



50p

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may day greetings

NAW EXECUTIVE MEMBER BERNADETTE KEAVENEY (RIGHT) BRINGS GREETINGS TO THE LONDON MAY DAY RALLY

THIS year marks the 70th anniversary of the National Assembly of Women – established after the Second World War and at the height of the Korean War. From the very beginning we have campaigned for peace and for a world free from the threat of war.

As we watch in horror at the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the senseless slaughter of women and children, and the plight of refugees fleeing across the globe we reaffirm our belief that we cannot gain true freedom, justice and equality until this world is built on the foundations of peace.

Our membership of the Women's International Democratic Federation, allows us to share our experiences and to show solidarity with the struggles of our sisters across the world who are campaigning for the same rights.

In 1945 Britain had to begin the task of re-building the economic and physical fabric of our society. Over two million homes had been destroyed; nearly a million people killed or injured and five million soldiers returning to civilian life. The newly elected Labour government had the vision and the determination to build a better society. It established a national health service to provide free medical care and a national system of benefits to ensure that every citizen was supported from cradle to grave. Homes were built and jobs created.

Today, we face a huge economic crisis created by policies pursued by successive Tory governments who have systematically destroyed the gains that were made in the post war period. Our National Health Service is being deliberately underfunded and privatised; public services have been decimated and the benefit system, created to protect families and the unemployed, has been cruelly cut, increasing levels of poverty reminiscent of the 1930s.



Women were already disproportionately affected but in the wake of the global pandemic we are bearing the full brunt of the crisis as we make up the majority of workers in the our over-stretched public services, the NHS, social care and education.

These ruthless Tory policies have, over the past 10 years created a more unequal society where one in five mothers are going without food in order to feed their children and over a million people a year are being provided with food from a charity food bank. At the same time the richest 1,000 families in Britain have seen their wealth double and tax avoidance goes unchallenged even during a pandemic.

Policies like these also create a dangerous political situation. As the gap between the richest and the poorest widens, reactionary and racist ideas find a new breeding ground – we can see this currently in France where far-right Marine Le Pen is in the running for the

Presidency and in Russia as Vladimir Putin pursues a nationalistic agenda in order to detract from a stagnating economy. At times like this it is vital that progressive forces stay united so that we do not repeat the tragic history of the 20th century.

The National Assembly of Women is proud of its strong links to the trade union movement and peace organisations including CND and Stop the War and involvement in local community campaigns. As a founder member of the People's Assembly Against Austerity, which has mobilised hundreds of thousands of people across the country, we are determined to articulate an alternative progressive economic agenda with women's voices central to the debate and decision making.

Our NAW Charter for Women articulates the policies needed to address equality for women. Find out more at www.sisters.org or better still affiliate your union and send a woman delegate to this year's AGM!!

The forthcoming local elections give us a chance to make it clear to Labour politicians that we expect more from them – we want decent wages; an end to privatisation of our NHS; nationalisation of utilities and transport; a just transition to a low carbon economy to address the climate emergency; trade union rights and support for all those struggling for decent housing, child care and employment. To pay for this we want a fair progressive tax system.

It was possible in 1945 to create a fairer, more caring society – it can be possible again. It is vital that we stand together, like we are today so we can build a better world for ourselves, our families and future generations free from the threat of war.



LEFT: MEIRIAN JUMP, MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY ARCHIVIST OPENS THE RALLY AND INTRODUCES THE SPEAKERS – BERNADETTE, AND MICK LYNCH (RIGHT), GENERAL SECRETARY OF RAIL UNION RMT

cost of living catastrophe

MARY ADOSSIDES IS CHAIR OF BRENT TRADES UNION COUNCIL, PRESIDENT OF THE GREATER LONDON ASSOCIATION OF TRADES UNION COUNCILS, AND A MEMBER OF THE NAW

PENSIONERS, workers living on a low wage, and families face a cost-of-living catastrophe whilst our government ensures the profits of large corporations rise by the day. Soaring prices, falling wages, pensions which are dropping in value, privatised public services and a groaning and underfunded NHS is the daily diet faced by British workers in the sixth richest country in the world.

