



All our work needs funding. You can donate here ([Donate - National Council of Women](#))

Opportunities to attend events: 5th May Feedback from CSW Seminar (book through Eventbrite - see page 3); 15th May AI training for members (see page 3); 21st May Controlling online pornography; 2nd June social event in London – simply email info@ncwgb.org to book your place

President’s Message

Dear NCW members

Child protection online

NCW has been very actively campaigning this month to protect children from harmful social media and gaming platforms - including cross-party cooperation, especially Lord Nash. Thank you for your support which makes this vital work possible. You can donate here. [[Donate - National Council of Women](#)]

This cooperation has also led to an agreed statement of principles within civil society organisations - [[Home - National Council of Women](#)]. We were among the first to endorse it and have successfully encouraged other women’s organisations to do the same.

WhatsApp

We are setting up a members’ WhatsApp group. Let Sheila know if you’d like to be part of it.

Exciting events

We have 4 events for members upcoming and one open to the public. See the calendar. We have set up a health study group which includes interested members, health professionals and academics. The online harms study group is meeting again with a high-profile speaker. Exclusively for members we have AI training and we are also planning a social in London.

Please let Sheila know if you’d like to be part of any of these.

Our feedback event on the Commission on the Status of Women is open to the public so please sign up via Eventbrite as usual [[CSW70 report back session | Eventbrite](#)]

Giving in Wills

I have just rewritten my will! There is more about giving in wills at the end of the newsletter. We are also working on a giving in wills leaflet and a brick wall on our website to recognise or commemorate women you admire so start thinking!

Thank you as ever for your support which makes all this possible.

With very best wishes

Ann Davison
National President



DIARY DATES	
April 2026	
29	Health Study group meeting – 3pm
May 2026	
5	Feedback from CSW seminar 12.30 to 2pm
13-20	A million acts of hope campaign
15	AI training for members – 12.30 to 2.30pm
21	Prof Clare McGlynn – Controlling online pornography (4 to 5.30pm)
June 2026	
2	London social

Past events

Jilly Rogers, past National Council of Women GB President and Ann Davison, current President, met with the Canadian, Australian and Maltese Councils of Women on Monday 30 March to discuss stronger links with the Commonwealth.

Reaching out to Councils in Nigeria and New Zealand as well, they made plans to collect evidence from the relevant countries to refocus attention on the dangers of Climate Change. They will seek evidence of harms and examples of best practice, as well as information on lobbying taking place.

They also made plans to ask the same questions about online harms with a view to adopting international best practice to protect the public especially children and women, and in order to challenge the huge tech companies effectively.



National Council of Women members Gillian Weston, Natalie Turney, Betty Axtell, Sian Clarke, Jocelyne Scutt and Ann Davison as well as Susan McKellar (from our associate member the Scottish Women's Convention) attended the **U.K. Civil Society Women's Association** meeting on 27th March to discuss the outcomes of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.



Concerns remained about UN funding and the future of UN Women as a stand-alone entity. However, we very much celebrated the impact the U.K. delegates had on the final conclusions, particularly the wording on online harms, vulnerable groups and on the need for disaggregated data.

National Council of Women's attendees at the CSW will be reporting back in full at an online seminar on 5th May.

National Council of Women GB Network 18-30 Member Harriet Allen attended the **Young Leaders in Action conference**, hosted by **One Young World** on Tuesday 23 March. The event brought together young leaders, policymakers, and funding partners to discuss the UK Government's National Youth Strategy.

The conference opened with keynote addresses from Mete Coban MBE, Deputy Mayor of London, and Kate Robertson, founder of One Young World.

Key conversations included addressing the rise of violence against women and girls, the impact of online harms particularly in rural communities and the need for stronger social media regulation to safeguard young people's mental health. Harriet echoed that these themes closely align with NCWGB's own resolutions and its ongoing campaign for safety by design in online platforms.

Harriet also had the pleasure of meeting UK delegates from the International Youth Council for Gender Equality.





President Ann Davison represented National Council of Women GB at the **Women in AI meeting** organised by UKAI last week.

Ann was delighted to meet with Lee Chambers from Male Allies who spoke about protecting boys from the mansphere. NCWGB works with White Ribbon on the role men and boys can play in preventing violence against women.

President Ann Davison represented National Council of Women GB at the **Women in AI meeting** organised by UK AI on 18th March. Ann explained that NCWGB is both campaigning for safety by design and also providing training for members on AI. We are lobbying government and cooperating with other women's organisations, as well as working for international action.

Ann was delighted to meet with Lee Chambers from Male Allies who spoke about protecting boys from the mansphere. NCWGB works with White Ribbon on the role men and boys can play in preventing violence against women.

Commission on the Status of Women Report Back session – Tuesday 5th May 12.30 to 2pm

[CSW70 report back session | Eventbrite](#)

Welcome to our online event where the National Council of Women will report back on key learnings from the March meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Topics will include access to justice, violence against women and girls, female genital mutilation, intergenerational cooperation and online harms.

