

JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN 50P AUTUMN 2025

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THE NHS is broken, but it is not beaten. We know this as citizens and patients, but no-one feels it more keenly than our members – the staff who hold it all together.

The NHS in England alone employs 1.5 million people – people who care, who fix us, who research and develop new ways of keeping us healthy. They feed us, wash us, pick us up when we are broken. They are very important people – workers who deserve better.

Much of the ambition of the NHS 10-year plan is to be welcomed, but it will not succeed unless the government takes immediate action to retain existing staff. The NHS faces over 121,000 vacancies in England alone. Poor pay, work-related stress, and limited progression opportunities continue to drive staff out of the service, undermining the plan's delivery.

The ambition to prevent illness and tackle inequality must be matched with the investment, workforce planning and infrastructure needed to deliver it. Many of the services mentioned, from personalised care planning to community rehabilitation, require a properly resourced dietetic workforce. Yet right now, vacancies across the profession remain high, and there is insufficient capacity in many areas to meet existing demand, let alone expand provision.

Workforce retention must be a national priority. The latest NHS staff survey showed 44.8% of respondents had felt unwell due to work-related stress. Over the past 16 years, many NHS staff have seen a real-terms loss exceeding 20%, fuelling record vacancies and undermining safe staffing.

The disaster created by previous health secretaries such as Andrew Lansley needs sorting out. We had hope when the government announced the abolition of NHS England he created in 2012, but the announcement was handled without any prior warning or engagement with unions or staff, leaving members employed at NHSE shocked and with uncertain futures.

However aspirational a plan looks on paper, it won't work without fixing the staffing crisis. Without a meaningful plan for the workforce, none of this will be effective and any plans for the workforce must be subject to a full and meaningful consultation with health unions.

NHS workers have had enough. British Dietetic Association (BDA) members accepted a 3.6% pay award this year – not because they are happy with it, far from it, but because they are resigned to it and frankly too exhausted and demoralised to fight.

We engaged in the pay review body process this year to give a new Labour government the benefit of the doubt and one last chance. Well, last chance it was, so we are now disengaging and want a new system that includes collective bargaining.



Our members are working thousands of hours of unpaid overtime. Why? Because they care about patients, they are committed, skilled and kind.

Leadership is poor, accountability is lacking and vacancies remain too high. Pay has fallen year on year with many staff seeing real-terms losses of over 20% in the last 16 years. Safe staffing remains an aspiration and CPD and flexible working are out of reach.

Pay and reward is vitally important, but we need to see a well-trained, properly supported workforce with career progression opportunities. We must address vacancies and we must have the right staff in the right place, in communities, primary care, mental health and acute hospital settings.

So, change is needed and needed fast. The delivery of the plan depends on it. It is so often said that the NHS belongs to us all and that we should all be very proud of it – it is the “jewel in our crown”. All true, but it will not continue unless we value the true jewels, those who work tirelessly every day and every night to look after us.

ANNETTE MANSELL-GREEN IS DIRECTOR OF TRADE UNION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE BRITISH DIETETIC ASSOCIATION
WWW.BDA.UK.COM

hand it over in full!

ON 15 SEPTEMBER WOMEN'S GROUPS URGED NEW BUSINESS SECRETARY PETER KYLE TO DELIVER THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS BILL IN FULL (EDITED)

CONGRATULATIONS on your appointment as Secretary of State for Business and Trade.

With the Employment Rights Bill back in the House of Commons on Monday, we write as a collective of women's rights organisations to ask you to reject amendments made in the House of Lords that water down some of the key measures, and to bring the full package of reforms into force at pace to progress the Government's commitments to women's rights and gender equality.

Women's position in the labour market continues to be influenced by systems and structures that disadvantage them largely driven by the 75% more unpaid care work they do than men. As a result, women are the majority of people in low paid and precarious work, as well as those more likely to face discrimination over the course of their working life. Some groups of women face multiple forms of inequality and discrimination in the labour market as gender inequality intersects with inequalities on the basis of race and ethnicity, age, class, disability, single parenthood, and so on.

For example:

■ Women are 34% more likely than men to be on zero-hours contracts, reaching 103% for Black and Minority Ethnic women compared to white men and 49% for Disabled women.

■ Of the 1.3 million people who do not qualify for statutory sick pay, 70% are women, with Black and Minority Ethnic women most likely to miss out.

■ More women than men are in low paid jobs: 18.7% of jobs held by women are paid below the real Living Wage compared to 12.6% for men.

■ Women make up the majority of part-time workers, who are over three times more likely to be low paid than full-time employees.

■ Women make up 79% of the 1.84 million workers in adult social care (2023/24) in England, where median pay is £11/hr; and with 21% of the workforce on zero-hours contracts (compared to 3.5% in the wider economy).

