorporated organisation established in 1989 and is governed by the Constitution and Rules adopted in May 1989 and revised in May 1991, June 1993, November 2003, May 2013 and Oct 2017.

2.2. Management Committee

2.2.1. Election of Management Committee Members

Management Committee (MC) members are elected by NAWO members at the annual general meeting and form the MC. The MC retires every two years. A MC member may be nominated and, if elected, serve up to a further two consecutive two-year terms. All member organisations and individual members may nominate and second candidates. Officers are elected by members of the MC from amongst those individuals elected to serve on the Committee. The MC also has powers to co-opt should there be a vacancy. At the AGM, NAWO members may permit continuing service for named MC members for one further term of office after the end of six years should the skills and knowledge be considered essential for the effective functioning of the MC and the organisation. However, 8 years is the absolute limit when a break of at least one period of office (2 years) must be taken.

2.2.2. Management Committee

Lauren Smith stepped down in 2018, but continues to support the work of NAWO especially in the area of Agenda 2030. Former Chair, Annette Lawson has continued her support of NAWO by working as NAWO Ambassador. Barbara Cleary, past MC member, continues to represent NAWO at the EDF and BIHR and on the G20 women's group. NAWO is grateful to them for all their endeavours and their continued support for NAWO

2.2.3. NAWO Board Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board (Management Committee) have taken place during the year. Between meetings communication has been via email.

2.2.4 Director

The Director has continued to keep the office of NAWO functioning as a volunteer, maintaining the emails and alerting the Management Committee with issues as they arise and carried out the following

- forwarded offers of volunteers and interns to Fatoumata Diallo who manages this area of work for NAWO.
- forwarded information from members and from others wishing to access NAWO networks either to the networks directly but also to Fatoumata for inclusion in the newsletter.

- managed the secretariat for the UKCSWA, keeping the network up to date and working with others to arrange the array or Executive, Core Group and Whole Alliance meetings.
 - maintained relationships with members, partners and alliances in pursuance of NAWO goals as stated in the strategic plan, where possible organising joint events, writing reports and sending submissions and letters. - met with parliamentarians (in person and by video conferencing as appropriate), civil servants and members of the Government in pursuance of NAWO goals.
 - continued to work with the Young Women's Alliance, with events in the Houses of Parliament and in New York.
 - continued to work with NAWO Ambassadors and MC members in their representation of NAWO with other organisations such as Equally Ours, British Institute of Human Rights, G20 Women, GADN, Fawcett, Century Action Group, UKSSD (renamed).
 - liaised with technical support and MC members on updating the website.
- Hours spent on the above were equal to a full time job but have been completed on a volunteer basis with no remuneration.

2.3. Business strategy

2.3.1. Strategic plan

The Management Committee used the strategic plan to guide its work. A strategic review took place with some of the elements of the plan re-aligned. From the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 an implementation plan was developed.

Farzin Yourtchi continued to provide voluntary financial support to the Board for which we are very appreciative.

2.3.2. Risk management

The risk management system was used to highlight potential risks. The highest risk continues to be funding. Funding remained a challenge. Increasing the membership of NAWO was also considered to be a priority.

2.4. Funding

Funding continues to be a key concern. Applications were made to Awards4 All, the Suffragette Fund and the Tampon Tax fund and ROSA. The Awards 4 All application was successful with work starting on the Action Learning Conferences in April 2018 completed for April 2019. The funding partnership with SAVOO continues, where a percentage of things bought through SAVOO are donated to NAWO.

2.5. Office and administration

As noted previously it was decided to function without a physical office. A mobile number is used officially.

Big Yellow has provided free storage for NAWO items and an address. This has reduced costs and risks considerably.

2.6. Branches

The Gloucestershire and Wellingborough branch continued throughout the year. Subsequent to the conference at Northampton University in November, there is a desire by the university to establish a branch at the university. There continues to be interest in establishing other branches from members. These continue to be a source of new members to NAWO, funding and a means to support valuable local projects in pursuance of the aims of NAWO.

2.7. Staff

For the year there were no paid staff.

2.8. NAWO AGM and Annual seminar

The previous AGM was held on 3rd April 2019 at Westminster. The MC were thanked for their hard work. (See separate notes of AGM).

2.9. Contributions Made by Volunteers

NAWO has a working MC. Members contribution on the MC is voluntary. The MC is actively engaged in the management and running of the organisation; including the representation of NAWO on boards, forums and committees. MC members take a strategic and hands-on lead in key areas in the work programme and work directly with staff when they are in post. NAWO is hugely grateful to the interns and all other volunteers.

