

Cross Party Group on Women 18th July 2019 12:30 - 13:30 Conference Room D, Ty Hywel

Chairs: Suzy Davies AM & Siân Gwenllian AM

Secretariat: WEN Wales

Attendees:

Suzy Davies AM (co-chair) Siân Gwenllian AM (co-chair) Catherine Fookes – WEN Wales (speaker) Claire Cunliffe – Oxfam Cymru (speaker) Tina Reese – Welsh Women's Aid (speaker) Hilary Watson - WEN Wales (secretary) Isobel Mortimer – Graylings & NAWO Youth Team Rachel Minto - Wales Governance Office Catherine Iannucci – Deputy Minister & Chief Whip's support staff Nia Thomas – Deputy Minister & Chief Whip's intern Lynne Tedik - Soroptimist International Debbie Shaffer – FTWW (via Skype/Phone)

Apologies:

Angela Burns AM Jayne Bryant AM Llyr Gruffydd AM Nancy Cavill – AM support staff Rhian Connick - NFWI Polly Winn - Chwarae Teg

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1. Welcome, Chairs

Chairs welcomed attendees to the meeting and a roundtable introduction followed. Suzy Davies AM jointed Siân Gwenllian AM as co-chair following the departure of Jane Hutt AM as co-chair due to entering Welsh Government as minister. Financial table for the year below.

2. Feminist Scorecard for Welsh Government: Catherine Fookes, Director of WEN Wales; Claire Cunliffe, Campaigns & Advocacy Manager at Oxfam Cymru, Tina Reece, Head of Engagement at Welsh Women's Aid

Catherine Fookes (CF) introduced the Feminist Scorecard, which scores the Welsh Government on whether they are achieving gender equality. It recognises their strong intentions but highlights areas for further actions, especially around funding across the 6 areas of the scorecard. The scorecard is a snapshot in time (and not an in-depth report, like the Rapid Review on Gender Equality – due to report soon). CF acknowledges that the overall traffic light scoring system hides some progress in the 6 areas. The report was written in consultation with the sector and scoring was across a number of areas, including funding and legislation.

Women & Equal Representation & Leadership: Amber

National Assembly for Wales was recognised as 'green'; councils were 'red' across all protected characteristics. Recommendations in report for 50:50 gender quotas (legislative), Local Authorities to collect diversity data for all standing candidates, ensuring progress going forward.

ii. Women & Caring Responsibilities: Amber

It was discussed that this included, but was not limited to childcare. There has been good progress with regards to childcare but not for non-working women and it isn't helpful for those who want to find work. The report recommends childcare from 6 months onwards, and also talks about childcare for disabled children and respite care for carers.

iii. Ending Violence against Women & Girls: Red

While the VAWDASV Act is potentially ground-breaking, implementation and funding have been found lacking. Since the Act, at least 31 women in Wales have been killed by their partners or ex-partners. There was discussion on the implications of austerity measures and increased complexity of need in relation to FGM, sexual violence and domestic abuse. While levels of support hasn't necessarily shrunk, current provision is not enough to meet demand. Last year, 401 women seeking refuge were unable to be accommodated. The scorecard points to lacking secure sustainable funding framework for the sector. Welsh Government are looking at external trusts and funding for violence against women services. These services also want commitment to public funding. Welsh Government also claim compliance with the Istanbul Convention – Welsh Women's Aid have mapped this to show discrepancies in this claim. Welsh Government show willing but there is a lack of funding. Survivors will no recourse to public funds are accessing refuge and specialist services through funding provided



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by the services' reserves (which is unsustainable in the long term). The sector calls for a gendered response over gender neutral, one size fits all approach (which is not appropriate).

iv. Global Responsibility & Women: Amber

While the overall score is amber, there are some positive subjections, such as 'green' regarding asylum seekers and refugees. In relation to international development there is a lack of data, though anecdotal evidence suggests it's working well. Though Wales is lagging behind, for example, when compared to Scotland. The global goal of the Well-being of Future Generations Act is yet to have a measurable impact. Climate Change is 'red' though if implemented well this could have a good impact – climate change disproportionately affects women.