The Government's plans to increase workers' rights, including those set out in the Employment Rights Bill, are therefore crucial to improving women's material living conditions and to reducing the gender pay gap. Day one rights to request flexible working, to paternity leave, and to statutory sick pay without a lower earning limit are just some of the measures that women will disproportionately benefit from. As the majority of workers in adult

concluded on page 8

wages not weapons



AT this year's Trades Union Congress, delegates reversed the 2022 policy of supporting increases in defence spending by backing the call for wages not weapons.

In making the argument to support the motion from the University and College Union, Jo Grady (pictured above), their general secretary, said that "pound for pound, spending the additional £75bn that's currently allocated for arms, instead, on a green new deal, health, education, housing or local government would create more jobs, provide a greater boost to the economy, and do much more to help our communities."

She recognised that some unions would argue that more money for arms is good for jobs but said "that is the argument of militarism: it begins with a call to arms; it ends in wholesale slaughter. Whether that's the young men of the British empire marching to their death across the battlefields of the Somme, Verdun and Gallipoli, or the women and children of Gaza looking up to see bombs rain down on them from fighter jets with fuselages birthed in Lancashire."

Despite being opposed by Unite the Union and the GMB the motion was carried by a narrow majority. Ms Grady called for a just transition for the workers employed through the defence budget. But added that "no doubt, on the eve of its abolition, the union for hangmen also decreed the end of capital punishment."

She was clear that this was a class issue, saying "It's time for the working class to stop Starmer using our taxes to fund foreign wars; it's time to stand up for our communities. Today, the UCU and the nine other unions that have joined our campaign are urging the labour movement to put the country first – and back wages, not weapons."

Motion 37 Wages not weapons

Congress recognises:

- I. that Britain's public services, public goods, and core infrastructure – including education, healthcare, local government, mail, and transport – continue to suffer from chronic neglect and underinvestment
- II. this harms working people, holds back unions and compounds national decline.

Congress further recognises that:

- a. rearmament is not a suitable stand-alone foundation for national renewal
- b. moreover, there can be no meaningful national security in the absence of massive public investment to rebuild the social and economic fabric of working-class communities
- c. political pressure from Trump continues to ratchet up expected levels of spending on defence, potentially climbing to 5 per cent of gross domestic product
- d. in the current political context, ever-higher expenditure on arms will inevitably mean less money for our education, health, and councils, and the green transition.

Congress believes:

1. we should stand, in our best traditions, for peace and against militarisation
2. that actively campaigning for ever-higher spending on arms risks signalling approval of a wider drive to war, in the dangerous context of renewed great-power rivalry
3. that British participation in the F-35 programme implicates it in Israel's grave violations of international law in Gaza.

Congress resolves to:

- I. reverse policy, dating from 2022, of support for immediate increases in defence spending
- II. prioritise campaigning for public investment in Britain's public realm, decimated by austerity
- III. commit to a safe, liveable planet
- IV. reaffirm that our movement's priority is welfare and wages, not weapons and war.

10 reasons why the UK should not increase military spending from the peace pledge union

KEIR Starmer has pledged to increase the UK's military budget to 2.5% of GDP by 2027 – the largest sustained increase since the Cold War. He has backed NATO's updated target, committing the UK to spending 5% of GDP on the military and 'resilience and security' projects by 2035.

Starmer's decision follows previous military spending hikes under the Tories, and will be funded by cuts to overseas aid, a decision that harms many of the world's most vulnerable.

This has quickly ushered in a new wave of militaristic policies and a heightened climate of fear and confrontation. UK politicians and European leaders are openly preparing for all-out war with Russia, including putting British troops on the ground in Ukraine, and are taking up the threat of nuclear retaliation. The EU has unveiled an 800bn Euro plan to boost military spending across the continent.

None of this makes us any safer. On the contrary, increasing military spending and other war preparations only pushes Europe and the world towards more military confrontation, while posing staggering risks to humanity. Here are ten reasons why increasing UK's military spending is a very bad idea.

1. The UK already has the fifth highest military spending in the world.
2. Europe's and NATO's military spending are already higher than Russia's or China's.
3. More military spending makes the world less, not more, secure.
4. The UK has a long record of disastrous military interventions.
5. Military spending diverts money from where it's most needed.
6. The risk of nuclear war is not a side issue.
7. Military spending lines the pockets of arms dealers.
8. Military spending accelerates climate catastrophe.
9. New military technologies such as AI and drones pose new risks.
10. Real peace and security has to be based on international cooperation and diplomacy.

