



Women's

RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Supporting Women's Groups and Networks Across Northern Ireland

Newsletter ~ January 2021

Raise Your Voice Project: Going from Strength to Strength in 2021



The Raise Your Voice project is still running and has been very busy in recent months. Our motion to recognise misogyny as a category of hate crime passed two more Councils in Antrim & Newtownabbey and Newry, Mourne & Down, bringing our total to seven Councils.

We have also submitted a response to the Consent to Serious Harm for Sexual Gratification:

Not a Defence consultation, also known as the "Rough Sex Defence". In our response we proposed a solution that we believe is better than the approach taken in England and Wales because it would create a new category of offence so that these crimes no longer need to be prosecuted as manslaughter. We believe that a new law can deliver justice for victims and their families and paired with education we can change the culture that has contributed to the rise in these kinds of crimes. You can read our full response on our website (www.raiseyourvoice.community and then select 'News and Resources').

You can also sign up to the Raise Your Voice ezine while on the website, or watch a recording of the event we ran alongside Common Youth for the Northern Ireland Human Rights Festival, called Consent in Media: From Doris Day to Normal People.

We have exciting plans for 2021, so do keep an eye out to see what we are organising for International Women's Day and beyond.

There is still time to book workshops, too, so do get in touch if you want to book for your group, or keep an eye out for more public online workshops.



In This Issue

Raise Your Voice Project: Going from Strength to Strength in 2021

Maternal Advocacy and Support Project Keeps Going Through Lockdown

Good Relations Programme Now Online

Upcoming Events and Reading Groups



@WRDA_team



@WomensResourceandDevelopmentAgency

Our Good Relations Programme is Online Now

WRDA's Good Relations programme is now taking place online and it is open to women and non-binary people who are not currently affiliated with any groups or women's centres as well as to women's groups.

In seeking to hear from as many women as possible, we will hold two initial meetings via Zoom at lunchtime and in the evening on Monday 1st February, so that we can get an idea of what time best suits our participants – we know many of you are home-schooling or working from home right now, and we are eager to accommodate that as much as possible. This programme is short and focuses on examining current issues in communities across NI, looking at the issues from a gendered perspective and workshopping solutions.

For more information or to register please contact elaine.crory@wrda.net

WRDA needs you!

We want to hear from women who are unaffiliated with women's centres or groups for a chat about Community Relations issues in NI

Join us via Zoom on either:

Monday 1st February at 1pm or at 5.30pm

Register: elaine.crory@wrda.net



MAs Project Keeps Going Through Lockdown



The Mas Project workers are still supporting mums during lockdown, with individual one to one support and some centre's will facilitate groups online.

If you or someone you know would like to join one of the peer support groups that focus on maternal mental health related issues, contact your nearest Women's Centre. Our Mas hubs include:

- Falls Women's Centre
- Windsor Women's Centre
- Greenway Women's Centre
- Footprints Women's Centres
- Atlas Centre, Lisburn
- Women's Centre Derry
- Strathfoyle

WRDA is delighted that the long awaited funding for a specialists perinatal mental health community service model for NI has been approved. This service will make a huge difference for women who meet the criteria for specialist support. We look forward to the development of this service across all 5 trusts, particularly at this time when covid 19 restrictions impact and increase isolation for new mums.

Abolitionist Futures Reading Group Starting in March

Prisons are not
working for the
imprisoned or the
wider community



Do you question whether prisons are the best response to harms in society and whether the police actually function to bring about a safer society?

The Women's Regional Consortium is running an Abolitionist Futures reading group to discuss these issues and to **think about how we could build a world without prisons and policing**. Our first meeting will be on Thursday 11th March at a time to be decided by the reading group members. The reading group will last for seven meetings with the frequency of meetings to be either weekly, fortnightly or monthly depending on what the group decides.

If you are interested please sign up by emailing Megan on info@wrda.net.

We would like to thank Abolitionist Futures for making these materials available for use.

The Role of Women in the Revival of the Irish language



The Role of Women in the Revival of the Irish Language

Thursday 25th February
7pm
Zoom

Join WRDA on the 25th of February at 7pm over Zoom to discuss this interesting topic. The event will cover the Gaelic Revival, establishment of the Belfast Gaeltacht and widening participation. Confirmed panelists include Margaret Ward and Linda Ervine.

You can register for the event on Eventbrite.

Making Feminism Trans Inclusive



Making Feminism Trans Inclusive

Thursday 4th March
7pm
Zoom

Join WRDA on the 4th of March at 7pm over Zoom to learn more about what Trans Inclusive Feminism means and how to put it into practice. The panelists will be Alexa Moore from Transgender NI and Joanne McParland from Cara Friend.

You can register for the event on Eventbrite.