

FIRST MINISTER'S NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS - MEETING NOTE 25 MARCH 2020

ATTENDEES

Amina Ahmed: Scottish Government Fairer Future Codesign Panel - apologies
Kara Brown: Lead Young Women's Engagement, World YWCA
Tressa Burke: CEO, Glasgow Disability Alliance
Dr Catherine Calderwood: Chief Medical Officer – apologies
Sharon Edwards: STUC – apologies
Vicky Featherstone: Artistic Director, London's Royal Court Theatre – apologies
Jacqui Ferguson: Non-Executive Director, Croda PLC, Engineering UK, Tesco Bank and Wood Plc
Professor Dame Anne Glover: President, Royal Society of Edinburgh - apologies
Dame Katherine Grainger: Chair, UK Women in Sport - apologies
Katie Horsburgh: Volunteer Advocate, Girlguiding Scotland
Dr Ima Jackson: Independent Co-chair and Senior lecturer at Strathclyde University
Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws: QC – apologies
Louise Macdonald OBE: Independent Co-chair and CEO, Young Scot
Satwat Rehman: CEO, One Parent Families Scotland
Emma Ritch: Executive Director, Engender
Suki Wan: Former Chair, Scottish Youth Parliament – apologies
Talat Yaqoob: Director, Equate Scotland and Co-Founder, Women 5050

Deborah **Fulerčík**: Scottish Government Support to NACWG

Co-chairs took time to welcome everyone and acknowledged the challenging times we were all facing, before the business of the meeting commenced. Papers had been structured into a series of updates and discussion and once the updates had been addressed the remainder of the meeting was focussed on the current crisis and contingency planning.

NACWG Contingency Planning in Light of COVID-19

The increasing impact of COVID-19 was a key reflection throughout the meeting, particularly when discussing the NACWG contingency plan. Members were in general agreement about switching to a digital strategy but raised the issue of the possibility of not all our Circle members being online/having access and that we needed to consider how those with limited/no access can also participate. Members also reflected on the likelihood of women feeling the brunt of the current crisis, and a clear and live example of how they are further silenced and unable to participate, and the value of considering how we capture and learn from this.

Even though there was general agreement, members were also of the opinion that the draft contingency plan/2020 scope needed further thought in light of the current crisis, and take more time to consider realistically how the NACWG can both achieve its objectives and understand how crises can further affect women. Members discussed ensuring the core strategy engagement was meaningful and the ask of Circle members was achievable. There was concern that we do not position ourselves as “experts” of intersectionality and attempt to “teach” or lead – our purpose is to enquire and explore, seeking insight and input.

The additional piece of work that co-chair Dr Jackson is leading on was discussed and how thinking prior to the impact of this crisis been that long table methodology would be used to explore the power dynamic. Although a lot of work happens prior to the actual long tables and this could be conducted virtually, the actual long tables cannot due to the subtle but crucial power dynamics of this methodology. Members were in general agreement that we do not want to put our energies into tokenistic events that we don’t learn from and result in no change – we would be doing women and girls a disservice.

Members agreed that timing and prioritisation is key at the moment and that the NACWG should take a little longer to think through their plans and consider in light of the current crisis, what is needed most. Women will feel the brunt of this so how can the NACWG help with the response to COVID-19, and ultimately what this means to current NACWG timescales and milestones. A final note was of the opportunity here to learn from the suspected change in the architecture – how this affects women and what we can learn (Engender is already working on a paper).

Members agreed to meet in a fortnight (and going forward in the short term to have more regular and shorter meetings) and for plans to be developed between now and then by the Co-Chairs and secretariat for discussion and agreement by the Council.

25 March
NACWG Secretariat