



National  
Council of  
Women GB

For a fair and  
inclusive society

# July 2025 Member Newsletter

Welcome to the newsletter of the National Council of Women GB. In the July issue – date for your diary: **Autumn Event and AGM 11 October 2025**; update on internet harms, see page 2; next on-line event ‘How to Prevent Trafficking of Women’ (page 3 for details); a chance to get involved in a new subcommittee, see page 3. Also, we would like your thoughts and experiences on Adult Social care, see page 6 for details

## President's Message

Dear NCW Members

I'm just back from the Triennial General Assembly of the International Council of Women held in Marrakesh last week. It was my first experience of the ICW meeting and it was a huge pleasure to be with so many women from so many countries united in a common cause: inspirational!

I was delighted to be asked to give a paper on the first day about **mentoring**. I spoke about our work with young women and also how our events and activities enable older women to be mentors to younger women and to be mentored themselves. If you would like a copy of the talk, just let us know. As you'll see elsewhere in the newsletter, we also had two key **resolutions on climate change and on online harms** adopted by ICW and the European ECICW. All in all, a very successful meeting for NCWGB!

Our next online event will be on the crucially important topic of **trafficking**, put the date in your diary: 24 July at 12.30. More details in this newsletter.

And don't forget that the **Autumn meeting and AGM** will be held on Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bannatyne Hotel in central Darlington, which is close to the railway station and has parking. It will be a hybrid event and we hope as many of you as possible will come in person: it's so good to meet up!

If you have ideas for events or would like to be more active in NCWGB, don't hesitate to contact me.

With very best wishes

Jilly Rogers  
National President



## NCWGB Autumn event and AGM 2025

### A date for your Diary!

The 2025 NCWGB Autumn event and AGM will be held on **Saturday 11 October 2025** at Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington, DL3 7HZ. There will also be an option to attend on line.

Further information to follow.

## Membership Renewal

We want to thank you for your invaluable support for NCWGB and to remind you that NCWGB membership renewals are now due. We are pleased to let you know we are not increasing the fees this year.

We really need your membership for our continuing campaigns such as girls' and women's safety on the internet and to protect the environment from climate change. Membership numbers are needed behind these campaigns for influence.

We will be contacting all members individually to confirm your membership status and ways in which you are able to renew, if you haven't already done so.

## Members news

Please give a warm welcome to new members/associates:

- Amy Cubey - Stockport
- Sian Clark - Beckenham, Kent (Network 18-30)
- SignHealth (Associate)

We look forward to seeing you at future NCW meetings and events.



*Representatives of the countries in Europe in membership of ECICW: a formidable group of women!*

### **Resolution on online harms passed at ECICW!**

At the annual meeting of the European Committee of the International Council of Women (ECICW) NCWGB put forward a resolution calling for protections for all especially children and women from online harms. The resolution was unanimously passed by all the countries present. This builds on NCW's campaign where we call for what is illegal offline to be illegal online. The resolution calls on all countries in membership of ECICW to lobby government to introduce and strengthen legislation to protect their populations for online harms. Council are working to share information about the effects of social media and violent and abusive online content so that we can work closely together to combat the influence of the tech giants.

### **Resolution to ICW on climate change**

NCWGB is delighted that their resolution on climate change was unanimously passed at the recent ICW General Assembly in Marrakesh last week. NCW Canada seconded the resolution and it was drafted by Ann Davison, Vice president NCWGB. The resolution calls on Councils throughout the world to lobby governments to work with the global community to strengthen climate action plans for urgent and transformative action to reduce global warming. As NCW has stressed, climate change has disproportionate effects on women and it is critical that women's organisations campaign to share experiences and examples of how to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change.

This resolution strengthens the role that ICW, all council around the world, and NCWGB can play to work to support women and girls in the fight against the effects of climate change.



*NCWGB president Jilly Rogers with Martine Marandel, President of ICW*

### **Internet Harms**

The government has replied to the letter we sent calling for more protection from internet harms on behalf of Global Action Plan; NFWI; BFWG; BPW UK; Townswomen's Guilds; Soroptimists International; Wales Assembly of Women; Girls Friendly Society; NAWO; The Scottish Women's Convention; Women's Resource Centre; Young Women's Trust; UNA Women's Advisory Council; IKWRO Women's Rights Organisation. The letter repeats their commitment to halving violence against women and girls. They agree that the UK must lead globally in countering harms online and tackling violence against women and girls.