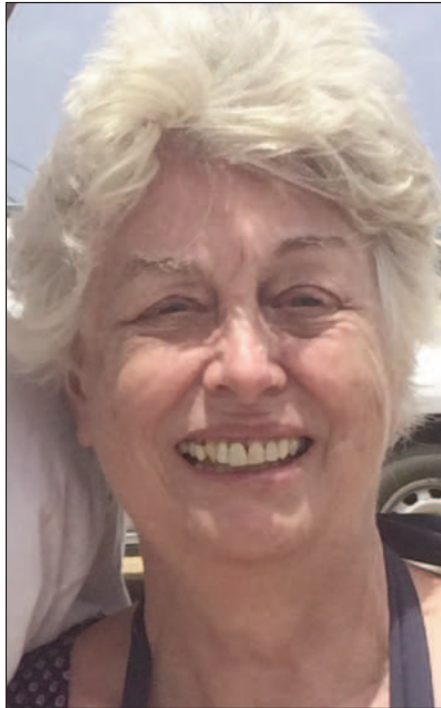
Britain's backing for a super-exploitative world order policed by the City of London distorts our economy to ensure corporate profit trumps human need. This is because super-profits for the few are more important to our leaders than ensuring working people and their families are not confronted with a daily choice of 'heat or eat'.

As measures to protect us from COVID are dropped, the British government has prioritised the defence of 'democracy in Ukraine' with a massive rise in military spending in support of war. Nobody needs war, and sanctions against Russia, the world's main importer of gas are a reason for the hike in prices. The price cap for energy bills is set to jump by 54% in April and the government is refusing to intervene and place a cap on energy giants or demand a windfall tax. This will compound the already soaring grocery and transport costs, tax and council tax and rent hikes, which have increased nearly tenfold while wages mostly remain stagnant.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak refused to maintain the £20 uplift to Universal Credit, of crucial importance to so many mothers and families on low pay, just one example of this cruel government's choice of prioritising the demands of the few over those of the many.

Single people and people who live alone will be some of the hardest hit by this crisis. According to Office for National Statistics data from 2019, people living on their own spend an average of 9% more of their disposable income than two-adult households, mostly on the same bills that are set to go up. Single-parent mothers often experience far greater poverty or live with debt they can't afford to pay back.

At a recent protest at Downing Street, a speaker from the National Pensioners Convention reminded those who were there that 'our pensions are the lowest in Europe'. 12.4 million older people across the UK are in receipt of a state pension. The full basic state pension is £137.60 per week. A 3.1 per cent rise will see the basic state pension rise but this rise to £141.85 is hardly a sustainable income when inflation was 5% in the 12 months to December 2021. It is forecast to rise



further forcing many pensioners many of them women to choose between 'heat or eat'.

Looking across the UK as a whole, the average male pension has a value of £40,084, compared to £24,445 for females – a difference of just under 40%, or £15,639. Low pay is a major contributing factor to the gender pay gap and the gender pension gap as women when working often depend on part-time positions and poorly paid jobs to manage family commitments. This is reflected in their pensions as on average, women earn about 16% less than men.

Reliance on foodbanks has become acceptable in Britain, the sixth richest country in the world.

Some unions are backing a rise in industrial action mainly by low paid NHS workers whose jobs have been outsourced to large corporations such as Serco and or Churchill, teachers working in private schools are taking strike action opposing fire and rehire in defence of their pensions and other workers such as UCU lecturers continue to strike in defence of pensions.

These are examples of a wave of anger which is spreading across our country over the cost-of-living crisis. This surge in protests and strikes will hopefully re-ignite urgent conversations which are needed about who owns and controls Britain.

SINCE THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUOR PRODUCED A MINIMALIST WINDFALL TAX DESCRIBED AS A "TEMPORARY TARGETED ENERGY PROFITS LEVY"

pension inequality for women

On 18 of May, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women met for its Annual General Meeting. The APPG is co-chaired by Denton and Reddish MP Andrew Gwynne alongside Peter Aldous MP. It aims to provide a cross-party forum in which to hold the government to account on the issue of transitional arrangements to compensate 1950s-born women who are affected by changes to the state pension age. Each APPG is required to hold an AGM at least once a year, in order to elect officers and discuss key priorities for the year ahead.

Commenting on the AGM, Andrew Gwynne said:

"This was a very positive meeting, and it's great to see even more colleagues from across the political spectrum getting involved with the work of the APPG.

"1950s-born women have been ignored for far too long. The APPG is more committed than ever to giving a voice to 1950s-born women in Parliament, and putting pressure on the government to address this extraordinary injustice."

For more information: www.parallel-parliament.co.uk/APPG/state-pension-inequality-for-women

rebuild the nhs



SURVEYS of public opinion show the vast majority of people are in favour of a publicly funded and provided NHS service, paid for through general taxation, free at the point of use and providing comprehensive services.