Speakers:

Hon Dr Jocelynn Scutt, NCWGB
 Dr Natalie Turney, NCWGB
 Georgia Rayner, NCWGB
 Betty Axtell, NCWGB
 Hana Mosavie, NCWGB/NAWO
 Sudha Srivastava, British Federation of Women Graduates
 Anush Aghabalyan, The Orchid Project
 Susan McKellar, Scottish Women's Convention
 Ann Davison, NCWGB President

Special AI training event for members

Claire Roberts campaigns for safer AI and in her work provides training courses with an ethical, people-centric emphasis. Claire is a proud NCWGB member and is on a mission to help women understand and benefit from AI.

Claire is very generously offering a free AI Masterclass to our members on Friday 15th May 12.30-2.30pm, where she'll offer advice on how to select the right AI tool; provide a framework for prompting; show you how to manage data and create presentations with AI, and talk about how to future-proof your career with her skills assessment tool.

Simply email info@ncwgb.org to book your place

Members news

Please give a warm welcome to new members and associates:

- Milena Mocarcka (Network) Luton
- Dr Hannah Nazri, Royal Leamington Spa
- Emily Brailsford, Matlock
- Eleanor Hiller (Network), Leeds
- Business & Professional Women UK (BPWUK)
- Women's Aid Federation of England

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

Online Harms seminar – 17th March 2026

At its very well attended Online Harms seminar on Tuesday, 17th March, National Council of Women GB made a powerful push for safety by design. We have too long been playing catch up as new harms hit the population.

Dr Shweta Singh summarised NCWGB's interdisciplinary work on AI harms with a stark warning: this is not just about flawed technology. It is about flawed systems of governance, responsibility, and oversight. AI cannot be allowed to scale without serious testing, constant monitoring, and meaningful accountability.

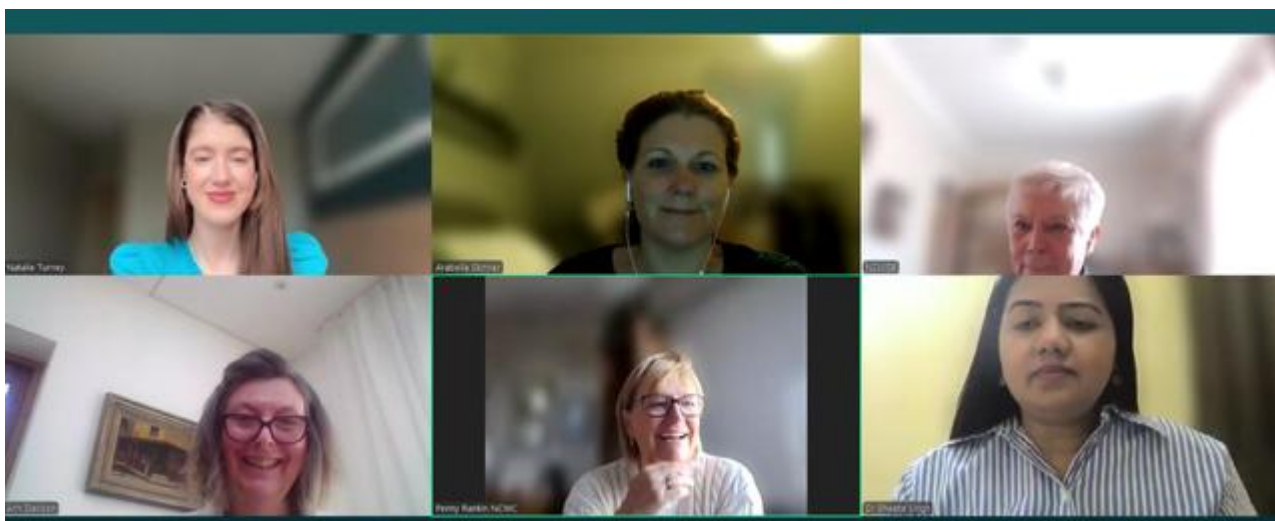
Arabella Skinner from Health professionals for Safer Screens demonstrated the extent of the quantifiable damage being done to children with screen time harming the whole child - relating to development, language, maths, relationships, obesity/ anorexia, self-harm, short sightedness, drug use, radicalisation. Children spending too much time on screens are behind in every level at ages 4,8 and 12.

She urged attendees to support the cross-party amendment to the Children and Wellbeing bill.

Dr Natalie Turney explained how legislation could be more proactive with criminal liability for 'failure to prevent' covering online harms. Consumer redress is needed.

NCWGB President Ann Davison summed up that NCWGB was writing to Department of Health, the Consumer Minister and DSIT and also drafting a resolution which would reflect these points.

(Photo shows - upper row - Dr Natalie Turney, Arabella Skinner, Gillian Weston NCWGB VP finance - lower row - Ann Davison NCWGB President, Penny Rankin President NCW of Canada and Dr Shweta Singh.)



