

WRDA Statement on the New Decade, New Approach Agreement

The Women's Resource and Development Agency welcomes many of the commitments outlined in the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement. **We are encouraged to see a commitment to deliver on several areas relating to women's rights.** This includes a commitment to deliver equality-based strategies including a childcare strategy, anti-poverty strategy, gender strategy, disability strategy, sexual orientation strategy and more. It is also encouraging to see commitments to address the Gillen Review, to increase funded cycles of IVF treatment, and to extend Welfare Reform mitigations beyond March 2020.

However, there are still many gaps in legislation, strategies and funding related to women in Northern Ireland that needs to be addressed. This



includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence and coercive control legislation that is fit for purpose; tackling gender pay gaps and discrimination; scrapping the Universal Credit Two-Child Limit; addressing the historic underinvestment in rural women; rectifying the under-representation of women in politics, public life and decision-making;

tackling the rise of misogyny as a hate crime, particularly towards trans women, BME women and disabled women; standardising RSE and tackling rape culture; fully supporting and financing perinatal mental health services; mitigating against the impact of Brexit on women and much more.

For three years, the above gaps in legislation alongside inadequate funding provisions and absent, insufficient or outdated strategies have negatively impacted the lives of women in Northern Ireland. **As a regional women's organisation, we look forward with the hope of having meaningful engagement with all political parties and being able to effectively lobby on behalf of the interests of women in Northern Ireland.**

For further information or to request an interview, please contact Rachel Powell, Women's Sector Lobbyist at WRDA rachel.powell@wrda.net

The full text of the agreement is available from www.gov.uk

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WomensResource
andDevelopment
Agency



@WRDA_team
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Hello from Northern Ireland Women's European Platform

NIWEP works to give women in Northern Ireland a voice at the national, European and international level. **The core role of NIWEP is to represent women in NI in Europe**; NIWEP was originally set up in 1988 to act as the NI link to the European Women's Lobby, which is the umbrella organisation for women's networks in Europe. Since 1999, NIWEP has also had consultative status at the UN, which means that **NIWEP can represent NI at the UN.**



NIWEP works with member and partner organisations to collate evidence and represent women's views and priorities. We coordinate the NI

NGO shadow report to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and have a long track record of representing Northern Ireland at examinations of the UK under CEDAW. **NIWEP was also among the organisations that instigated the CEDAW Optional Protocol inquiry into abortion legislation in NI.**

In NI, NIWEP collaborates with organisations in the women's sector to advocate for gender equality and gender sensitive policy making. NIWEP also provides training on international mechanisms such as CEDAW, and aims to build capacity in the sector to use such mechanisms to strengthen advocacy for women's rights and gender equality.

Membership of NIWEP is free and open to organisations as well as individual women. Members get access to information from international networks, as well as training and events. For more information and an application form see contact us at niwep@btconnect.com or (028) 9031 1149.

Focus on Cervical Cancer



Cervical Cancer Prevention week has just ended but it is important to keep the message going all year. **Do you know the signs of cervical cancer?**

Cervical screening aims to prevent cervical cancers by detecting early precancerous changes in the cells that line the cervix.

Women aged 25-49 should be called for a smear test every 3 years and women aged 50-64 should be called every 5 years.



If you are experiencing any of the symptoms of cervical cancer don't wait until your next scheduled screening, book an appointment with your GP. Cervical cancer often has no symptoms in the early stages and so it is vitally important to attend for screening when invited.

Before taking part in WRDA's Breast, Cervical and Bowel Cancer Screening Awareness programme only 69% of women surveyed understood what their cervical smear test result meant. This increased to 99% after the programme.

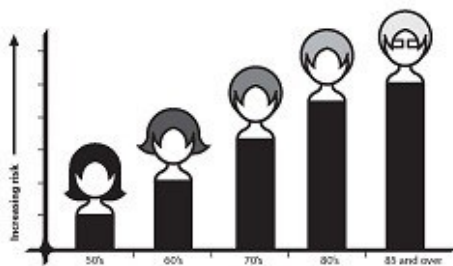
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Breast Screening for Women Over 70

Your risk of breast cancer increases as you get older...

Keep going for screening if you are over 50.

Over 70? Contact your local screening centre for an appointment.



Report any changes to your breasts to your GP.

www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk

Cancer Screening Programmes



If you are over 70 you are more at risk of developing breast cancer than a younger woman. This is because the risk of getting breast cancer increases with age. About 1 in 3 of all breast cancers occur in women over the age of 70. Women over the age of 70 are not automatically invited for Breast Screening but are encouraged to contact their local Breast Screening Centre every 3 years to make an appointment to attend.

