

National Assembly of Women

Annual Report Nov 22- June 23

The National Assembly of Women was founded in 1952 to work for full social, economic, legal, political and cultural independence and equality for women irrespective of age, race, religion, philosophical belief, sexual orientation or nationality. These aims, of course, can only be fully achieved in a world at peace and to this end we campaign for an end to nuclear weapons and militarism.

National Assembly of Women Officers and Executive Committee 2022-23

President: Rose Keeping

Secretary: Sandra Durkin

Treasurer: Carolyn Simpson

Executive Committee

Megan Dobney, Siobhan Endean, Bernadette Keaveney, Vicky Knight, Rose Keeping, Liz Payne and Anita Wright

Vice Presidents

Vera Baird QC, Rita Donaghy CBE, Pat Hawkes MBE, Alice Mahon, Gloria Mills CBE, Frances O'Grady and Anne Scargill.

Executive Committee Meetings

The EC has met 5 times (including 4 virtual meetings) since the last AGM.

SISTERS

Despite the pandemic we have continued to produce SISTERS each quarter featuring reports on national and international campaigns including on pay, misogyny, immigration removal centres, peace and the Health Bill. Following our successful AGM and 70th anniversary celebration held in November 2022 SISTERS carried a full report of the speech given by our Vice-President, Dame Vera Baird as well as an article by TUC President, Sue Ferns reflecting on the re-scheduled TUC Congress plus an update on the NHS pay campaign in Wales by Unison's Jan Thomlinson. The spring edition of SISTERS, produced on international women's day had reports from women in India, Iran and Afghanistan.

Editions of SISTERS can be viewed at

www.sisters.org.uk



Website

The website covers NAW activity; progressive campaigns especially the People's Assembly against Austerity; various Labour movement demonstrations and events that members may wish to attend. NAW reports, submissions and documents are also posted on the website including those from the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Join up with other sisters on the NAW facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com>

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Setting the scene

The National Assembly of Women Executive would like to thank our members and affiliates for all that you have done over the past year and particularly what you are currently doing to support our communities trying to recover from the pandemic

Our 2022 AGM took place as many unions were engaged in industrial action to improve not just pay and conditions of service but also the services they provide. Workers who had been hailed as heroes during the pandemic were insulted with pay offers way below the rate of inflation. As we approach our 2023 AGM several unions are still fighting for fair pay and protection of services. Women predominate in many of these sectors (eg education, health and civil service). The NAW will continue to support such struggles.

NAW Activity over the past year

AGM Motions 2022 covered women and peace and NATO. Reports and articles on these issues have regularly appeared in SISTERS.

The period covered by this Annual Report began on 5th November 2022 when we held both an event at the Marx Memorial Library to mark the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the National Assembly of Women (NAW) and the last AGM. Our speakers on that occasion included two of our vice-presidents – Dame Vera Baird DBE KC, the former Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, and Gloria Mills CBE, Unison's National Secretary for Equalities. We were delighted to welcome them and listen to their inspiring contributions.

We used the event to launch a short history of the NAW's work and achievements from 2012 to 2022, following on from and bringing up to date the history of our first 60 years, published in 2012. This has created much interest, especially in the labour

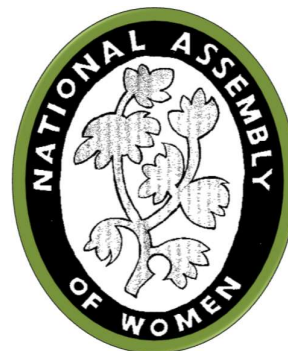
movement, and having exhausted the original stock, we have just done a reprint.

Since the AGM, the executive committee has met three times – on 15th November 2022 online, 11th March 2023 in person in London, and 16th May 2023, online.

As ‘custodians’ of the *Charter for Women*, which we believe has the potential to draw in much wider support for its campaigning demands, we are beginning a renewed campaign to promote it more extensively, especially in the trade unions. With this in mind, the NAW executive has recently reviewed the text and made it available in a new attractive format.

Following the running of a very successful stall at the Unite Equalities Conferences in late October 2022, we took exhibition space at Unison’s Women’s Conference in Bournemouth in February 2023 and are planning to be at the forthcoming UCU Congress in Glasgow at the end of May and at Unite’s Rules and Policy Conferences in Brighton at the beginning of July. Our presence, with our growing range of publications and merchandise, is enabling us to promote the NAW and its campaigns, recruit individual members and trade union affiliates, and build new support within the trade union movement.

A full report on our international work was given at our 70th anniversary celebration. We continue as active members of the Women’s International Democratic Foundation (WIDF), participating fully in the European region. There is soon to be a meeting of the WIDF world secretariat and, as this report goes to print, together with all other WIDF affiliates, we are preparing a short piece on the NAW to inform the leadership. We would again like to thank our sisters of the Organisation of the Women of Greece (OGE) for their facilitation of the work of the European region and keeping us in touch with each other and our struggles. These continue to be reflected in the pages of *Sisters* and our Spring 2023 issue had a particularly international focus with coverage of the contribution of women at the 22nd Assembly of the World Peace Council in Hanoi in November 2022 and articles on Iran, Afghanistan, and India. We are currently linking with our sisters in Sudan and Turkey to prepare coverage for the next issue.



Given the momentous events in Iran beginning in September 2022 and the brave stance of women against decades of violence and suppression, one of our focuses in recent months has been in solidarity with the Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women (DOIW) and its representative in Britain, Azar Sepehr.

It was an honour for the NAW to again be part of the annual international event to mark International Women’s Day. After two years online, we brought our greetings to the in-person celebration in Ealing on 11th March.

NAW Accounts from 1/1/22 to 31/12/22**General Fund****Income**

Carried over from 2021 22603.66

Income 4506.02

Membership 3573

Affiliations 790

Donations 275

Seminar 0

Sales 540.02

Expenditure 4114.87

Bank Charges 72

EC Travel 0

Post 7.65

EX Expenses 187.4

Treasurers expenses 183.82

Seminar 2881

Affiliations 110

Website 25

Adverts 460

Printing 188

Balance in bank 22994.48

Val Duncan Fund

Total c/f 3000

Expenditure on 2022 seminar 2881

Balance in bank end 2022 19

Total carried forward to 2023 23013.4

Treasurer's comment:

The Val Duncan Fund was used to subsidise the costs of the seminar in line with the decision to use this money to support education and training

Auditor's Report

I have audited the NAW 2022 accounts provided by the Treasurer, Carolyn Simpson, and find them accurate and in order. **Brian Clarke, Auditor**