

## NFWI-Wales Public Affairs contacts

Rhian Connick, Head of NFWI-Wales: [r.connick@nfwl-wales.org.uk](mailto:r.connick@nfwl-wales.org.uk)

Sarah Thomas, Public Affairs Officer: [s.thomas@nfwl-wales.org.uk](mailto:s.thomas@nfwl-wales.org.uk)



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# NFWI-WALES

## Public Affairs Bulletin

### Public Affairs Conference – 12 October 2016

A Public Affairs Conference will be held on the Royal Welsh Showground in Llanellwedd on 12 October 2016. The event will include a combination of keynote speakers and workshops. The conference fee is £10 and this includes tea/coffee on arrival, a finger buffet lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. To register an interest in attending, please contact the NFWI-Wales Office at [walesoffice@nfwl-wales.org.uk](mailto:walesoffice@nfwl-wales.org.uk)

### Public Affairs Network

NFWI-Wales is keen to improve direct communication with WI members and is currently updating its database of members who directly receive the Public Affairs Bulletins and other campaigning communications. If you would like to receive bulletins and campaign updates from the NFWI-Wales Office, please e-mail [walesoffice@nfwl-wales.org.uk](mailto:walesoffice@nfwl-wales.org.uk) with your contact details. If you are currently on our mailing group and would like to continue to be so, please also contact us to confirm this.

### Not in my Name Campaign

Since 2012, NFWI-Wales has been involved in the Not in my Name Campaign to recruit male ambassadors in speaking out against violence against women. This year's campaign was supported by athletics star Christian Malcolm, Pontypridd RFC, Llandrindod Wells RFC, Llandrindod Wells fire station, Bethesda RFC, Whitland Male Voice Choir, Brecon Ford, Brecon Southern Vauxhall, Aberhonddu Male Voice Choir, Brecon Bowling Club, Rhiwbina Ramblers Association and upper sixth boys at St Teilo's School, Cardiff High School and Whitchurch High School.



To mark International White Ribbon Day on 25 November, NFWI-Wales jointly organised with Joyce Watson AM, a lunchtime debate at the Senedd followed by a candlelight vigil at dusk on the steps of the Senedd.

The lunchtime event, chaired by Joyce Watson AM, heard from a domestic abuse survivor from Llamau; NFWI-Chair Ann Jones; Leighton Andrews AM, Minister for Public Services; and Rhian Bowen-Davies, the newly appointed National Adviser for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. The event ended with an upbeat performance by homeless charity Llamau choir. Ahead of the candlelight vigil,

Fitzalan High School's Steel Pan Band entertained supporters at the Pierhead building. Supporters then took a short walk to the Senedd steps where they were addressed by the First Minister of Wales, The Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM; Welsh Women's Aid ambassador Rachel Williams who was shot by her husband in 2011, and now campaigns to support other women through Welsh Women's Aid; NFWI-Chair Ann Jones; and cross-party representatives – William Powell AM (Liberal Democrats); Rhun ap Iorwerth (Plaid Cymru); Jane Hutt (Labour); and David Melding (Deputy Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales / Conservative).



## Climate Change

### Wales Climate Action Day

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held its 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Paris in December. Ahead of the COP 21 conference, hundreds of people from across Wales joined SCC Cymru in Cardiff on 28 November to call for stronger action on climate change in Wales and for decision-makers at the UN talks to reach a fair, global deal on action to tackle climate change.

A mass bike ride took place from the city centre to the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. This was followed by a rally on the steps of the Senedd where entertainment was provided and supporters were addressed by representatives from civil society and cross-party representatives.



### Climate Change: Commitment to Action

NFWI-Wales Chair Ann Jones addressed an event organised by the Climate Change Commission for Wales at the Wales Millennium Centre on 7 December. She spoke about importance of tackling climate change and the role that WI members have played over the years through various projects and campaigns.

