National Council of Women GB

September/October 2026 Member Newsletter

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

Next event: AGM and Conference, 2 November at Copthorne Tara Hotel London Kensington, Scarsdale Place, London W8 5SY. Link to book place: https://ncwgb.org/one-day-conference/ Cost including lunch £65. We thank Octopus EV for their kind support

President's Message

Dear member and supporter

We are busy preparing for our AGM and joint conference with the International Council of Women on 2 November. This is a rare opportunity to work with our sisters from across the world. There are already about 130 signed up, so do join them. The study groups are making very exciting preparations on joint action plans covering women's leadership, digital safety and climate change! Please say if you would like to help facilitate any of these discussions on 2 November.

On 26th October we are running an event in Parliament on AI and health equity.

Registration for the UN Commission on the Status of Women March 2027 is also open now. See page 5.

On 23rd November we are showing the short film, the People's Emergency - about climate change - in London. It features Chris Packham, Jennifer Saunders and experts from across the disciplines. Contact the office if you are interested in attending.

There is an associated petition you can still sign See bottom of this page..

You might also like to support the schoolgirls' petition against the use of school uniforms in pornography. I'm only sorry they even have to know what pornography is! (page 6)

Successes We are pleased to report that the reforms for rape victims called for in our resolution 2 years ago are being put in place by the government. Also the government is sharing more detailed plans on protecting children from harmful social media, along the lines we pushed so hard for. Well done to all who worked on these.

We have just written to several parliamentarians and arms of government demanding safety by design in tech products so let's hope for similar success! We are also supporting continuation of UN Women as an independent agency working with civil society across the world working with ICW and the NGO CSW.

A reminder that we have set up a 'brick wall' on the donate part of our website (see final page). Rather nice that you can commemorate a woman important to you there. Thank you too, to those who have remembered NCWGB in your will (as have I). It all helps!

The study groups on women's health, digital safety, women's leadership and climate change are all open to members. Contact the office if you'd like to join.

All the very best



Ann Davison
National President

We are pleased to share with you Age International and Age UK's new voices report: "All our rights: Hearing from older people across the world". This brings together the views of older people in the UK and internationally on how they would like to see their rights protected.

Success with the petition we promoted: Parliament is going to debate the petition – "Hold a UK-wide briefing on climate and nature risk".

https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687

The debate is scheduled for 16 November 2026

DIARY DATES	
October 2026	
21	Commonwealth Civil Society Roundtable On wellbeing
23	Climate Study Group – 12 noon
26	NCWGB's AI and Health Equity Parliamentary Roundtable 1 or 2 places still available.
29	Charity Mafuba speaks online at UKCSWA2pm
November 2026	
2	NCWGB AGM and Conference, London
2-6	Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting Antigua. Beth Button attending
9-20	COP31 in Turkey on climate
18	11am Online Centenary Action on the opening of No. 10 North and the move towards greater devolution. Contact info@ncwgb.org if you would like to attend
23	Climate group - Showing of the People's Emergency film
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 days of Action on Violence against women and girls Likely NCWGBB event on schools

Members news

Please give a warm welcome to new members:

- Sarah Blight - Kent
- Grace Betta (Network)
- Hannah Kissmann (Network) - London
- Anita Okunde (Network) - Rochdale
- Maria Sepulveda
- Sue Atkins - Surrey
- Ruth Galwey – Co Armagh
- Katy King
- Jane Lyons MBE – London
- Ekta Srivastav – Surrey
- Vanessa Tanner – Wiltshire
- Netsai Hope
- Aisha Hanna Naz (Network)
- Charlotte Byford (Network) – Stamford
- Emma Postlewhite (Network) – London
- Arnold Pinder (Subscriber) – Leatherhead
- Charles Davey (Subscriber) – Bishop's Stortford

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

Women's Democracy Group

Our President, Ann Davison, spoke at the Women's Democracy Group meeting with Parliamentarians. She stressed the importance of reining in abuse of candidates and Parliamentarians to protect democracy. Since it was especially directed at women, it also undermined women's participation in the public space. Legislation is urgently needed.

The Women's Democracy Group was represented by Elect Her, The Jo Cox Foundation, the Fawcett Society, 50:50 Parliament, Centenary Action, Compassion in Politics, National Council of Women GB, University of Roehampton and Shout Out UK, working with the Online Safety Act Network and the Electoral Reform Society.