They describe the efforts to tackle online sexual exploitation, stalking, controlling or coercive behaviour, extreme pornography and intimate image abuse through the Online Safety Act. They explain how it aims to prevent children from seeing the most harmful content such as pornography, and content that promotes, encourages or provides instructions for self-harm, suicide and eating disorders. They also pay attention to the role of algorithms and user empowerment measures

They are working closely with international partners to tackle Deep fakes e.g. at the Paris AI Action Summit in February 2025 and are committed to banning the creation of sexually explicit deepfake images, they also describe how existing regulation can be applied to online harms.

We will be following up the response in detail, working with the co signatories.

We are very grateful to members for making this work possible.

**Free online event open to all. RSVP now to secure your spot!**



It is harrowing to hear about the abuse of trafficked women. Our event will focus on positive actions to disrupt these human rights violations.

Our keynote speaker is **Eleanor Lyons** - the **Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner for the UK**. She previously served as Deputy Children's Commissioner for England. Her role involves leading efforts to combat modern slavery by working with various stakeholders to prevent exploitation, protect victims, and improve support systems. The Commission encourages good practice sharing amongst all those with a role to play in tackling every aspect of modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK

Two guests from the US will also present the findings of an Apne Aap and university collaboration on how businesses can disrupt trafficking

**Dr. Sylvia Maier** is Academic Director and Clinical Professor in the Center for Global Affairs where she leads the MSGA Concentration in Global Gender Studies, the annual CGA Global Field Intensive to the UAE, and serves as faculty adviser to the MSGA Gender Working Group. Sylvia's principal fields of interest and expertise are women's rights with a particular focus on Western Europe, Latin America, the UAE and wider GCC, Iraqi Kurdistan, and Afghanistan, where she has taught and conducted extensive field research. Sylvia is especially interested in gender-inclusive urban planning and design, as well as the politics of gendered integration and multiculturalism in Western Europe, chiefly the legal responses to honor-based violence against women.

**Nidhi Jariwala** is a graduate of New York University, where she earned a Master of Science in Global Affairs with a concentration in International Development and Humanitarian Assistance. She holds a bachelor's in Economics & Global Studies and has previously worked in refugee resettlement agencies. Nidhi has conducted research on corruption as a key enabler of human trafficking in India.

Join us to find out what positive actions are being taken to prevent trafficking of women.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1441149249199?aff=oddtcreator>

## YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

## New Subcommittee

NCW is setting up a subcommittee for deaf and hard of hearing women, family members and professionals. Please get in touch with the office if you would like to be involved.

## Women's Action in Combatting Climate Change – 6 June 2025

### Speakers at the Women's Action in Combatting Climate Change event

Top row L to R: Sheila Rosewell, NCWGB Admin Secretary; Jilly Rogers, NCWGB President

Second row L to R: Dr Elizabeth Perry, Anglican Communion; Emma Holland-Lindsay, NFWI Director of Campaigns and Membership

Third row L to R: Ann Davison, NCW Vice President; Professor Jagbir Jhutti Johal OBE, Women's Faith Forum

Bottom row: Nima Suchak, Women's Faith Forum



National Council of Women GB continued to challenge apathy about climate change at our June seminar during Great Big Green Week.

Women are active everywhere seeking to protect the planet -

The WI reported on its network of climate ambassadors, often using craft to highlight to politicians the need for action.

The Anglican Communion described the Communion Forest whereby Anglicans all over the world are protecting forests and planting trees.

The Women's Faith Network described the hardship faced by women in developing countries hit by climate change. They bear the burden of collecting water and firewood and have less chance to move or get finance to adapt.

'Our role as humans is to protect the planet. We are merely caretakers'

We were delighted to attend **Centenary Action's 'Women in Parliament'** event on Tuesday 1 July, held in partnership with the All-Party Political Group.



Jilly, Ruth and five of our Network 18-30 members visited Westminster, to hear reflections from a cross-party panel about the progress made, the barriers that remain, and what action is needed to achieve a gender-equal Parliament.

This event took place on the eve of the anniversary of equal suffrage – 97 years since women first gained the right to vote on the same terms as men. With just three years until the centenary in 2028, this moment provides both a chance to reflect on the progress made in increasing women's representation and an opportunity to galvanise action towards our mutual mission of achieving a gender equal parliament by 2028.

Led by Dawn Butler MP, Co-Chair of the APPG Women in Parliament, we heard about a diverse range of experience from Seema Malhotra MP, Equalities Minister, Labour; Mims Davies MP, Shadow Women Minister, Conservative; Christine Jardine MP, Women and Equalities Spokesperson, Liberal Democrats; Llinos Medi MP, Equalities Spokesperson, Plaid Cymru; Ellie Chowns MP, Green Party; Kirsty Blackman MP, SNP; and Helen Pankhurst CBE, founder of Centenary Action. The life of an MP is tough, and we honour the women who chose to take that role.

