

## **Cross-Party Group Women**

### **Annual Report**

December 2022

#### **Overview**

The Cross-Party Group on Women exists to promote stronger protection of women's rights. Siân Gwenllian MS chairs of the group. WEN Wales offers secretarial support. In 2022, the group has convened five times: 18 February 2022, 29 April 2022, 1 July 2022, 14 October 2022 and 2 Dec 2022 (jointly with the Cross-Party Group on Violence against Women and Children). All meetings were held online via Zoom.

The group has used these meetings to focus on a number of issues, including: a caring-focused recovery in Wales, gender budgeting, gender and constitutional reform, and a joint meeting with the Cross-Party Group on violence against women and children on gender-based violence and survivors with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

The group also worked closely with the Women in Europe (Wales) network, which became part of the Cross-Party Group on Women from July 2019.

Attendance at the meetings over the year has been made up of political representatives, third sector organisations working to end discrimination against women, individuals interested in gender equality and Members of the Senedd support staff.

#### **1. Group membership and office holders**

##### **Office holders:**

- Siân Gwenllian MS (Chair)
- Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales (secretary)

##### **Additional members:**

- Jane Dodds MS
- Heledd Fychan MS
- Delyth Jewell MS
- Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS
- Sarah Murphy MS
- Carolyn Thomas MS
- Joyce Watson MS
- Sioned Williams MS
- Patience Bentu – Office of the Future Generations Commissioner
- Jess Blair - Electoral Reform Society Cymru
- Natasha Davies - Chwarae Teg
- Catherine Fookes – WEN Wales
- Lenaine Foster-Bennett - EYST
- Cerys Furlong - Chwarae Teg
- Davina-Louise Green - Stonewall Cymru
- Ele Hicks - Diverse Cymru

- Leigh Ingham - Plan International UK
- Sara Kirkpatrick - Welsh Women's Aid
- San Leonard - Social Firms Wales
- Professor Laura McAllister - Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University
- Nancy Lidubwi- BAWSO
- Dr Rachel Minto - Cardiff University
- Rayner Rees - Soroptimists
- Debbie Shaffer - Fair Treatment for the Women of Wales
- Abi Thomas - Plaid Cymru
- Megan Thomas - Disability Wales
- Hade Turkmen - Chwarae Teg
- Nkechi Dawson – Race Council Cymru

## 2. Previous Group Meetings

### Meeting 1

**Topic:** A Caring-focussed recovery in Wales

**Date:** 18 February 2022

**Attendees:**

*Sian Gwenllian MS (Chair), Heledd Fychan MS, Delyth Jewell MS, Jenny Rathbone MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Joyce Watson MS, Sioned Williams MS, Susan Himmelweit, Open University (Speaker), Hade Turkmen, Chwarae Teg, Tomos Evans, Chwarae Teg, Wanjiku Mbugua, Bawso, Jordan Brewer, Welsh Women's Aid, Sophie Weeks, Welsh Women's Aid, Vicky Lang, Welsh Women's Aid, Sarah Rees, Oxfam Cymru, Lisa Isherwood, Soroptimist, Megan Thomas, Disability Wales, Jon Day, Social Care Wales Alison Parken, Cardiff Business School, Rhianydd Williams, TUC, Jane Fenton-May, Women in Europe (Wales), Kirsty Fox, Camlas, Catherine Fookes, WEN Wales, Evelyn James, WEN Wales, Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales, Rose Widlake, WEN Wales, Anouk Smith, WEN Wales, Suzy Davies, Board Member, WEN Wales*

**Summary of issues discussed:**

Prof Susan Himmelweit gave a presentation on the economic and wider benefits of investing into care. Jackie Jones provided a number of updates on gender and the EU / Europe.

### Meeting 2

**Topic:** A Caring-focussed recovery in Wales – session with Vaughan Gething MS

**Date:** 29 April 2022

**Attendees:** *Sian Gwenllian MS (Chair), Carolyn Thomas MS, Vaughan Gething MS, Hade Turkmen, Chwarae Teg, Nancy Lidubwi, Bawso, Jordan Brewer, Welsh Women's Aid, Nkechi Allen Dawson, Race Council Cymru, Rhian Connick, NFWI, Megan Thomas, Disability Wales, Dee Montague, FTWW, Claire Morgan, Carers Wales, Alison Parken, Cardiff Business School, Ele Hicks, Diverse Cymru, Jane Fenton-May, Women in Europe (Wales), Kirsty Fox, Camlas, Domenica Hidalgo, LSE (Speaker), Parbon Khan, LSE (Speaker), Evelyn James, WEN Wales, Jennifer Ramsay, Office of Paul Davies MS, Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales (Speaker)*

**Summary of issues discussed:** **Group discussed** Jessica Laimann provided a presentation on the need for a caring focused recovery in Wales and summarising key points from Prof Himmelweit's presentation at the last meeting as well as Wales-specific data. Vaughan Gething responded to the presentation outlining key aspects of the Welsh Government's work around care. Parbon Khan & Domenica Hidalgo gave an overview of the results of a joint research project from LSE Department of International Development and Oxfam on Understanding and Shifting Narratives to Value Women's Work.

