

## **Notes of the First Meeting of Women's Working Group 11 October 2007, Women's Aid, 129 University Street**

**Present:** Kate Lagan (SDLP), Paula Bradshaw (UU), Elaine Campbell (Age Sector), Helena Macormac (Ethnic minorities), Margaret Ward ( chair) (Women's Sector), Irene Miskimmon (Women's Sector), Colin Foley (substitute for Tim Cunningham, CAJ).

**Apologies:** Jennifer McCann (SF), Sara Duncan (Alliance), Aileen McColgan (advisor)

One member had still to be appointed to the group. This would probably be a male member from the trade unions.

It was explained that Aileen's flight had been cancelled due to fog. The meeting would therefore not discuss substantive issues but would agree on procedures for future meetings.

### **Update on progress**

- Margaret reported back on the meeting held between Chris Sidoti, the secretariat and the working group convenors.
- It has been agreed that each working group would have a budget of £1,000 to facilitate its working. This would provide for payment for minute takers, expenses for meetings such as room hire and refreshments and travel expenses for external contributors.
- In the light of the non-appointment of Outreach workers it was intended to re-open applications for one week. It was hoped that there would be 4 part-time workers appointed in the next few weeks, each with responsibility for engagement with some of the categories agreed by the Forum.

### **Future meetings**

- 8 November and 28 November were agreed as dates for future meetings. A December meeting had still to be agreed. The meetings would be full days if possible, depending on the availability of the advisor. At the very least, meetings would be from 12-4 but hopefully would start earlier than 12.
- Margaret would see contact TWN, Weaver's Court off Sandy Row to see if we could hire a room and to arrange for the provision of lunch.
- A post-graduate law student would be asked to take notes at future meetings.
- It was agreed that the group would look for evidence, particularly around contentious issues. This would help to strengthen the conclusions of the group when they are presented to the Forum.
- Aileen would be asked to give a presentation on international standards relating to women as a baseline for the group at its first meeting on 8 November.
- NIWEP would be asked to present their shadow report on CEDAW and women in N. Ireland at a future meeting.

- Eleanor Jordan, from Windsor Women's Centre in the Village area would be asked to give a short presentation regarding the experiences of women living in a strongly PUL area.
- Elaine would speak to Lynn Carvill about contacts with other women's centres.
- Helena would talk to Derek Hanway with regards to methods of engaging with Traveller women.
- Other areas to be considered at meetings would be carers, migrant women and rural women.

**Work for the next meeting**

- The group would all read the papers already circulated and would think about the issues that would be important to ensure would be included within the other working groups.
- The CEDAW paper would be read for specific issues relevant to N.I. women.
- Margaret would also circulate the feedback paper drawn up following the conference on women and the Bill of Rights held in June.