



**National
Council of
Women GB**
For a fair and
inclusive society

December 2025 Member Newsletter

Next event: save the date!

On Monday 26th January at 12.30pm, with National Independent Consumer Organisation, we will be consulting you, and any friends you would like to invite, on sustainability, green products and services. More info soon!



***SEASONS GREETINGS AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS
FROM
THE PRESIDENT ANN DAVISON AND
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF NCWGB***

President's Message

Dear NCW Members

As 2025 comes to an end it's a chance to thank you again for your invaluable support

NCW successes in 2025 thanks to you

- helped strengthen Online Safety Act enforcement
- letter to government co-signed by 16 organisations
- helped gain a ban on strangulation in pornography
- NCW resolution on internet harms unanimously adopted by European Centre of the International Council of Women (ICW).
- NCW resolution for more action on climate change unanimously adopted by the ICW.
- Campaigning on adult social care, water use, violence against women and girls' strategy, FGM, children and screens, trafficking of women.

Plans for member meetings in early 2026 include new study groups and workshops on both deafness and sustainable consumption. Looking forward with excitement!

With very best wishes

Ann Davison
National President



HOLIDAYS - PLEASE NOTE

The NCW Office will be closed for Christmas and New Year from **10am Monday 22 December 2025** up to and including **Friday 2 January 2026** but Sheila will be contactable by email on this day. The office will reopen at **10am on Monday 5 January 2026**.

IN MEMORIAM

We honour Amy Gibbs, National President 2004-2006 (10 October 1931 – 24 October 2025)

As well as being National President, Amy was a long-standing member of Darlington branch and a number of the members attended the funeral on 17 November.



Members news

Please give a warm welcome to new members:

- Claire Booth – Buckinghamshire
- Claire Roberts – Nottingham
- Anna Kirton – Devon
- Siobhan Smith – Surrey
- Dr Maria Karvela – Hertfordshire
- Dr Jocelyne Scutt – Cambridge
- Dr Natalie Turney – Buckinghamshire (Network 18-30)
- Buki Braithwaite – Isleworth
- Aditi Patel – London (Network 18-30)

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

Huge thanks to last year's management committee most of whom continue in their very able service. We congratulate Elsie and Wendy on all they have achieved as they stand down. We welcome Professor Husna Ahmad to the Management Committee with her wealth of national and international experience.



Elsie Leadley



Prof Husna Ahmad OBE

L to R: Jackie Taylor; Dr Wendy North; Jilly Rogers; Ann Davison; Gillian Weston; Gail Bishop; Alison Gee

What's new?

Research group

NCW is setting up a Research group under the guidance of Professor Anica Zeyen. It covers Internet harms, followed by, we propose, fair trade and the need for research into women's health. Let us know if you'd like to join any of these or to suggest another topic.

Do also invite any of your friends interested in these issues to contact us. We are inviting other organisations concerned about this to become Associates, and to join our campaign and our research working party.



Internet harms

Our President Ann Davison and Vice President Gillian Weston were delighted to meet with Arabella Skinner from Health Professionals for Safer Screens.



They agreed that the problems exposure to screens and to harmful internet content are causing, are societal in effect. Mental health, obesity, concentration, speech and language development, and sleep, are all impacted negatively, making this a public health and economic issue.

Ann also spoke on internet harms at the November meeting of the UK Commission on the Status of Women to rally the support of other women's organisations.



A reminder of our resolutions:

<https://ncwgb.org/resolutions/pressures-on-parents-of-young-children-and-the-use-of-electronic-devices/>

<https://ncwgb.org/resolutions/online-harms-ecicw-european-centre-of-the-international-council-of-women/>

On 18th October 2025 the British Federation of Women Graduates had its Conference at the Goodenough College in London.

I was honoured to represent The National Council for Women Great Britain.

The conference was opened by Kay Howell BFWG President.

Carrie de Silva gave an introduction to The Sybil Campbell collection.

Sybil was the first woman to be appointed to full time judicial office in Britain

The collection now consists of 1,400 items which is housed at the college.

Woolfs, the Webbs and Lady Astor donated items which originally was 8,000.

Key Note Speakers were:

Dame Judith Macgregor British High Commissioner to South Africa 2013-2017

Dr Anino Emuwa Marketing Director of Avandis Consulting, France.

Professor Christina Hughes a Woman of Influence 2023, Founder of Sister Space.

All three women have so many accolades.

As I reflect on the day and the brilliance of the guest speakers and audience,

I thought of Jo Cox. I am an alumni of the first Leadership Course in her name.