They set out proposed amendments to the Representation of the People Bill as it enters the House of Lords. The amendments strengthen democratic institutions at every stage of the journey into, through, and beyond elected office: creating a politics that is safe and respectful, modernising democratic institutions, and ensuring public office is genuinely open to everyone.



Photo shows Ann with co-organiser and NCWGB member, Liz Speight of Centenary Action.

Management committee



National Council of Women GB's Management Committee met to plan our growing programme of influence - on digital safety, climate change, women's health and equality.

With the Representation of the People Bill coming up, NCWGB will be lobbying for better protection for parliamentarians and candidates from abuse. Online aggression spills into the real world and has a chilling effect on democracy, deterring people from standing for office and particularly aiming to undermine women's contributions.

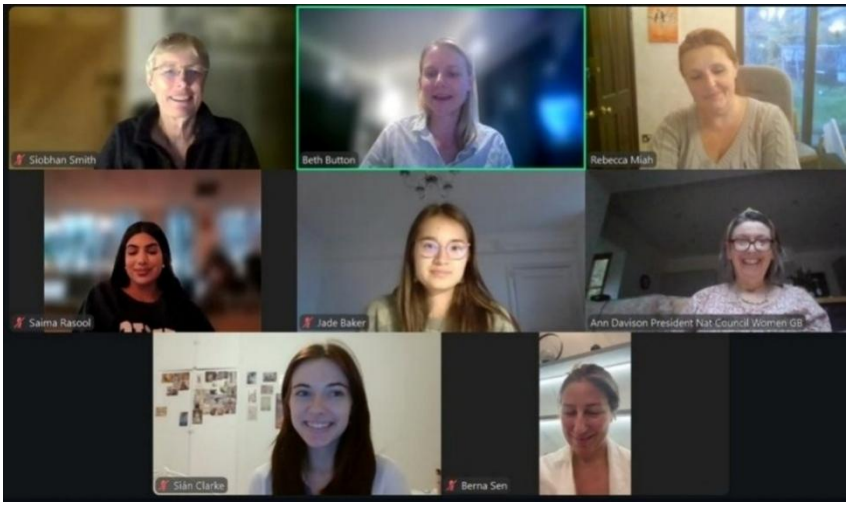
Our digital safety study group is also researching the detail of image-based rights and deep fakes as well as what safety by design looks like in practice,

It will run a joint event with the health study group on use of AI in health in Parliament on 26th October.

The Committee agreed to send invitations to our international conference to sister women's organisations in the U.K - the WI, Business and Professional Women, Soroptimists, Graduate Women and UKCSWA.

Climate study group

National Council of Women GB's Climate Change study group met to raise awareness of the huge challenges caused by climate change and of the effort we can put in to combat it. The big opportunity we have is our international conference on 2 November when we can inform and rally women's organisations from across the globe to take concerted action.



As individuals we can adopt those green behaviours we find manageable. We can work with our MPs to improve the national picture.

And we can influence sister organisations here and globally. We can lobby internationally too - UN institutions and the Commonwealth.

National Council of Women GB is working on all these levels. At our next meeting we will show the film the People's Emergency briefing. It explores the risks of climate change to food security, public health, extreme weather, infrastructure, and national security as well as how we can mitigate them.

In the meantime we are researching key areas such as energy, including sustainable aviation fuel, food and farming here and in the global South, the state of the oceans and the positives and negatives of AI. We are thinking how we can contribute to the next UN Climate Change conference in Turkey.

Photo shows Study group members - Siobhan Smith, Chair Beth Button, Rebecca Miah, Saima Rasool, Jade Baker, Ann Davison (NCW President) Sian Clarke and Berna Sen.

International youth conference



Ann Davison had the pleasure of speaking at the international youth conference organised by our Ambassador Salma Abbasi on Saturday. Ann reported on the widespread sexualised comments, harassment, and inappropriate behaviour, including requests for nude images experienced by children in the U.K.

Health Professionals for Safer Screens report that smartphones, screens and social media usage impact every part of our children's lives from their cognitive development through to their physical development – obesity, eyesight, and eating disorders - and to their social development, mental health and academic attainment. They describe this as a disaster for children and society.