The NHS is not failing because it's a poor system but because it's being failed by the government, starved of funds, modern equipment, and staff. They blame covid, but the NHS was in dire straits before the pandemic, with 20,000 beds cut and 100,000 staff vacancies pre covid. We have 110,000 staff vacancies now. There has been no workforce plan since 2003 and government ministers even rejected an amendment to the Health and Care Bill requiring regular independent assessment of staffing need.

Lack of staff means that services such as diagnosing and treating cancer simply cannot be delivered. Falling numbers of GPs and rising workload are making general practice unsustainable while promises to provide additional staff have been broken.

The Health and Care Bill is now an Act. This major change to how our NHS will work is happening at a moment when people are dying on record high waiting lists and going far too long without urgent treatment.

The Health and Care Act will not make the situation any better.

The sad thing is the current crisis in the NHS is unnecessary and avoidable. It arises from government policy and not inherent problems in our NHS. The government must step in to save lives and end needless suffering now. It will not do so of its own volition. We put on the pressure to make it change course.

That's why Keep Our NHS Public has launched a new petition on its website demanding that Health Secretary Sajid Javid takes urgent action to rebuild the NHS.

To do this the government must:

- end the staffing crisis, including paying staff properly

- train and recruit more staff by scrapping tuition fees and bringing back the NHS student bursary

- ensure the NHS has the funds it needs (to the level of comparable countries) – this is affordable for the fifth largest economy in the world



- stop the flow of cash to the private sector and invest in rebuilding the NHS instead

We urge you to sign and share the petition now!

1. Share the petition with five friends or family members right now
2. Share the petition on your own social media accounts
3. Use your phone to film a video you can share on social media with your reasons for signing
4. Talk about the state of the NHS at work and ask your colleagues to sign the petition
5. Share the petition on your local group newsletter, local group Facebook page or Twitter account

nhs workers need a decent pay rise

NURSES face a shocking real-terms pay cut of £1,600 this year if the Tory government imposes another three per cent pay settlement, the TUC has warned.

The potential rise, which would mirror what most health workers received last year, would be swallowed up by runaway energy prices, the union confederation said.

The cost of fuel, gas and electricity is rising 40 times faster than sluggish NHS wages, it highlighted, while the consumer prices index inflation rate is currently at a 40-year high of nine per cent.

A three per cent increase would affect other health staff, the TUC stressed, with paramedics suffering a £2,000 hit, maternity care assistants taking home £1,200 less and porters' pay plummeting by £1,000.

The cost-of-living emergency, worsened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, comes after a "brutal" decade of Tory austerity and declining real-terms wages, which the union body said has led to "crippling staff shortages".

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said: "Our brilliant key workers in the NHS helped get Britain through the pandemic, but many are now at breaking point.

"Any offer that falls below the cost of

living will be a hammer blow to staff morale and many NHS workers may choose to vote with their feet.

"It's time the government started to undo the damage of the past decade."

Another below-inflation pay recommendation from the NHS Pay Review Body, which is due to report to ministers imminently, would also see England suffer a whopping £2.1 billion loss in economic activity, the TUC argued.

North-west and north-east England as well as Yorkshire and Humber would suffer the biggest proportionate hits to household spending power, it said.

GMB national officer Rachel Harrison told the *Morning Star*: "Cost of living expenses continue to rise whilst NHS workers wait for their delayed pay increase.

"NHS workers deserve a significant pay uplift which includes fair overtime rates for all and absorbs cost of living and pension increases.

"Failure to award this will result in many more NHS workers leaving for jobs elsewhere."

And Unison head Christina McAnea warned of disaster, saying: "Overworked, demoralised and experienced staff need much more if they are to be persuaded to stay and see the NHS through the worst crisis in its history."

fighting outsourcing in south london



THIS May, Friday the 13th was bad luck for Mitie as, against the odds, domestics and hostesses in St George's hospital secured a mandate for industrial action. The workers will be taking their first 24 hours of strike action on 30 May, which will include a lunchtime march of strikers right through the heart of Tooting.

The strike ballot was triggered by outsourcing giant Mitie withholding wages. This created a nightmare for our members who found themselves unable to afford public transport costs to get to work. They are demanding modest compensation to enable them to pay rent and feed their families.

As Mitie held back the wages of hourly paid workers across the country the company publicly announced the acquisition of telecoms company 8point8 for £10 million.