2.10. Gifts in Kind

The value of gifts in kind during the year continues to be considerable, including the expertise, time and expenses of trustees that were donated. We are grateful to Europe House and to the Baha'i Centre for the use of their meeting rooms. We are also grateful to parliamentarians who have kindly hosted events in the Houses of Parliament.

3. Objects, Vision, Mission & Values

As defined by the Constitution, the Charity's objects ("the objects") are to promote education on the position of women and on the inequalities that have been imposed on them by law and custom.

NAWO's vision is a world where all women and girls are able to participate in and influence the decisions that impact on their lives. NAWO's mission is to promote the human rights of all women and girls, with a special focus on gender equality in Europe and internationally by:

- building NAWO's organisational capacity to enable sustainability and increase effectiveness; National Alliance of Women's Organisations
- influencing policies on the UK's commitment and obligations under the Beijing Platform for Action and the implementation of an institutional mechanism for the advancement of women and girls;
- actively including young women in the women's rights agenda;

- continuing to be a conduit for women/girls and their organisations within the UK to Europe and vice versa, in order to influence and advocate on behalf of women of all ages and in all their diversity, thus fully utilising membership of EWL and other European bodies to take forward issues;
- promoting knowledge and understanding within the UK women's movement of the UN and other conventions, treaties, declarations, protocols and resolutions on women's human rights, gender and development, and forge greater links between UK women and the UN.

NAWO continues its model of alliance building and thus ensures that the voices of women and girls of all ages and in all their diversity continue to have the opportunity to have an impact on policy development and implementation at local, national (UK), European and international levels.

NAWO functions within a set of core values that enable women and girls to access their rights and achieve gender equality throughout society. NAWO is committed to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and all members must endorse the principles contained in these documents.

NAWO promotes women's human rights, with a special focus on gender equality by:

- collaboration and consultation with constituent members to represent women's voices to government and decision-makers at all levels, thus ensuring that diversity and intersectionality are considered effectively in terms of the potential impact that they have on women;
- working with sister organisations in Northern Ireland (NIWEP), Scotland (Engender) and Wales (WENWales) as a member of the UKJCW, the United Kingdom's national body representing the concerns and needs of UK women in EWL;
- working alongside worldwide women's NGOs, regularly participate in all UN processes including CSW, CEDAW, HRC, Universal Periodic Review, Agenda 2030, building capacity of its members and accrediting them to participate through NAWO's ECOSOC status;
- working in alliance with UK NGOs by contributing both to the quadrennial NGO Shadow reports as part of UK Government's examination by the CEDAW Committee, and to the Beijing Platform for Action reviews every five years. This approach ensures that the voice of our members has a transformative impact on policy development and implementation at local, national, European and international levels.

3.1. Activities Undertaken for the Public Benefit

NAWO continues to be involved in initiatives, programmes and activities aimed at improving the lives of women and girls. Some of this work includes:

- developing its alliances with other women’s organisations drawn from a wider network;
- continuing to work as the Secretariat of the UK NGO CSW Alliance and developing this mechanism into an effective and extensive network of organisations interested in the UN and its annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW);
- continuing collaboration with the Parliamentary Office of the EU in London at Europe House;
- Istanbul Convention Campaign;
- Strengthening relationships with parliamentarians;
- And the Government Equalities Office; National Alliance of Women's Organisations Page 7 of 11
- Participating in consultation processes with Select Committee and APPGs

3.2. Wider Networks and Partnership Working

3.2.1 Membership of networks

NAWO is a member of a range of networks that has resulted in effective partnership working contributing to achieving the equality agenda and drawing attention to a wide range of issues affecting women. As the UK continues to experience great uncertainty, there is increasing need for unity of vision and action across civil society and we are pleased to maintain and increase our activities in these networks. They include: EAW, the End Violence Against Women Coalition; the Equality and Diversity Forum (EDF), the British Institute for Human Rights Alliance (BIHR), UK Feminista Alliance, European Women’s Lobby (EWL), Feminism in London, Gender and Development Network, UKSSD, Brexit alliance, Stop trafficking alliance and UKNGOCSW Alliance. Various NAWO MC members and other members represent NAWO on these groups. For example NAWO representatives have attended 10 EDF meetings, 5 BIHR meetings, the Human Trafficking Foundation Meetings and many meetings on BREXIT.

