



National
Council of
Women GB

June/July 2026 Member Newsletter

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

Next event: Dementia friends training online Wednesday 29th July 12.30-2pm – info@ncwgb.org

President's Message

Dear member

Lots of activity again this Summer.

On 15th July we will be in Parliament again discussing AI and safety by design. This follows the very successful and eye-opening event with deaf women in June and a roundtable with the very impressive Jess Asato MP.

We have set up a Supporters' Wall on our donate pages to commemorate or thank women important to you so do visit [\[Donate\]](#). We have also created a category of Champion member [\[Membership form\]](#) for those who wish to give NCWGB the extra support we need. Contact the office if you would like to upgrade your membership. We have two champion members already - huge thanks to them! ❤️

Why are there always queues at the ladies' loos? It's so obvious that we need more time than men do. See [page 2](#) for a petition to take this into proper account. Also, do you feel strongly about access to the countryside and keeping footpaths open, especially for people with disabilities? Contact the office to support our member who would like to prepare a resolution on this.

On 2 November it's our AGM And International Council of Women members are coming from all over the world to join our conference! We'll be sending forms for you to sign up to attend.

Do consider joining one of the study groups preparing briefing for conference attendees on women's leadership, climate change and digital safety.

Finally, lots of you have just renewed your membership. Thanks so much. We can't do it without you.

All the very best

Ann Davison
National President



Members news

Please give a warm welcome to new members and associates:

- Saima Rasool (Network 18-30) – London
- Pat Dale – South Croydon
- Rowena Castillo-Nicholls - Cornwall
- Etinyene Ubokudom - Manchester
- Ananya Iyer (Network 18-30) – London
- Claire Penellum - Cornwall
- Marie Griffiths - Manchester
- Rohit Sagoo - London
- Tsholofelo Knepscheld (Network 18-30) – South Croydon
- Just See Me Care Group (Associate) – West Midlands

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

DIARY DATES

July 2026

9	Commonwealth roundtable
15	In person Parliamentary event – "Safety by Design: Protecting Women and Girls". Register at info@ncwgb.org
27	Management Committee (MC) meeting
29	Dementia friends training (online) - 12.30-2pm. Register at info@ncwgb.org
30	UKCSWA – NCW presentation on Online Safety by Design. Register at info@ncwgb.org

August 2026

4	MC Awayday in Darlington
11	Commonwealth Women's Network core group

Do you want to honour or commemorate a woman important to you?

You are now able to donate to add a brick to our supporters' wall - this can be in memory of someone close to you personally, a woman from NCW's vast history who you admire, or to support the continuation of the work of NCW.

Check out our Donate page to find out more and see some of the bricks already in place 📱.

<https://ncwgb.org/donate/>

New Management Committee member



National Council of Women GB is delighted to announce that Professor Shweta Singh has joined our management committee. Shweta leads our online safety work and chairs the study group. Let us know if you'd like to join it.

The group are now preparing for the International Council of Women annual conference which NCWGB will host in London in November. On 2nd November we will devote a session of break out groups to online safety - to gain the perspective from different countries and plan further safeguards.

Shweta is also working on an event in Parliament on 'safety by design or harm by design' looking at the case for upstream regulation of the tech sector.

Thank you, Shweta, for your dedication, energy and leadership. Very much enjoy working with you!

Welcome to NCWGB Ambassador Eleanor Lyons

We are delighted to announce that **Eleanor Lyons**, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, has become an NCWGB Ambassador as we celebrate our 130th year. This appointment reflects our shared commitment to tackling one of the most devastating, yet often hidden, forms of violence against women and girls.

Modern slavery takes many forms, including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced marriage. It disproportionately affects women and girls and remains a significant challenge across the UK and beyond.

NCWGB's [resolution](#) calls for coordinated action across sectors including tourism, transport, finance and technology to prevent and combat modern slavery. This work is closely linked to our campaigns on climate change, recognising that environmental pressures can increase vulnerability to trafficking, and to our calls for stronger regulation of the online environment, where technology is used to facilitate the exploitation and commodification of women and girls.

We look forward to working with Eleanor Lyons to raise awareness of these issues and to secure stronger protections for some of the most vulnerable women and girls in our society.



Petition for more ladies' loos

NCWGB has long campaigned about ladies' loos. So, members may like to support this Petition for a different ratio between men's and women's loos in new buildings and refurbishments.

Link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/753731#main-content>

According to a report from the Royal Society for Public Health in 2019, 59% of women reported that they regularly queued for a toilet. The report notes that substantial numbers of women restrict fluid intake in case they cannot find a public toilet, and that many people (20%) report not venturing out of their homes because of this.

These issues disproportionately effect women, and the reality is that where there are public toilets available, the men's toilets are underused, with queues at the ladies.

And as for a trip to the theatre

Past events

The Commonwealth Women's Network met last month led by Penny Rankin (President of National Council of Women Canada), and **Ann Davison** (President of NCWGB).

The meeting agreed to prioritise work on digital safety and on climate change.

CWN also joined with other organisations to raise the issue of gender-based violence with the Commonwealth Heads of Government. The meeting stressed the disproportionate impact of violence on women and girls.

<https://lnkd.in/evnXUkUC>

In attendance with Penny and Ann were –

Christine Knock MNZM, New Zealand (Life Member, NCW)

Doris Bingley, National Council of Women of Malta

Doreen Borg Zammit, Vice President, NCW Malta; ICW Board Member

Jackie Taylor, National Council of Women, UK

Nana Yaa, Ghana (Women in Sustainability Africa)

NANA KOTILAIIDZE-WETSI, UK/Georgia/Ghana

Parveen Islam, Bangladesh Mohila Purishad

Gloria Shoda, President, African Regional Council, ICW; Board Member, ICW

Hellen Ntlatleng, President, National Council of African Women, South Africa



Event on deaf women experiencing domestic abuse

On 29 June, the National Council of Women GB and SignHealth held a joint parliamentary meeting to examine the challenges faced by Deaf women experiencing domestic abuse. Everyday communication barriers become acute and dangerous in situations of harm. Sara Rashid from our 18-30 network gave outstanding voluntary service to make this a success.