v. Jobs & Pay Equality For Women: Red

Women are less likely to be in good employment. It was felt that Welsh Government could use more levers available to them, e.g. in relation to local authorities publishing gender pay gap figures and to report on the effectiveness of their plans to tackle the issue.

vi. Taxation & Budgets Impact on Women: Amber

Mixed picture – there has been a burden increase for lower income households. Some positive steps. But it seems that Equality Impact Assessments are applied only at end of the budget process. The scorecard advocates for gender budgeting throughout process.

3. Group discussion

Group discuss Oxfam Canada's original scorecard, which inspired the welsh version and WEN Wales and Oxfam Cymru discuss how the scorecard fits with advocacy and campaigning work, including previous meeting with the National Advisors, and future meetings with key ministers and political party spokespeople. It was recommended that the organisations meet spokespeople across policy areas and not just the equalities spokespeople.

It was raised that rural communities are being left behind in regard to violence against women and girls. Welsh Womens' Aid are currently working on a report to highlight this.

'Health' was a topic not specifically covered in the report – this was partly due to the using the Canadian Scorecard as a model, though future versions of the scorecard could include Health.

4. AOB

Next meeting: some discussion of when this might be – may be October but due to threat of general election it's uncertain whether it will have to move, e.g. from 17th October.

Discussion around the Women for Europe group, which had a joint meeting with the Cross Party Group on Women earlier in the year. Through Rachel Minto and Eleri Cubbage, this meeting will be absorbed



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into the Cross Party Group through a standing item of 'Brexit' on the CPG on Women agenda at future meetings.

5. Actions

- Send scorecard to all welsh Commissioners, including the Welsh Commissioner, the Older People's Commissioner the Children's Commissioner and the Future Generations Commissioner.
- 2) Write to the Welsh Government on the six areas, as the Cross Party Group, highlighting what needs to happen if we are going to progress, e.g. gender budgeting requires budgeting reprioritised.
 - a. Gender Budgeting topic for group
 - b. Jobs and pay equality gender pay gap reporting in local authorities
 - c. Legislate 50:50 gender representation and local authority diversity data
 - d. Extend childcare offer to all non-working parents and make available earlier
 - e. Improved response to VAWDASV
 - f. Climate emergency clarity from Welsh Government on what this means in practice
- 3) Press release: based on letter that outlines our asks as the CPG.
- 4) Future portfolio versions of the scorecard
- 5) Women in Europe group to circulate their papers.
- 6) Check that the CPG mailing list has fully incorporated all those who were on the Women in Europe mailing list.
- 7) Agenda item for next time Intersectionality seminar/event from the Europe network
- 8) Invite Rebecca Evans AM and Hannah Johnson to the next meeting on Gender Budgeting.









Annex i

Annual Financial Statement

Date: 18th July 2019

Cross Party Group on Women

Co-chairs: Jane Hutt AM & Siân Gwenllian AM (2018); Siân Gwenllian AM & Suzy Davies AM (2019)

Secretary: Hilary Watson, 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	No benefits received	£0.00
outside bodies.		
Any secretariat or other support	No financial support	£0.00
	received	
	Total cost	£0.00



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Annex ii:

FEMINIST SCORECARD 2019

TRACKING WELSH GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY



Green -Significant Progress



Amber -Some Progress



Red = Little Progress

WOMEN AND CARING RESPONSIBILITIES



Welsh Government has made incremental progress, but more work is needed for example, extending the Childcare offer to younger children and non-working parents and ensuring carers can access respite and reasonable breaks.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 was ground breaking legislation, but implementation has been slow. Provision of services remains very patchy, and immediate action is needed to ring-fence sustainable funding.