From Mitie press release dated on May 3: "Total consideration is £10m and the acquisition will be accretive to earnings and funded through existing facilities..."

This has added fuel to the fire of our trade dispute as workers are questioning the reasons why Mitie have delayed wage payments.

The deliberate introduction of a two-tier workforce has driven wages, terms and conditions to rock-bottom for the majority of the Mitie workers in St Georges hospital. GMB members are demanding one NHS contract for everyone. "One Mitie, One Contract" will be their rallying call as they embark on an escalating programme of strike action against the outsourcing giant.

The strike ballot result was achieved in the face of intensive and aggressive union busting tactics. Mitie managers wrote out to every worker and lied about

the negotiations with GMB which angered our representatives.

Managers urged the workers not to vote for a strike saying they would lose pay which is ironic given that the loss of pay and the constant driving down of pay, terms and conditions by the company is creating so much anger.

GMB branch secretary Francis Dwum was told he would be removed from a meeting if he spoke which is now the subject of a grievance that the company has yet to respond to.

On the day the strike ballot opened workers staged an impromptu protest because pay was withheld. Managers confronted myself, the reps and the members in a deliberate effort to try to silence the workforce and subvert their right to engage in collective trade union activity.

Also, of grave concern are reports that workers were threatened with the sack if they voted in the union ballot and this led to some initial reluctance to vote.

Ultimately the scare tactics didn't work because our members know that they are right and Mitie is wrong. They are fed up of being mistreated by their employer because their hard work has secured the contract for the company.

The workers are fighting not just for themselves but for their families, for the future of services at the hospital and on behalf of every outsourced worker in the country and they know it.

The demand to take the contract back in house has been raised and our members will expect South West London & St Georges NHS Trust to listen.

Being paid in full for hours worked is a basic human right in any free and democratic country but this is being undermined

by NHS privatisation. The Mitie workers have had enough which is the reason so many of them have found the courage to vote in the strike ballot.

The realignment of the pay structures has led to hardship and suffering and this is why our members will take all steps necessary to oppose these ruthless cash-grabbing antics that appear to be integral to outsourcing.

If the daylight robbery of wages can happen right at the heart of the NHS it can happen anywhere. It is also of concern that Mitie managers seem to think they have a green light to trample over the hard-won rights of workers to organise themselves within a trade union.

The flagrant abuse of the rights of the Mitie workers is on the cards for every other worker in this country if we don't take this company on and win. The way the Mitie workers are being treated and the resulting adverse impact on hospital standards means that every effort must be made to end outsourcing across the NHS for good.

This is why GMB is appealing for everyone right across the labour and trade union movement to join our picket line on 30 May and march alongside our striking workers as they embark on their epic struggle against Mitie and against the rotten nature of outsourcing.

HELEN O'CONNOR IS A GMB REGIONAL OFFICER. THIS ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED ON 20 MAY 2022 IN THE MORNING STAR

say no to nato

IT'S time Britain said NO to NATO

FIRSTLY, it must be said that Russia should be condemned utterly for its brutal attack on Ukraine. However, this does not mean that NATO is an alliance which is to be supported as a defensive peace body.

NATO is a military alliance, which has always been dominated by the United States. The "North Atlantic Treaty Organisation" was formed before the Warsaw Pact.

When the Warsaw Pact collapsed after the fall of the Soviet Union it might have been expected that NATO too would disband. But, of course, the opposite happened.

NATO set about expanding in eastern Europe. Part of a reason for this was the power of the military-industrial complex.

As countries joined NATO, they had to jettison their Soviet military equipment so there was interoperability and buy from the West, mainly the US. It was a bonanza for US military manufacturers. As conflicts rage across the world, it must be remembered that for some, war is good business.

This expansion to the east meant that NATO reached Russia's borders. This was direct provocation, especially when NATO regularly carried out military exercises on the land bordering Russia. Ukraine also became a NATO Partner for Peace, or, as many would say, a "partner for war".

None of this justifies Putin's attack on Ukraine, but these were not moves by NATO which would bring stability to the region.

From the start NATO has had a policy of holding nuclear weapons and a policy of first use of nuclear weapons. When the British government was asked in Parliament if it had a policy of first use, the minister replied that yes, as we were in NATO and that was NATO's policy. So much for Britain having an independent foreign policy.