3.2.2 Work at all levels

NAWO has been able to maintain its work at national (UK), European and UN levels. We have continued to be a conduit for women in England to Europe. Through EWL we have continued to disseminate European news and information on EWL campaigns. NAWO currently holds the Chair of the UKJCW.

We have retained our ECOSOC status as well as keeping a robust presence at CSW. We have continued to increase engagement in UN processes in Geneva with events in February at CEDAW and HRC and in June at HRC. NAWO also held a number of events during the Women, Peace and Security Agenda activities in New York in October/November 2019. NAWO continued work with other NGOs working on the UK UPR shadow Report, coordinated work with NGOs in preparation for the UK enquiry by CEDAW. NAWO provided the chapter on Goal 5 for the UKSSD shadow report. In addition NAWO coordinated the consultation between the GEO and the UKNGOCSW Alliance for CSW and on the VNR on goals 5 & 10. NAWO also

contributed to civil society discussions on Goal 16 and with the Department of Justice.

3.3. Members

We thank all of our members for their support and commitment to NAWO. NAWO through its membership has ensured that there is a strong, collective and coherent voice that raises awareness on behalf of women. Against the current and continuing challenging backdrop, NAWO continues to build alliances and campaigns on a wide range of issues concerning women and girls.

NAWO is an alliance and without our allies, nothing is possible. However, despite the progress of mechanisms created by women's and development organisations such as the UK NGO CSW Alliance, ERAW, GAPS and GADN and recognised by relevant government departments, there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality. One of the key issues facing the sector is the lack of funding. Things have not improved over the last two years and we are still in a climate when Human Rights within the UK continues to be threatened by the legislative programme and the removal of the UK from the EU, therefore knowledge of and access to human rights, especially for women and girls, continues to be a key focus for NAWO.

4. Achievements and Performance

4.1 Overview

NAWO has continued its work bringing together diverse organisations and providing a platform for our members to have a voice at all levels. Throughout the year, we have held joint events with members and partners addressing topical issues facing women in the world today.

We endeavour to be active in Government and other consultations and provide the opportunity to all members to be part of this process. NAWO continues a good relationship with EHRC. We have also continued our advocacy work towards gender equality in Europe through our membership of the EWL and UKJCW and through a variety of UN processes including CEDAW, UPR, CSW and Agenda 2030.

Through our Young Women's Alliance we have offered training to young feminist activists and provided opportunities for them to be involved and contribute to the work of NAWO and represent the voices of young women. The following sections highlight some of the most significant work we undertook in 2019.

4.2. Attendance at events

NAWO has been invited to participate and speak in numerous events including activities related to CSW and CEDAW.

4.3. External delegations

From time to time delegations of women's organisations from other countries asked to meet with us and NAWO representatives are happy to do so.

4.4. NAWO Events

NAWO continued to hold events through the year, especially with member organisations. Preparation for CSW involves working with Government Equalities Office to hold consultations with member organisations.

4.5. BREXIT and Women's Rights

NAWO has continued its lobbying work and has been involved in a number of campaigns. These include working with other like minded organisations to raise awareness of the parliamentary activity on BREXIT informing members through the newsletter and google group, keeping them abreast of developments, writing letters directly to parliamentarians as well as signing letters and other documents with other organisations in order to ensure the rights of women and girls. NAWO representatives also participated in key meetings including: EDF Strategy Group meetings; WRC Brexit Round table discussion; Mayor of London's strategy meetings.

4.6. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Since 2014, NAWO has been involved in the discussions on the replacement of the MDGs, through the work of members and contributions to the Major Working Group. Since the adoption of Agenda 2030, NAWO continues to raise awareness of the SDGs, specifically those targets related to women and girls. NAWO undertook to write the chapter on Goal 5 for UKSSD shadow report for the High Level Panel.

4.7. European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the UK Joint Committee on Women (UKJCW)

4.7.1. EWL NAWO continues its membership of the UK Joint Committee on Women (UKJCW) representing Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, and through that to the European Women's Lobby. Barbara Cleary, NAWO Vice-Chair, was an elected EWL board member until the AGM in June 2018. Margaret Clark took over as NAWO representative on the UKJCW from April 2019. Zarin Hainsworth continues as the alternate on this group. NAWO continues its strong links with EWL and shares information on all campaigns with sister organisations and members. NAWO was the Chair of UKJCW from June 2018 – current. NAWO supported EWL campaigns and activities including by writing to Select Committees. Full information of these activities was shared with members through the NAWO newsletter.