I was struck by her words " we are far more united and have far more

In common with each other than things that divide us". Jo Cox (2015)

We all want to empower women whoever they are.

Thank you

Jackie Taylor



L to R: Adele Gardner (NCWGB Member), Dame Judith Macgregor (British High Commissioner to South Africa 2013-2017), Jackie Taylor (NCWGB Member)

Our President, Ann Davison, has spoken about the vital role the Commonwealth can play in encouraging both regulation of Internet harms and action on climate change. 'We can be the movers and shakers', she said at the Commonwealth workshop for civil society organisations in November.

In the debate on education Ann stressed the need for more funding against seriously harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation. More girls are at risk as population increases in the affected areas, she said.

<https://ncwgb.org/resolutions/international-development-and-female-genital-mutilation/>

Ann took the opportunity to meet with Jennifer Namgyal, Commonwealth Head of Gender to propose Commonwealth Women's Network's next steps working against internet harms.



The Scottish Women's Convention



This event is to challenge the idea that prostitution is "work" by focussing on women's lived experience, to look at evidence and practical policy ideas that reduce harm, support exits and tackle the causes that push women into the sex trade. The event will be chaired by Agnes Tolmie with speaker contributions from Anne Dean and Kate Ramsden.

For more information/Register here:

<https://bit.ly/48DrQub>

We hope to create a safe space for all attendees and are aware that topics covered during the day may cause distress. Therefore, these events are only open to women to attend.

Six O group

The six major U.K. women organisations meet three times a year as the Six-O. They drive meaningful change on issues like climate change and violence against women and girls.

18-30 member Betty Axtel attended with our President in November to seek combined action on Internet harms following NCW's European resolution <https://ncwgb.org/resolutions/online-harms-ecicw-european-centre-of-the-international-council-of-women/>

Ann expressed the NCWGB's strong commitment to collaboration, emphasising our enthusiasm for partnering with the other members to maximise impact on campaigns and advocacy.

Ann also referenced the rise of AI and women's safety online as a growing concern and colleagues agreed to focus on this in the near future.

Betty described how NCW's 18-30 network was consulting for a young women's perspective on the Commission on the Status of Women. NCW would be delighted to hear from other young women wishing to join and comment.



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 generously 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 on the topics close to our hearts.

Articles in this month's current affairs report

Articles

- **Online safety**

Select Committee inquiries: summary

- **Women and Equalities Committee**

Darlington Branch news

Darlington Branch meetings don't often feature men let alone their sheds but this month we made an exception. Our guest speaker, Ron Denham introduced us to Men's Sheds. The movement began in Australia when Maxine Chaseling saw her father—housebound and depressed after a heart attack—find renewed purpose only when tinkering in his shed. She extended the idea to other men and it rapidly grew into a worldwide organisation. Like garden sheds, Men's Sheds are a place to pursue hobbies, practice skills, and enjoy making and mending. But unlike solitary garden sheds, they are social spaces. They don't even have to be sheds; any space will do. Today, there are over a thousand sheds across the UK supporting around 33,000 people. These welcoming environments reduce loneliness among men, boost wellbeing, and encourage the sharing of skills. Activities range from gardening, painting, woodworking and metalwork to model making, repairing, community volunteering and more. No skill is required. Some members simply drop in for coffee and conversation. Whilst Sheds mostly attract older men, they are open to all. Ron ran through the history of Darlington's Shed and how it has transformed lives. One member, despite having the use of only one hand, has become remarkably skilled at Lego. Another who found it hard to talk now rarely runs out of words. The Shed's regular activities include, among other things, Lego Technics and Meccano model-making, furniture repair, building bird boxes and carpet bowls. Innovative projects have seen members build model cars, which they raced around town as well as a G-scale train layout that drew public interest. With their newly equipped workshop, Ron and the team secured a grant to produce 100 single beds, complete with mattresses, for families in need. They also gave their time and skills to building a stage for a local church hall. Ron admitted the hardest part is persuading men to come to the Shed after initial enquiries, or even after paying for membership. Yet five years on, the Darlington Shed is flourishing—a significant achievement and a testament to the power of shared purpose.

Hereford Members

The Hereford group of NCW members held their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 3 December. Jilly Rogers, Immediate Past President was delighted to be invited to join them and we all had a lovely time together. Thanks to Lesley and to Gwenda for their brilliant organisation and gifts. Although the Hereford branch was officially disbanded a year or so ago, members still meet up to talk about local and national issues and to enjoy each other's company. It was a great event! Happy Christmas everyone!