The Trident nuclear fleet of submarines are "integrated" into NATO. Trident is often spoken of as an "independent nuclear deterrent" but it is not – the missiles are "lease purchased" from the US and crews are trained in the US. The submarines are based at Faslane in Scotland which has been described as "the US forward base in Europe".

Under the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty, which Britain signed, the nuclear-armed states were, under Article VI, to pursue nuclear disarmament in "good faith". There has been no good faith: nuclear weapons have been developed and the number of them has increased.

Last year Boris Johnson declared in the Integrated Defence Review the number of nuclear warheads would be increased by 44 per cent. At the same time the majority of nations in the world have signed up to the UN-negotiated



Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Here again NATO has played a negative role and actively prevented NATO member states from entering the negotiations, let alone signing.

NATO long ago gave up on any semblance of remaining in the area of the North Atlantic. It is now global NATO.

It has nine "global partners" – Afghanistan, Australia, Colombia, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan. Colombia joined in 2017; NATO proudly boasted that it was the first Latin American country to enter such a relationship with NATO.

Again, this is counter to established law: under the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Latin America became a nuclear-weapon free zone – but NATO is a nuclear-armed alliance.

In Europe, there are officially two nuclear armed states, Britain and France. However, NATO established six US nuclear-armed bases across Europe. They are in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey (yes, unbelievably Turkey) and there was one at Lakenheath in East Anglia.

This effectively made those five countries nuclear countries as their pilots and crew had to be trained to use the nuclear-armed fighter planes. The nuclear weapons were removed from Lakenheath in 2008, by which time the site had 33 underground storage vaults and stored around 110 B61 gravity bombs that could be dropped from F-15E warplanes based there.

A report from Hans Kristensen, the director of the nuclear information project at the Federation of American Scientists, states that the US Department of Defence has added Britain to a list of NATO nuclear weapons storage locations in Europe being upgraded under a multi-million-dollar infrastructure programme.

Kristensen believes the base is RAF Lakenheath, just 80 miles from London, has already received a nuclear-capable fighter plane – the F35A. A total of 24 F-35As are expected there.

These moves by the US will certainly not lead to global peace. The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this upgrading is dangerous and destabilising. It will further drag Britain into US-NATO warmongering.

RAE STREET IS FORMER VICE-CHAIR OF CND AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU. SHE IS ALSO AN NAW MEMBER

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CNDUK.ORG**

send them back

On Saturday 21 May, 300 CND supporters from across the UK and beyond gathered at RAF Lakenheath to protest against the return of US nuclear weapons to the Suffolk base. The message to the government was made loud and clear: US nuclear weapons are not welcome back in Britain, and CND will campaign with all their might to prevent their return. Speakers also condemned the government's failure to come clean to MPs about what is going on – the Ministry of Defence initially told Parliamentary CND that they could neither confirm nor deny the reports: that it was US Department of Defence business.

The return of US nuclear weapons to Britain – along with the upgrading of its nuclear weapons across Europe – constitutes a further undermining of prospects for global peace. The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this major increase in NATO's capacity to wage nuclear war in Europe is dangerously destabilising. Their return will increase global tensions and put Britain on the front line in a NATO/Russia war. Support the campaign:

- Contact your MP asking them to oppose the stationing of US nuclear weapons in Britain
- You can order CND leaflets to distribute in your area to raise awareness
- Collect signatures for the CND petition

UN: women and climate

ON 25 March, the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66) came to a close, for the first-time addressing gender equality in the context of climate change and the environment as its core theme. As the first multilateral gathering since the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released new information on the deadly consequences of climate inaction, CSW66 was an opportunity for governments to make more ambitious commitments – toward progress on both gender and climate justice.

“This year’s CSW66 should have been a moment to centre ecosystem-based and gender-just solutions to the climate crisis grounded in the leadership of indigenous and frontline communities”, said Senior Program Manager Katie Tobin, who led Women’s Environment & Development Organisation (WEDO) advocacy. “Instead, many countries that position themselves as strong allies when it comes to human rights and gender equality have been hesitant to make meaningful climate commitments.”

Working together within the Women’s Rights Caucus (WRC) – a global coalition of more than 200 feminist organisations, networks, and collectives – WEDO and partners advocated throughout the negotiation process for feminist demands from civil society to be included in the CSW66 outcome.

Pushback from Global North governments ultimately led to the exclusion of several of our key demands, including debt justice and a commitment to real-zero, rather than net-zero emissions. Despite this reluctance, the final outcome does include mention of the need for gender-responsive climate finance as well as addressing the socio-economic and environmental loss and damage caused by the climate crisis. And, for the first time in its history, CSW66 made an explicit connection between sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and climate justice.