WOMEN AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION AND LEADERSHIP



Welsh Government is increasingly a strong advocate for women's leadership, demonstrating this through, for example, its gender balanced cabinet. However, legislation is needed to ensure 50:50 representation in the Assembly, and especially at local government level.

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WOMEN



Wales continues to show leadership through its Nation of Sanctuary approach. Further progress is needed to cement global responsibility at the heart of the Weish Government's international strategy, and to ensure Wales meets key climate change targets – a global challenge which impacts on women disproportionately.

JOBS AND PAY EQUALITY FOR WOMEN



Women still hold the majority of low paid jobs in Wales, and the gender pay gap persists. Welsh Government should set ambitious targets to reduce the gender pay gap and devise a framework for monitoring decent work for women.

TAXATION AND BUDGETS IMPACT ON WOMEN



Gender neutral taxation is not the right approach – a gender positive approach is needed. Welsh Government should improve its Equality Impact Assessment process, as well as introduce gender budgeting as a priority.







CERDYN SGORIO FFEMINISTAIDD 2019

OLRHAIN CAMAU GWEITHREDU LLYWODRAETH CYMRU I HYRWYDDO HAWLIAU MENYWOD A CHYDRADDOLDEB RHWNG Y RHYWIAU



Gwyrdd -Cynnydd sylweddol



Melyn -Rhywfaint o gynnydd



Coch -Ychydig o gynnydd

MENYWOD A CHYFRIFOLDEBAU GOFAL



Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud gwelliannau cynyddol, ond mae angen mwy o waith er enghraifft, ymestyn y cynnig Gofal. Plant I blant Iau a rhieni nad ydynt yn gweithio a sicrhau y gall gofalwyr gael mynediad I seibiannau ac egwyllau rhesymol.

RHOI DIWEDD AR DRAIS YN ERBYN MENYWOD A MERCHED



Roedd y Ddeddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015 yn ddeddfwriaeth arloesol, ond araf fu'r gweithredu. Mae darpariaeth gwasanaethau yn anghyson iawn, ac mae angen gweithredu ar unwaith i glustnodi cytlid cynaliadwy.

MENYWOD AC ARWEINYDDIAETH A CHYNRYCHIOLAETH GYFARTAL



Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn eiriolwr cryf cynyddol dros arweinyddiaeth menywod, gan ddangos hyn drwy, er enghraifft, ei chabinet cytbwys o ran y rhywlau. Fodd bynnag, mae angen deddfwriaeth i sicrhau cynrychiolaeth 50:50 yn y Cynulliad, ac yn enwedig ar lefel llywodraeth leol.

CYFRIFOLDEB BYD-EANG A MENYWOD



Mae Cymru yn parhau i ddangos anweiryddiaeth trwy ei dull Cenedl o Noddta. Mae angen gwneud rhagor o gynnydd i gadarnhau'r cyfrifoldeb byd-eang sydd wrth wraidd strategaeth ryngwladol Llywodraeth Cymru, ac i sicrhau bod Cymru yn cyflawni targedau newid hinsawdd allweddol – her fydeang sy'n effeithio ar fenywod yn anghymesur.

SWYDDI A CHYFLOG CYFARTAL AR GYFER MENYWOD



Mae menywod yn dal i fod â'r mwyafrif o swyddi â chyflog isel yng Nghymru, ac mae'r bwich cyflog rhwng y rhywiau yn parhau. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru osod targedau ucheigeisiol I leihau'r bwich cyflog rhwng y rhywiau a dyfeisio fframwaith ar gyfer monitro gwaith gweddus i fenywod.

EFFAITH TRETHIANT A CHYLLIDEBAU AR FENYWOD



Nid trethiant niwtral o ran y rhywiau yw'r dull cywir – mae angen ymagwedd gadarnhaol ar sail rhyw. Dylai Llywodraeth Cymru wella ei phroses Asesu Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb, yn ogystal â chyflwyno cyllidebu ar sail rhyw fel blaenoriaeth.