4.8. Gender Equality Network

NAWO remained engaged in this network hosted by Exeter University

4.9 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62)

4.9.1 NAWO-specific CSW work

The sixty second session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 2019. NAWO continued to support member organisations and actively used its ECOSOC status. We also worked with partner organisations to enable around 60 women and girls to participate in CSW. As usual, NAWO presented a written statement to the UN. NAWO held a number of side events and supported others. We had active participation of the

YWA with a delegation of 24 young women attending CSW and speaking in a variety of events.

4.9.2. CSW 63 preparation and secretariat to UK NGO CSW Alliance

In 2019, NAWO continued its role as Secretariat of the UK NGO CSW Alliance. NAWO Chair Zarin Hainsworth OBE continued as Chair, Five vice-chairs were elected: Dr Wendi Momen MBE, (NAWO member), Pat Black (NAWO MC member), Lynda Dearlove MBE, Shirley Cooper, Kate Horstead (all NAWO members).

The CSW Alliance continued to hold open meetings to discuss key issues, was active in working with the GEO for the pre-CSW meeting, had meetings and liaison group meetings with the GEO, had meetings of the National Alliance of Women's Organisations text expert group working on the zero draft of the outcome document of CSW with GEO, developed a lobbying and media strategy, developed issues papers through consultation which were disseminated and used as lobbying tools, held pre CSW training and post CSW events.

4.10. NAWO Young Women's Alliance (YWA)

The NAWO Young Women's Alliance has grown in profile and there are an increasing number who are keen to see more activity. NAWO was successful in being awarded funding for two Action Learning Conferences, building on learning from previous projects. The aim of the conferences was to enable 60 young women at each conference to develop awareness and skills related to international legal instruments. The conferences held in Stroud and Northampton had over 600 participants, with subsequent related events expected to reach an even greater number. The project was completed for April 2019.

4.11. Campaigns

Throughout the year NAWO continued its work in a variety of advocacy and campaign activity including:

- 80under80project
- GLA Consultation
- NALC Diversity Commission – partnering the Commission to improve representation of women councillors
- Freeforgood Campaign
- WESC Inquiries

Information on these campaigns and activities was shared with the google group and through the newsletter.

5. Financial Review

5.1. Policy on Reserves

Most of the charity's commitments are for restricted funds project grants. As there are no employed staff funds have not been set aside for potential staff costs.

5.2. Details of Any Funds Materially in Deficit

The Charity has no funds that are materially in deficit.

5.3. Principal Sources of Funding

Income: NAWO organisational, associate and individual members pay an annual subscription fee. Fundraising: We would like to thank those who have made significant individual donations. Grant Applications: These are made on a regular basis.

6. Future Plans

NAWO was founded in 1989 as a feminist alliance of women's organisations. Today, NAWO promotes women's human rights, gender equality and social justice within the framework set by the internationally agreed human rights instruments for all women, and within national legislation and the policy frameworks for Europe. Further, NAWO seeks to incorporate emerging concerns of UK and European women by bringing together established and younger organisations to identify and address new challenges.

NAWO always looks to express its reality and that of its members, increasing flexibility to respond to the exigencies of the time whilst staying true and strong to the principles of the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW. As such it continues to strengthen alliances to ensure a strong, collective and coherent voice that raises awareness on behalf of all women throughout the life-course. In addition NAWO aims to strengthen relationships with government and parliamentarians, responding to consultations and enquiries.

NAWO will always take the four-nation approach and seeks to have trustees from all parts of the UK and diversity. NAWO seeks to ensure rights for all women and girls from young to older, across the life-course, including widows. Key themes will remain the abolition of prostitution, ending modern day slavery, empowerment of young women, implementing Agenda 2030 and other international legal instruments. It is still the case that women and girls in the UK remain unaware of the many international laws and conventions that apply to them and with which they can obtain their rights. They are also not as engaged in the UK parliamentary processes as they could be. This remains a key area for NAWO. The branches have proved to be successful and we look to increase the number of branches in the future.

NAWO still needs a more robust financial foundation and this will again be a priority for the coming years.

7. Declaration

The MC Members declare that they have approved the Annual Report above. Signed on behalf of the Charity's Management Committee

Signature: *Pat Black* (Electronic)

Full Name: Pat Black

Position: NAWO Chair

Date: 12 January 2021