



# Women's

## RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Supporting Women's Groups and Networks Across Northern Ireland

### Newsletter ~ August/September 2022

#### BELFAST FEMINIST FILM SCHOOL



Are you interested in feminist filmmaking approaches?  
Would you like to explore this through making a short film?  
Would you like to have the opportunity to try out different roles such as directing, camera/cinematography, sound and editing?

Do you identify as she/her? Are you a cisgender, non-binary or trans woman who is interested in filmmaking but feel you've never had the opportunity to try it out?

We have 20 places available on our inaugural Belfast Feminist Film School, a 5-day programme from 9am-5pm Monday 5th September to Friday 9th September 2022 at Ulster University's Belfast campus, York Street. All participants must be able to fully commit to attend all sessions so please do make sure you have the space and time for the full week's events.

The programme will be led by Dr Jolene Mairs Dyer, Dr Jennie Carlsten and Oonagh Parish. We will introduce you to feminist film theory and we will spend time watching and discussing films from key female filmmakers. We will provide hands-on practical sessions introducing you to screenwriting, camera /cinematography, sound recording and editing. Lunch, tea and coffee breaks will be provided each day. The final session on Friday will be followed by a pizza party, a screening of your films and a feminist disco.

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Registration fee is £25 per person.

To express your interest in taking part please click this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1JVvhmOBES6gUSrIEDWGYgXNwMt9KglNgHqnshJF5AUw/edit>

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A Visible Force  
for Change



@womensrda



@WRDA\_team



@WomensResourceand  
DevelopmentAgency

## Cancer Screening BCB Sessions



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 bowel session is available to both men and women and like the breast and cervical sessions can be fully tailored to meet the needs of groups with additional needs such as sight impairment, learning disability or non-English speakers.

Bowel cancer is the second most common cancer in NI. Around 1 in 20 people will be diagnosed with bowel cancer and around 430 people die from the disease. Early detection is key to improved survival rates and the recently introduced FIT home screening kit is key to this. It is also a good idea to be aware of the symptoms of bowel cancer.

WRDA launched a cervical cancer campaign during the pandemic to encourage women to attend cervical screenings in a bid to raise awareness.

Women can access this information in three ways:

- Zoom group sessions where women can ask questions and hear others' concerns
- a pre-recorded webinar video is also available to watch at any time

- a new animated video provides essential information to give a good introduction to cervical screening.

The cervical screening test, often called a 'smear test', checks the cells from the cervix, which is the lower part of the womb. Early detection and treatment can prevent eight out of 10 cases of cervical cancer. All women and people with a cervix aged 25 to 64 are invited by letter to make an appointment for cervical screening at their GP surgery.

Breast Cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in Northern Ireland. One in ten women in NI will develop breast cancer and treatment for early stage breast cancer can be more effective and less complicated than at later stages. It is vitally important to know the signs to look out for which is why regular self-examination is so important.

WRDA's breast screening programme is free and can be adapted for groups with additional needs such as learning disability or sight loss. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are now running our programme online and you can complete it as an individual or in group.

In a previous programme only 30% of women surveyed felt they knew how to self-examine correctly, this increased to 97% after the programme.

If you are part of a community group you can avail of these services for free.

Please contact **Katherine Robertson** on [katherine.robertson@wrda.net](mailto:katherine.robertson@wrda.net) or on **077 8361 1744** to find out more.

For groups with additional support needs please contact **Paula Murray** on [Paula.Murray@wrda.net](mailto:Paula.Murray@wrda.net)



## Note from Rachel Powell – Women's Sector Lobbyist:



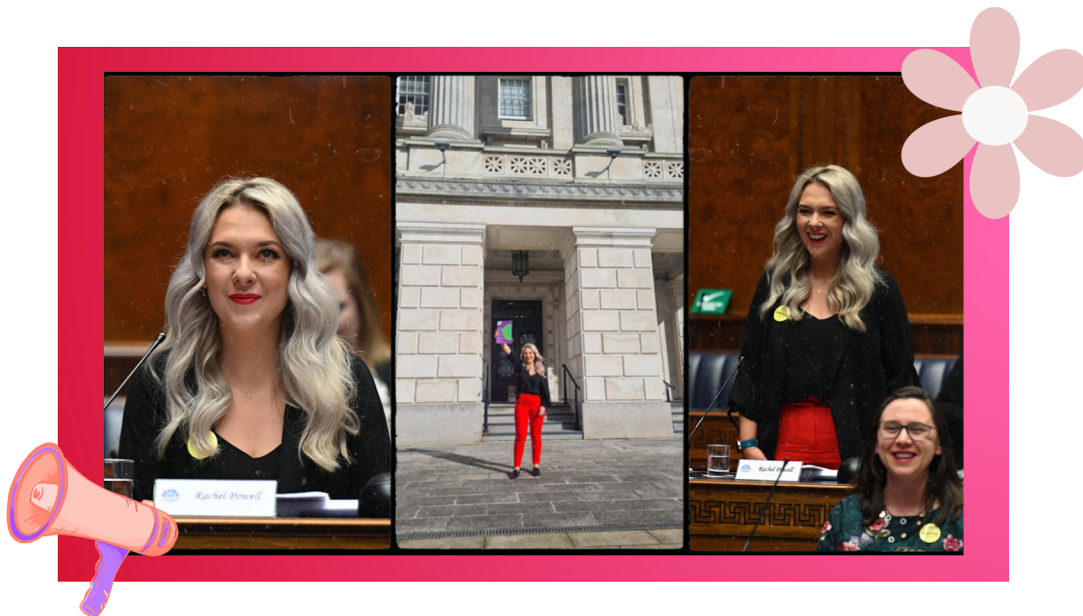
I'm really sad to share the news that I will be leaving my role as Women's Sector Lobbyist at WRDA at the end of August. I have had the most incredible time working as the Women's Sector Lobbyist over the past three years, and will miss working with all the amazing women in the sector.

Some highlights have been the amazing work by the Women's Policy Group to develop the Feminist Recovery Plan, our work on gathering the views of 1000+ women on Violence Against Women and Girls, the first ever Women's Parliament in the Northern Ireland Assembly and so much more.

It has been a real honour getting to work with some many women and girls across Northern Ireland this past three years to ensure that women are visible forces for change. I know the team at WRDA will continue to do absolutely amazing things, and I can't wait to watch what else happens and continue to be involved in feminist activism.

Thank you to all my colleagues and the amazing members of WRDA and the Women's Policy Group for everything over the past three years.

Rachel x



## Save The Date - AGM



**The AGM is on the 10th Nov from 11-1 in NICVA**

**To register early please contact us - [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net)**





## Morning After Pill now free at selected pharmacies in NI



The emergency contraception pill (the morning after pill) is now available for **FREE** in selected pharmacies in Northern Ireland.

We are thrilled to see that this essential medication has become more accessible to women in the north.

If you want to find your nearest pharmacy supplying the free morning after pill then please click the link below:

<https://hscbusiness.hscni.net/pdf/EHC%20Service%20Providers%20List%20July%202022.xlsx>

## In My Own Words Creative writing project



In My Own Words is a creative writing project delivered by independent Theatre Company Prime Cut Productions. **The project is your chance to contribute an Anthology of New Writing from women across Belfast.**

WRDA will be hosting a group of 15 women to take part in the project. The classes will start on the 13th of September and will run from 10am to 12pm in WRDA's office building, 6 Mount Charles BT7 1NZ. The programme will run for ten weeks.

### To take part you must:

- Be a woman (cis or trans)
- Be aged 30+
- Live in Belfast City Council area



To take part email [info@wrda.net](mailto:info@wrda.net)