NCWGB is working with cross-party peers including Lord Nash to protect children from harmful social media and gaming platforms. We were among the first to endorse a statement of principles to protect children online and have successfully encouraged other women's organisations to do the same [click on link to see statement of principles - [NCWGB support protecting children from harmful social media](#)]

Member News

Meet the Member!



Milena Mocaraska

'I decided to join NCWGB because, as a young woman in an industry that is still largely male-dominated, I value the importance of empowering women and ensuring our voices are heard. I'm keen to take part in events, contribute to discussions, and support efforts that influence positive change towards a fairer and more inclusive society.'



Emily Brailsford

Emily is a married mum of three (plus two dogs!) and is the Chair of Trustees for Girls' Brigade in England and Wales. She has worked for the last 8 years in domestic abuse education and awareness, both locally and nationally and has a particular interest in rural domestic abuse, the Manosphere and how it impacts women and girls. A serial volunteer, she wants to make a difference for women and girls in the UK and around the world.

Darlington Branch news

Gail Bishop

From debutantes to Dilly's Girls: The women who cracked the codes

Our February speaker, David Dean, delivered a fascinating talk on the men and women of Bletchley Park, the top-secret home of British World War II codebreakers. In the early years, recruits were drawn largely from Oxford and Cambridge—a mix of brilliant minds and memorable eccentrics. As the volume of intercepted messages grew and codebreaking became increasingly mechanised, recruitment widened. Debutantes—later dubbed the “Debs of Bletchley Park”—were brought in for their fast, accurate typing and perceived reliability due to their upper-class backgrounds. A large number of women also arrived through the WRNS, ATS and WAAF. At its peak, women made up 75% of Bletchley Park's 9,000-strong workforce. Initially assigned clerical duties, many soon moved into essential operational roles, running codebreaking machines and supporting intelligence analysis. One of Bletchley Park's most significant breakthroughs came from a young woman, Mavis Batey. Recruited at 19 to work directly with Dilly Knox in his small, largely female unit — often referred to as “Dilly's girls” — she spotted a German operator's mistake in a coded message allowing her to crack the Italian Naval Enigma, contributing directly to the Royal Navy's victory at the Battle of Cape Matapan. Our speaker also gave technical descriptions of how the pioneering machines at Bletchley worked in transforming wartime intelligence. Alan Turing's electromechanical Bombes rapidly tested Enigma settings, reducing days of work to minutes. Later, Colossus—the world's first programmable electronic computer, designed by Tommy Flowers—revolutionised the decoding of high-level German communications. Alongside the work of other key figures such as John Herivel and Hugo Foss, these advances enabled Allied commanders to anticipate enemy movements, protect convoys and plan decisive operations with unprecedented insight. Sir Winston Churchill famously described the men and women of Bletchley Park as “the goose that laid the golden egg that never cracked.”

Spring luncheon

Darlington Branch welcomed the arrival of spring with its customary annual luncheon. This year, Branch Chairman Kath Toward was delighted to host 39 guests, including family and friends of members and representatives from Darlington Soroptimists, the Inner Wheel Club and two local WI branches. The lunch offered a valuable opportunity to discuss with them our plans for the Branch's exhibition to mark International Women's Day in 2027. We hope our sister organisations will join us in celebrating the lives and achievements of notable women, both locally and globally. This year, the Soroptimists held a successful one-day exhibition highlighting prominent Darlington women — politicians, campaigners, authors, athletes, actors and a renowned anthropologist — spanning the 19th to the 21st centuries. They have expressed an interest in running the exhibition again and collaborating with us and the other Darlington women's groups to showcase the work we do.

Building a Lasting Legacy for NCWGB

The work of NCW has always been sustained by the commitment and generosity of its members. From advancing our mission today to preparing for the challenges of tomorrow, long-term financial stability is essential to ensuring that NCW can continue to connect, challenge and change, and lead for generations to come to empower women and improve quality of life for all.

One of the most meaningful ways to support the future of NCW is through legacy giving. A legacy gift, which is often made through a bequest in a will, allows members to make a lasting impact beyond their lifetime, helping to secure the resources needed to fund ongoing campaigning, support innovation, and respond to emerging needs aligned with NCW's mission.

These gifts are especially powerful because they provide continuity. They enable NCW to plan with confidence, invest strategically, and protect the work that members care deeply about. Importantly, a bequest does not affect one's financial circumstances today and can be structured to reflect personal values, priorities, and family considerations.

In this, our 130th year, we invite members to consider including NCW in their estate planning. By leaving a gift in your will, you affirm your belief in NCW's work and help ensure that this continues to make a difference well into the future. Even a modest bequest, when combined with others, can have a profound and lasting effect.

Your legacy can help shape the next chapter of NCW's story. We are deeply grateful for the dedication of all our members and for the thoughtful ways you support the future of our organisation.