It was a great opportunity to meet other like-minded women, and was particularly enjoyed by our younger members; two of whom want to follow a career in Politics.



## Your Views

We welcome your letters on any topic you like. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on the space available. The views expressed in readers' letters are their own and do not necessarily represent those of NCWGB.

### Monday 14th July is the Day of Remembrance for Victims of So Called 'Honour-Based' Abuse

What is So Called 'Honour-Based' Abuse?

It is abuse perpetrated to protect, defend or preserve the 'honour' of a family and/or community against perceived shameful behaviour.

Examples are (but not limited to):

- Forced Marriage
- Constant Surveillance
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Disownment or Ostracisation

'Honour' is the motive for the abuse - not a defence. Cultural sensitivity should never mean accepting abuse.

HBA is not determined by one single culture or religion. It can occur across various communities

Perceived 'Dishonourable' Behaviour may include:

- Having a partner the family disproves of (especially if outside the family's religion, caste, or ethnicity)
- Engaging in premarital sex or being suspected of it
- Refusing an arranged or forced marriage
- Asking for a divorce

Being LGBTQ+ or gender non-conforming

Wearing Western-style clothing or clothing deemed 'revealing'

Everyone has the right to live how they want and live who they want.

Network 18-30 Member, Betty

### Have you considered leaving a gift to NCWGB in your Will?

NCW's ongoing work depends upon the generosity of our supporters, and we were recently contacted by the family of a past member who had left us a donation in her Will, our thoughts and condolences are with her family and friends. Leaving money to charity in your Will is a powerful way to support causes close to your heart.

Charitable donations made in your Will are exempt from inheritance tax, meaning the full value of your gift will be sent to your chosen charity. This not only benefits the charity, but also ensures that you're using your estate to make a positive impact. More about Inheritance tax can be found by following this link: [Tax relief when you donate to a charity: Leaving gifts to charity in your will - GOV.UK](#)

If you would like to consider leaving a gift to NCW, or any charity in your Will, we recommend you seek advice and guidance from a solicitor or professional adviser who specialises in Wills and estates. This is the best way to understand the legal requirements and help ensure your wishes are accurately reflected in your Will. By seeking professional advice, you can also get the answers to any questions you may have. It is also important you review and update your Will regularly so it reflects any changes in your circumstances or charitable preferences.

If you feel you could support NCW through your Will you'll be helping to ensure we can continue to bring together women of all ages to discuss, influence and work together to achieve a fair and inclusive society.

## Adult Social Care: tell us your experiences

At our AGM last year, we passed a resolution calling upon the UK Government to deliver a robust, fair and efficient alternative to ease the funding crisis that Adult Social Care is in [Resolution on Adult Social Care - National Council of Women](#)

Following an excellent online debate on the subject in February we would now like to ask you, our members, to share your thoughts and experiences (both good and bad) about adult social care. Please could you also consider the following questions and let us know your opinions? We can use this as anecdotal evidence to support our resolution.

1. The King's Fund has gathered public opinion already on this and, to quote Simon Bottery, Senior Fellow (Social Care) at the King's Fund, "the public expects that there should be a partnership between the individual and the state, with the individual taking some responsibility for their costs, particularly in old age" Do you agree?
2. What do you think about a "social insurance-type system" (to quote Sir Andrew Dilnot, at the recent Health and Social Care Committee - Adult Social Care Reform meeting on 08/01/2025)?
3. Do you think that the current means-tested system would be fair if it was properly funded? Meaning people pay a certain amount towards their own care and that this is then backed up by public money via the government?
4. The Social Care central fund needs topping up now – would you be happy with the idea of a social insurance-type system or levy to do this? This would in effect be a tax hike, are you comfortable with this?
5. If there was an insurance type fund, then should any owned property be ring-fenced from this so that people can pass property onto whomever they wish?
6. A levy of course means that most people will pay extra out of their own money (not all of course as some do not pay taxes for a variety of reasons) and there is always the case that someone will pay into this levy but never receive anything personally from it. How do you feel about that?

We would love to hear from you on these ideas, please don't feel you need to answer all the questions, and of course we want to hear about your own experiences. Although we would like to use some of your responses to support our resolution and possibly add them to our social media channels and future newsletters, please be assured that all quotes will be anonymised and we will not share your name.

Please get in touch via [info@ncwgb.org](mailto:info@ncwgb.org)



**Connect, Challenge, Change**