WRDA work alongside the Breast Screening Units in the five health trusts and can make referrals for groups to attend special screening clinics for catching up if people miss appointments. In the last few weeks the women at Glencairn Day Centre Belfast took part in WRDA's Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Awareness Programme. During the breast session it was discovered that the women in the group had not attended mammogram for nearly 10 years. On further discovery the number increased to over 30 women who have missed appointments for screening.

Using our referral system WRDA were able to link Glencairn Day Centre to the Breast Screening Clinic at Linenhall Street and arrange special screenings for this group. **A great example of how the programme can raise awareness of breast screening services.** We are delighted to be able to offer this wrap around service to our women's groups.

We encourage all women to regularly check their breasts and report any changes to their GP immediately.

Changes can include:

- ⇒ A change in the size or shape of your breast
- ⇒ Any obvious lumps or thickening under the skin of your breasts or armpits
- ⇒ Any dents, puckering or dimpling of your breast
- ⇒ Veins that stand out more than normal
- ⇒ A change in the position of your nipples-pulled inwards or pointing in a different direction
- ⇒ Any discharge or bleeding from your nipples
- ⇒ Any pain or discomfort in your breasts, underarms or nipples
- ⇒ A rash around your nipples
- ⇒ Any change in sensation in your breasts
- ⇒ Any swelling or lumps around your collarbone

If you are over 70 and would like to make an appointment for mammogram please contact your local Breast Screening Unit:

Belfast and South Eastern HSC Trusts:

02890333700

Southern HSC Trust: 02838397020

Northern HSC Trust: 02894424425

Western HSC Trust: 02871671443

Special Screening Clinics can be facilitated across NI. If you have a group of women that would be interested in taking part in the Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Awareness Programme please contact the Training and Development Team at WRDA on 02890230212.



Mike Nesbitt MLA and Colin McGrath MLA invite you to the launch of **Sectarianism: The Key Facts**, a framework report on tackling institutional sectarianism in Northern Ireland

12pm to 2pm, Monday 17 February 2020,
Room 115, Parliament Buildings, Stormont



Commissioned by the Equality Coalition, independent researcher Dr Robbie McVeigh has authored a piece of research on contemporary sectarianism in Northern Ireland. The 40 page report looks at 'institutional sectarianism' in NI - especially where there is evidence of sectarianism in decision-making - and puts forward recommendations for state action on sectarianism.

The launch of **Sectarianism: The Key Facts** will open with an introduction from Equality Coalition Co-Conveners Patricia McKeown (UNISON) and Daniel Holder (CAJ). Dr McVeigh will then share some of the main findings from his report. There will also be a panel discussion on sectarianism with Seán Brady (PPR), Elaine Crory (Belfast Feminist Network & WRDA), Kat Healy (Social Justice Trust), Gráinne Ní Ghilín (An Dream Dearg), and Rachel Powell (Women's Sector Lobbyist). Time will be set aside at the event for questions from the audience.

All welcome. Lunch will be provided at the start of the event. Please email events@caj.org.uk to register, stating any access or dietary requirements.

"The legacy of institutionalised sectarianism in infrastructure and planning throughout the state casts a long shadow across contemporary NI."

Excerpt from *Sectarianism: The Key Facts*

The Equality Coalition is co-convened by UNISON and the Committee on the Administration of Justice



Feminist Quiz Night

LOTS OF PRIZES

LOTS OF PRIZES

Speakeasy Bar
Belfast

wednesday 4th
March

7.30pm - 10pm

£2 per person on the night. All
proceeds to WRDA

028 9023 0212 . info@wrda.net

Focus on Cervical Cancer Continued



1 in 4 women don't attend for a smear test when invited

WRDA's ground breaking Breast, Cervical and Bowel Screening Awareness programme was developed to tackle the low uptake of screening invitations by women living in some areas of NI.

The programme is delivered by **Community Facilitators who have completed our accredited Level 3 Certificate in Learning and Development.**

The programme consists of three sessions and aims to raise awareness of the screening available, encourage participants to attend and explores and addresses any fears surrounding the screening process.



Cervical Screening can prevent up to 75% of cervical cancers from developing

The programme can also be tailored to meet the requirements of groups with additional needs such as sight impairment, learning disability and speakers of other languages.

The programme is available free for community groups, if you would like to find out more call the office on 028 9023 0212.