### Meeting 3

**Topic:** Gender and constitutional reform

**Date:** 1 July 2022

**Attendees:** *Delyth Jewell MS (Chair), Jane Dodds MS, Sioned Williams MS, Laura McAllister, Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales (Speaker), Tomos Evans, Chwarae Teg, Wanjiku Ngotho-Mbugua, Bawso, Nancy Lidubwi, Bawso, Elyn Stephens, Plaid Cymru, Abigail Thomas, Plaid Cymru, Patience Bentu, Diversity Practitioner, Rhianydd Williams, TUC Cymru, Sarah Rees, Oxfam Cymru, Keira Evans, Trans Aid Cymru, Shash Appan, Trans Aid Cymru, Eve, Trans Aid Cymru, Megan Thomas, Disability Wales, Alison Parken, Cardiff Business School, Ele Hicks, Diverse Cymru, Jane Fenton-May, Women in Europe (Wales), Kirsty Fox, Camlas, Chloe Rees, Office of Sarah Murphy MS, Catherine Fookes, WEN Wales, Jennifer Ramsay, Board Member, WEN Wales, Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales*

**Summary of issues discussed:** Professor Laura McAllister, Co-Chair of the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales, gave a presentation on how women's rights, gender equality and our commitment to intersectionality fit into the process for constitutional reform and how members could get involved in the consultation. Jackie Jones provided a number of updates on gender and the EU / Europe.

### Meeting 4

**Topic:** Tackling inequalities through gender budgeting

**Date:** 14 October 2022

**Attendees:**

*Professor Angela O'Hagan (Speaker), Sian Gwenllian MS (Chair), Sioned Williams MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Chloe Rees, Office of Sarah Murphy MS, Sophie Nethercott, Office of Jenny Rathbone MS, Natasha Davies, Chwarae Teg, Tomos Evans, Chwarae Teg, Hade Turkmen, Chwarae Teg, Hannah Griffiths, Wales Women's Budget Group, Jennifer Mills, Welsh Women's Aid, Sara Kirkpatrick, Welsh Women's Aid, Shahien Taj OBE, Women Connect First, Jane Fenton-May, Wales Assembly of Women, Gillian Brockley, Alison Parken, Cardiff Business School, Meg Thomas, Disability Wales, Ele Hicks, Diverse Cymru, Abigail Thomas, Plaid Cymru, Nkechi Dawson, Race Council Cymru, Rhianydd Williams, TUC Cymru, Nancy Lidubwi, Bawso, Jen Ramsay, Board Member, WEN Wales, Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales, Evelyn James, WEN Wales, Inioluwa Longe, WEN Wales*

**Summary of issues discussed:**

Prof Angela O'Hagan gave a presentation on how gender budgeting can help tackle inequalities and outlined progress made in Scotland. Jackie Jones provided a number of updates on gender and the EU / Europe.

## Meeting 5

**Topic:** Gender-based violence and supporting survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds (joint meeting with the Cross-Party Group on Violence Against Women and Children)

**Date:** 2 December 2022

**Attendees:**

*Sioned Williams MS, Sian Gwenllian MS, Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales, Jennifer Mills, WWA, Nancy Lidubwi, Bawso, Kirsty Thompson, JustRight Scotland, Laura Rainsford, WWA, Aliya Iftikhar, WWA, Maria Oftedal, WWDAS, Paris Williams, Carol Harris, Hafan Cymru, Rachel Minto, Meg Thomas, Disability Wales, Kelly Beaumont, Simon Borja, Safer Wales, Tomos Evans, Chwarae Teg, Ele Hicks, Diverse Cymru, Eli Crouch-Puzey, NSPCC, Michelle Whelan, Calan DVS, Amy Bainton, Barnardo's Cymru, Chris Dunn, Diverse Cymru, Larissa Peixoto, Maria and Stephanie, WWDAS, Sophie Weeks, WWA*

**Summary of issues discussed:**

Nancy Lidubwi (Bawso) gave an overview of the situation in Wales and the Home Office Pilot. Kirsty Thomson (JustRight Scotland) outlined Scotland's approach to supporting survivors with NRPF. Laura Rainsford (WWA) gave a presentation on the Migrant Survivor Toolkit. Dr Rachel Minto provided a number of updates on gender and the EU / Europe.

**3. Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities with whom the Group has met during the preceding year**

*As above.*

**4. Annual Financial Statement**

**Date:** 22 Dec 2022

**Cross Party Group on Women**

**Chair:** Siân Gwenllian MS

**Secretary:** Jessica Laimann, WEN Wales

Group's Expenses	None	£0.00
Costs of all goods	No goods purchased	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individual Members from outside bodies.	No benefits received	£0.00
Any secretariat or other support	No financial support received	£0.00
	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£0.00</b>