

First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls

Story So Far...

A very warm welcome to all of our Circle members, whether you have been with us since our launch in December 2017, or are a newer member. We thank you for continuing to commit to this ambitious agenda for Scotland and look forward to seeing as many of you as we can at our meetings. Considering the different stages that people have joined our Circle, we regularly update and circulate this document, and we hope that this is helpful.

The [First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls \(NACWG\)](#) was formed as a catalyst for change to address gender inequality, by providing an independent voice to the First Minister. Its purpose is to drive action to encourage gender equality in Scotland and its vision is for Scotland to be recognised as a world leader for its comment and action towards realising an equal society, where all women and girls can grow up equal and reach their true potential.

The NACWG is a feature in the current and previous three Programme for Government statements, demonstrating the First Minister's commitment to this issue. [Louise Macdonald OBE, CEO of Young Scot](#), was announced as the independent Chair in March 2017 and membership was confirmed that November. The NACWG's inaugural meeting followed on 6 December and the NACWG **Circle** first met.

Key questions were asked of the Circle that day, which helped the NACWG to develop their initial three year strategy. Of key note are the annual topics – as they form the focus of the NACWG's end of year report and recommendations to First Minister:

- 2018: Attitudes and Culture Change – in public life; in work; in learning systems...
- 2019: Policy Coherence – how is policy made and do policies work against each other...
- 2020: Creating an Intersectional Gender Architecture – the status of women in Scotland, structures and intersectionality.

NACWG in 2018

The NACWG met three times during 2018, to explore **Attitudes and Culture Change** with the Circle, hearing from a wide intersectionality on this topic.

On 1 June 2018 we launched our digital platform, **#GenerationEqual**, which is where wider participation and exploration of issues that affect women and girls in Scotland takes place. We call this our **Community**. Bi-monthly **Spotlights** are featured on the digital platform and we invite feedback through a channel called "**Spotlight Wee Circle's**". Analysis of this feedback is shared on the digital platform in the form of a summary report and this insight is considered by the NACWG when drafting our end of year report to the First Minister.

We wanted to expand our reach across Scotland and tested holding **Satellite Wee Circles** to provide a further face to face channel for those unable to attend the main event. We also

introduced a digital survey following each main Circle event, so Circle members can feed into the NACWG strategy if attending the Circle event wasn't convenient.

In December 2018 we submitted our 2018 Report and Recommendations to the First Minister.

NACWG in 2019

We published our [2018 Report and Recommendations](#) on **25 January 2019** and invited our Circle to an event on 30 January to celebrate this milestone. The First Minister attended and spoke to the Circle about her initial thoughts. The [Scottish Government responded](#) in full to on **26 June 2019**, accepting all 11 recommendations, 4 with further consideration due to their complex nature.

We spent the year exploring our annual topic **Policy Coherence**. We held three mass participation events and adapted our model, introducing Youth Circles and roundtables with gender experts, businesses and BAME communities.

We held our first Accountability Day on 6 November, at the Scottish Parliament, to hold both ourselves and the government to account and this event was attended by the Minister for Older People and Equalities, Permanent Secretary and other senior civil servants.

In December we submitted our 2019 Report and Recommendations to the First Minister.

NACWG in 2020:

Today We are meeting on 29 January to celebrate the [2019 Report and Recommendations](#), which was published a week ago, and to talk about what it means and how we can all play our part in making gender inequality a historical curiosity.

Following this event, we'll move on to explore our 2020 annual topic **Creating an Intersectional Gender Architecture – the status of women in Scotland, structures and intersectionality...** More detail about will be circulated soon.

We Couldn't Do This Without You

Thank you so much – your collective insight, input and ideas is vital in shaping our work and we look forward to seeing you over 2020 because, **Together we are #GenerationEqual**

Social Media

Stay in touch with us at @NACWGScot on social media platforms, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, and join to conversation on #GenerationEqual. We'll see you there!

Contact Us: ACWG@gov.scot