### Show the love on Valentine's Day

The NFWI is calling on WI members to take action on Valentine's Day to demonstrate their commitment to tackling climate change and to show their love for the planet. Members are being asked to make, wear and

share green hearts as a way to start a conversation about what they love and how it could be affected by climate change. Last year people made hearts for wetland birds whose habitats might be lost, and for their grandchildren, in the hopes for a clean and bright future for future generations.

Your green heart can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. From drawing a green heart on your own, or your Valentine's hand, to crafting an intricate heart – it is your way of showing you care about our changing climate, and starting a conversation. Get your friends, family and whole community involved. Every single discussion about climate change is part of a bigger conversation, and we're asking you to take part in this conversation.

A Green Hearts pack and other resources are available from the following link: - <http://fortheloveof.org.uk/show-the-love-green-hearts/> To find out more or get involved, please contact the Public Affairs Department. E-mail: [publicaffairs@nfwf.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@nfwf.org.uk)



### **SOS for Honeybees**

The NFWI and Friends of the Earth held its second Bee Summit in London on 9 November. The Summit focused on progress being made with the UK's National Pollinator Strategy and the action plans of the devolved nations; showcased best practice in supporting bees and other pollinators; and built momentum for ambitious action for pollinators across the UK.

The NFWI-Wales Chair, Ann Jones spoke about the achievements of the WI's SOS for Honey Bees campaign and the commitment of WI members in tackling climate change. She said that the WI wants to achieve a world

where a changed climate has not decimated the future of either our grandchildren or our wildlife and announced that the WI will be combining its efforts to tackle climate change with promoting more bee (and pollinator) friendly environments.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

At the UN General Assembly in September, world leaders formally agreed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in January 2016. Building on the blueprint for development set out by the MDGs, the SDGs set out a development framework for the next generation with 17 target goals covering a broad range of issues, from ending poverty and hunger to improving health and education, achieving gender equality and combating climate change. Further information: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

### **Change to Organ Donor law**

On 1 December, a soft opt-out system for organ donation came into force in Wales. Under the new system, people in Wales will be deemed to have given their consent to donate their organs unless they opt-out. NFWI-Wales has warmly welcomed the new legislation in Wales as an opportunity to raise the number of organ donors and save or improve more lives, however it also recognises the many challenges ahead to ensure that the legislation actually translates to save more lives.



Family members' refusal to give consent remains one of the principal obstacles to organ donation with the UK's overall family consent rate being the lowest in Europe and under the new soft opt-out system, families in Wales will continue to play an important part in the donation process. NFWI-Wales urges members to continue to make time to talk about organ donation with their loved ones.

Further information about the new law is available from the Organ Donation Wales website:-  
<http://organdonationwales.org/?lang=en> The NFWI-Wales statement about the new law is available at  
<https://www.thewi.org.uk/wi-in-wales/news-and-events/wi-members-welcome-historic-change-to-organ-donation-law>

To help us evaluate the campaign please take this short survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WIorgandonation>

### **The WI at 100: A Century of Inspiring Women**



In September, NFWI launched 'The WI at 100' report which delves into the views and opinions of WI members, and highlights some of the achievements from our 100-year history.

The research, which was presented at a special WI-style meeting at the Houses of Parliament, reports on WI members' attitudes around the key areas of home and families, work and society, health and well-being, the natural world, and our global society. The research showed that while life has changed significantly for women over the past 100 years, both old and new challenges are faced by WI members.

Key findings from the research include the following:-

- 70% disagree that women are equal to men;
- 59% agree that women are penalised in the workplace for having children;
- 84% say it is difficult to balance family responsibilities with work;
- 83% agree world leaders must urgently agree a deal to tackle climate change;
- 78% agree that there are not enough positive role models for girls.

The full report is available on the NFWI website – [www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/news-and-events/current-news-and-events/the-wi-at-100-a-century-of-inspiring-women](http://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns/news-and-events/current-news-and-events/the-wi-at-100-a-century-of-inspiring-women)

For more information regarding the report and the research please contact [l.plotkin@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:l.plotkin@nfwl.org.uk)