This language provides an important foothold, but it’s just a start – and governments of the Global North need to go a lot further in acknowledging their responsibility for climate change and committing to progressive and measurable steps towards climate justice.

As the principal global gathering on gender equality, CSW66 failed to enable, let alone listen to, civil society participation. By indicating that access to the UN would open just three days before the start of the conference, the UN significantly limited the participation of civil society groups and frontline communities, especially from the Global South.

Nevertheless – due to the privilege of being based in New York – members of WEDO and the Women’s Major Group Secretariat, alongside several of our partners, were still able to meet in person and lift up local and feminist-led solutions



to the climate crisis within this limited space.

our collective demands

As a co-convenor of the CSW-focused Women’s Rights Caucus, as well as the Women and Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC, WEDO called for attention to seven key issues to advance a progressive agenda toward gender and environmental justice:

- Recognise and redress loss and damage, centering the most marginalised peoples and communities in addressing climate impacts, particularly women and girls;
- Commit to ending the sovereign debt crisis, to ensure fiscal space for climate action and gender equality;
- Dismantle false solutions, particularly the emphasis on net zero and nature-based solutions in the climate and biodiversity arenas;
- Advance a just and equitable energy transition, shifting from a fossil-fuel based economy to a low-carbon and renewable energy system that upholds women’s human rights and advances social and environmental justice;
- Fulfil historical obligations to provide gender-just climate finance that is predictable, adequate, transparent, accountable, accessible and in the form of grants rather than loans;
- Espouse a human rights-based approach to climate action that includes the full range of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); and
- Guarantee equitable participation of women and girls in all their diversity in climate change policy process and programming, including at the country level.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.WEDO.ORG
WWW.UNWOMEN.ORG/EN/CSW/CSW66-2022

we can
make a
difference

WOMEN have limited access to and control of environmental goods and services; have negligible participation in decision-making, and are not involved in the distribution of environment management benefits. Consequently, women are less able to confront climate change. But when we are at the heart of climate action we make a difference.

- More women in national parliaments leads to more stringent climate change policies, resulting in lower emissions.
- The participation of women in natural resource management at a local level is associated with better resource governance and conservation outcomes.
- Expanding women’s access to productive resources can increase agricultural production and food security and reduce carbon dioxide emissions.
- In the workplace, women’s leadership is associated with increased transparency around climate impact.
- Transitioning away from extractivist practices and fossil fuel economies poses an opportunity to create new jobs and reskill women workers.

National Assembly of Women annual general meeting

**11am Saturday
5 November
at the Marx
Memorial Library
in London**

**The AGM was to be
held on Saturday 18
June in Birmingham –
but the closure of much
of the rail network led
us to postpone it and
reorganise to the same
day as our 70th
anniversary
celebration.**

naw@sisters.org.uk

what's on...

NAW Executive Committee
meetings are open to *all*
members. For more
information about the next
meeting please contact the
Secretary, Sandra Durkin,
on naw@sisters.org.uk or at
NAW, 72 Beaconsfield Road
Coventry CV2 4AR

dangerous liaisons...



THE booklet *Dangerous Liaisons*, a brilliant initiative by Wisbech, March and District Trades Union Council, was

eventually launched – two years after its publication.

Dangerous Liaisons briefly describes the history of women in trade unions, and then goes on to profile eight local women activists with the trials and tribulations of their trade union activities.

Delayed by Covid of course the launch event – International Women's Day Fenland Festival – was a packed afternoon of speeches, discussion and theatre.

Opened by former TUC regional secretary Megan Dobney – who wrote the booklet's foreword – there was a narration of the speeches of Mary Macarthur (not all of them obviously), Jo Rust speaking on her campaigning in Kings Lynn, and Red Flag Over Bermondsey, the story of social reformer Ada Salter, written and performed by Lynn Morris of Journeyman Theatre.

Congratulations to the trades council, and the booklet's authors Sue Dockett and Julie Williams. Copies can be obtained from Sue at the trades council via wmdtuc@gmail.com



join the NAW now!

*I would like to join the NAW. Here is £20 for the annual subscription (£10 unwaged) which includes my subscription to **sisters**, the journal of the NAW.*

Our organisation would like to affiliate to the NAW. Enclosed is:
£20 (local organisation/NAW branch), £45 (regional organisation), £60 (national)

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