Many Deaf women struggle to report abuse: police forces and courts often lack access to British Sign Language interpretation, making disclosure difficult and sometimes unsafe. In the absence of appropriate support, children can be placed in the deeply inappropriate position of interpreting between their mother and the perpetrator, who may be their father.

Anica Zeyen, member and research advisor to National Council of Women, spoke about the time and financial burden caused by being disabled due to lack of provision in society. This includes employment difficulties and constantly having to explain what your needs are and answering often patronising questions. For deaf women lack of BSL provision and lack of deaf awareness are key burdens. Professor Jemina Napier highlighted the inequalities in access to services. Signhealth (associate member) speakers described their services and two survivors spoke movingly about their personal journeys and what needs to change.

NCWGB is determined that all women should have the opportunity to contribute in the civic space whether deaf, blind, disabled or none of these. The openness of our meetings reflects this aim and we endeavour to provide BSL whenever deaf BSL users wish to participate. We were delighted at the mixture of NCWGB members and Signhealth contacts who attended.

Huge thanks to Jen Craft MP, Signhealth, our speakers, Abigail Gorman, Kirsty Dix and our own Sara Rashid who went above and beyond in making the event such a success in awareness raising.



UK Civil Society Women's Alliance

National Council of Women GB's president **Ann Davison** highlighted women coping with menstrual health conditions and mentioned endometriosis and PMDD at a meeting of the UKCSWA on menstrual hygiene day. Speakers were **Jenni Martin (Menstrual Rights Global)**, **Anna Lawton** (UK Government Cabinet Office) and **Susan McKellar** (Scottish Women's Convention). They stressed the need for education and training - that women might on occasion need extra toilet breaks or to work from home for example.

Millions of women and girls worldwide still lack dignified, healthy ways to manage their menstruation due to inequality, discrimination, and poverty. Poor menstrual health limits education, work, and participation in society, while stigma and taboos continue to fuel misinformation and negative attitudes.

National Council of Women GB has set up a study group on women's health organised by **Dr Maria Karvela, FRSB** and **Jilly Rogers** our immediate past President.

Intergenerational event

National Council of Women GB members local to London enjoyed a great intergenerational event on 2 June. Our 18-30 members were very inspired to hear from specialist guests **Prof. Salma Abbasi** (CEO of **eWorldwide Group**), **Fiona Howarth** (Director of **Octopus Electric Vehicles**) and **Eleanor Harrison OBE** (CEO of **The Fairtrade Foundation**) about their careers and their advocacy.

Shweta Singh, (NCWGB Management Committee member) described our work for safety by design in tech. Liz Speight spoke about women's involvement in politics and **Charity Mafuba** spoke about legal careers. Harriet Allen described how to support young women not in employment, education or training and Sian Clarke addressed issues of misogyny in the classroom.

We all got chatting and drew inspiration and encouragement from each other. Many projects to help people and the planet will result.



Addressing women's health inequalities

Dame Lesley Regan, Women's Health Ambassador for England, Gisela Abbam OBE Chair of the General Pharmaceutical Council and Dr Maria Karvela led our June online seminar on 26th. Dr Karvela, who chairs NCWGB's health study group spoke of the real-world consequences of using men's bodies as the default. Dame Regan described progress being made in research into women's conditions and health hubs.



Dame Lesley Regan



Dr Maria Karvela



Gisela Abbam OBE

Members stressed the urgency of addressing both women only health conditions and those, like heart disease where the differences in presentation between men and women are often insufficiently recognised. Maternity care was also highlighted as a major area of concern.

These will be followed up by our Health study group.

Women's leadership

Professor Salma Abbasi, our first 130th anniversary Ambassador, spoke at National Council of Women's Associates meeting on Wednesday about women's leadership.

With the help of Lesley Batchelor CBE, trustees made plans for the International Council of Women annual conference. NCWGB will be hosting this in London in the first week of November.

We will bring women leaders together from across the globe to make concrete plans for dealing with online harms and climate change. We aim to produce a toolkit together building women's leadership in these areas where our voices are so much needed. We will also use our draft Fairtrade resolution to encourage Fairtrade across the world.



London Climate Action week



National Council of Women management committee member Professor Husna Ahmad OBE and President Ann Davison attended the screening of A People's Stocktake: A story of the global ethical stock take at the start of London Climate Action week.

Attendees were looking to get across the urgency of combatting climate change. The overarching question is what kind of society do we want to bequeath? Those as yet unborn will suffer much if we don't act on sustainability and reduce global warming now. We need to be peacemakers too because war is profoundly anti ecological.

We already have the scientific knowledge and the technology to tackle climate change so we must do it.

<https://ncwgb.org/resolutions/climate-change/>

Race equality

National Council of women GB met with HMG's race equality engagement group in Parliament in June to discuss improving equality in health for both women and ethnic minorities.

NCW President Ann Davison explained NCWGB's commitment to the health of women and girls over a 130-year history, including international campaigning e g on FGM.

Jackie Taylor from NCWGB's management committee described the health gap between low income and higher income parts of England. Changes were needed in the way men's bodies were often taken as the default in research and in better maternity care.

Tiffany Dove Abbam and Sian Clarke, NCWGB 18-30 members called for attention to women's health beyond reproductive health. Both mental and physical health needed attention.



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.

