



NCW NETWORK 18-25

Recent developments, with examples from two active members

NCW's young members of the Network 18-25 have seen the possibilities for making an impact in society; NCW acts as a platform for their voices and enables them to engage in an atmosphere of friendship and support with longstanding NCW members. They see the possibility of working towards legislative change and can also help through their pioneering ideas to broaden the work and reach of NCW, building on our heritage of 125+ years.

Since last September there have been six editions of their newsletter, each accompanied by a book list. This, together with their past experience which includes presenting resolutions, which have been passed and forwarded to Government, as well as being part of NCW's accredited delegation to the UN, has led to some ground-breaking activity during the last few months.

One of our members worked with the Sisters of Frida to organise and manage an excellent virtual side event at the UN during CSW66, titled **Gender, Disability, and the Environment**. Drawing on the experiences of disabled activists and researchers from various countries, this event examined crucial environmental issues in relation to disability, including eco-ableism, inclusive sustainability, accessibility and nature, as well as interconnection and disability climate justice. Panellists provided clear examples of the significant challenges that the environmental crisis poses to a vast majority of deaf and disabled women across the world. The panel want to see that climate change policies, environmental decision-making and contingency plans, which have often failed to include deaf and disabled women, become more effective, with disability-inclusive solutions, mitigating the current and future environmental challenges.

Reports from the five Network members who accessed CSW66 for NCW are currently being coordinated by one of our members for wider circulation.

Another of our members was a volunteer panellist on the University of Sunderland's IWD event with the theme **Break the Bias**; participants were to share with the audience of schoolgirls their own life experiences relating to this title. Our representative gave a clear, frank account of the problems she experienced and the emotional and practical results of the misjudgements and sexist bias along the way until she was finally correctly diagnosed with endometriosis and was treated. She now wants to educate and empower other girls and women. The topic had such impact that the teacher of one of the schools attending invited her to participate in a conference she'd been inspired to set up. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) has since this event produced a major report on the appalling rise in the number of women waiting for treatment.



Detailed reports on both these events will be circulated, including to NCW Policy for further action. There are also exciting plans in the pipeline for the Network, so if you want to engage with and follow our young members' activities in furthering NCW work, please do watch this space!

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