Both general safety legislation and sector specific safety rules apply to other sectors, Ann said, and services too have to, by law, show reasonable care. So National Council of Women GB demands the same for online products and services. What is illegal offline should be illegal online. There should be a legal requirement for safety by design.

National Council of Women GB President, Ann Davison, was delighted to meet again with Bernadette Lewis, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), at the AI and health roundtable where they discussed child protection online.



Bernadette will speak at NCWGB's international conference on 2 November which has a special focus on online safety.

The AI and health roundtable table was organised by Pat Dale MBE, Soroptimists' representative to the Commonwealth and valued NCWGB member. Ann was also representing the Commonwealth Women's Network.

We discussed maximising the benefits of AI for health research and monitoring as well as countering any harms such as addiction, emotional attachment to chatbots, deep fakes and misleading health advice. The normal medical supervision requirements should apply, said Ann. Offline rules should apply online too.

National Council of Women President Ann Davison met with representatives of the Internet Society Foundation which exists to support the positive difference the Internet can make - for example to bring communities better education, healthcare and economic opportunity. They discussed their work to promote safe internet practices among children, parents, and social workers.

Ann spoke about the harms suffered by children online such as bullying, sexualisation, body shaming sextortion and addiction. She described NCWGB's campaign for a legal safety by design requirement on the tech industry to give children the necessary protection.

Photo shows Joyce Dogniez vice President and Chris Locke, managing director of the Internet Society Foundation with Ann.



UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN – CSW71
8th to 19th March 2027 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York

The seventy-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 8th to 19th March 2027. It will especially debate "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

NCWGB cannot fund attendance but we can get members entrance to relevant sessions to represent us. We support them with information on policy and practical issues. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending in person. Email: info@ncwgb.org or Tel: 01325 367375.

Baroness Lloyd of Effra CBE, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Space, Cyber and Regulatory Reform, and Ann Davison, President of the National Council of Women GB, spoke at the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation's 125th anniversary conference on Wednesday. Baroness Lloyd described the government's digital inclusion agenda for underserved communities. This includes the role of women and girls in STEM.



Ann spoke about the many and egregious harms children face online from bullying to body shaming, the manosphere, violence and sexual content and approaches. Ann stressed the urgency of the crisis for children.

The Commonwealth is an ideal forum to tackle this together she said in view of its humanitarian values. NCWGB and Commonwealth Women's network advocate safety by design. Other products and services have to comply with general and sector specific safety regulations so the tech industry should certainly not be exempted. What is illegal offline should be illegal online.

One of our valued members Shubra Karmat has been shortlisted as one of the five finalists in the Trailblazer category of the UK AI Sovereign AI Awards.

Shubra is a clinician by background and currently leads the clinical strategy, engagement and safe adoption of AI at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. If you feel it appropriate this is where you can vote.
Vote here: https://ukai.co/ai-event-calendar/sovereign-ai-awards/trailblazer-vote.html



National Council of Women GB President Ann Davison met with Arnold Pindar, former President of the National Consumer Federation, at a reunion of consumer professionals in London.

They discussed electrical safety and also how international standards bodies could help improve digital safety when it comes to issues like bullying, sexualisation, deep fakes and content harmful to children.
Consumer protection is a key issue for NCWGB. The National Independent Consumer Organisation (NICO) will be represented at NCWGB's international conference on 2 November in Kensington which will plan action on consumer protection in the digital space. NICO is a valued Associate member of the NCWGB.

(Photo shows Arnold with Ann and other consumer colleagues)

You may like to sign this petition. NCWGB is campaigning hard to protect children from online pornography

change.org



I teach at The Cooper School, a comprehensive academy in Oxfordshire. Some of the girls here, like so many others across the country, **no longer feel safe out of school in the uniform we ask them to wear every day**.
One 15-year-old has stopped wearing skirts on the way home. Not because they're uncomfortable, but because of how a school uniform can be perceived.
School uniform is a common costume in pornography. A new law will make it a crime for porn to mimic children, but only those who appear to be under 16.
Lots of schools keep uniform until 18 and wearing a school uniform at any age is clearly evoking a school-aged identity. That's the loophole the girls want closed.
We're calling on the Prime Minister to ban school uniforms in porn.
If you agree, please sign our petition.

Sign now with a click

View petition

Thank you for reading,
Kristan O'Flynn, Petition Starter

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.