READ THE FULL ARGUMENT FOR EACH OF THE TEN POINTS AT WWW.PPU.ORG.UK

ORDER YOUR WHITE POPPIES IN TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY FROM THE PEACE PLEDGE UNION WEBSITE

spycops: a catalogue of state crimes

THE 2025 Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Lecture was given by “Lindsey” from Police Spies Out Of Lives.

Lindsey’s presentation was excellent and you can read it below. For the first time (!) the Sylvia Pankhurst Memorial Committee was also able to broadcast the lecture online thanks to support from Jess Whyke.

The meeting was introduced by Philippa Clark, Mary Davis and Vicky Knight, and chaired by Megan Dobney.

There are no pictures of Lindsey as the nature of the crimes by the State against women in the Spycops Inquiry means that she has a legal anonymity order in place, so she cannot have her face on camera or published.

HUGE thanks to the Memorial Committee for inviting me to speak. I belong to Police Spies Out Of Lives, an organisation that campaigns to end the sexual abuse of women activists and members of the public by undercover police officers, who formed intimate relationships and even fathered children in their cover identities. The road that led us to this point has been a long one, but there’s only time to signpost some significant moments along the way.

So, in 2010 an environmental activist ‘Lisa’ found a passport belonging to her partner of six years, Mark Stone, while they were on holiday in the remote Dolomites. The passport had his picture, but a different name – Mark Kennedy. This sparked suspicions and investigations by Lisa and activists who had known Kennedy for the seven years he had been around, and extremely active within, environmental campaigns in the UK and across Europe.

Their extensive research led to the discovery of birth certificates for Kennedy’s children, with father’s occupation listed as

‘police officer’. They confronted Kennedy and he confessed to being a police spy, tasked against environmental activists by the Met police Special Branch. Significantly he claimed he was not the only one.

Jump back a few years and other women activists in different movements had worked out that their vanished ex-partners had been state actors. They were disbelieved, seen as delusional, “He’s just left you love – don’t make a big thing out of it” was the sort of response they met with in most of those they chose to confide in.

When the story of Kennedy’s infiltration hit the news the women twigged that they had also been subject to this abuse. To cut a long story VERY short, they joined forces to take the first, landmark, legal case against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the National Police Chiefs Council for assault and misfeasance in public office.

More officers began to be uncovered by activists, researchers and journalists as patterns of tactical behaviour began to emerge. However much the Met claimed these were ‘rogue’ officers the evidence said differently.

In 2011 an ex-undercover officer Peter Francis, who had spied on socialist and anti-racist activists, went to *The Guardian* with revelations that he had been tasked against the family of Stephen Lawrence – not just to report on the family justice campaign, but to collect information that could discredit the campaign. Francis is the only ex-officer who has had the courage to whistle-blow and the backlash for him has been severe.

With these media reports and more reports of the sexual deception of activists swirling around, Theresa May had no choice but to call a public inquiry into undercover policing (UCPI). It is con-

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“WE ARE ALL FOR FREEDOM, AND ALL DIFFERENT TO FIGHT FOR” —SYLVIA PANKHURST

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fined to England and Wales, and has many limitations, but it is the only vehicle we currently have for obtaining information about spying on political activity. Some useful and intriguing material has come out of the UCPI – now in its tenth year.

We have discovered that in 1968 following the huge anti-Vietnam war demonstration in London, where the police realised they were unable to control such

MARY DAVIS AND VICKY KNIGHT



COMMITTEE

ANKHURST Memorial

LECTURE 2025

SATURDAY 9 AUGUST @7PM

Wortley Hall
(the Workers Statly Home)
Wortley, Sheffield S35 7DB

SPYCOPS

Undercover Policing Scandal

The 2025 lecture will be given by Lindsey
– from Police Spies Out Of Lives.

'Lindsey' is a socialist and trade unionist working
with Police Spies Out Of Lives (PSOOL) to both
support women deceived into sexual relationships
by undercover police officers, and to campaign for
law change to illegalise this abusive surveillance
tactic. She is a core participant in the Undercover
Policing Inquiry – now in its tenth year.

... COMRADES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR
... AND WE MUST CAST ASIDE
... ENCES OF RACE, NATIONALITY, AND GENDER
... FOR A BETTER WORLD."
ANKHURST

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a large crowd and horrible police violence
ensued, an undercover unit of Metro-
politan police officers was conceived, to
infiltrate and report on activism in the
capital. The Special Demonstration
Squad (SDS) was born, and ran until
2008, deploying up to a dozen officers at
any one time to embed themselves within
campaign groups for roughly five years
per deployment. They were well paid and
had enormous expense budgets. In 1999

a second unit launched – the National
Public Order Intelligence Unit (NPOIU).
This unit operated in the regions and was
similarly well resourced. The longest
NPOIU deployment we know of is seven
years (Kennedy).

There were around 170 officers – most
deployed, but some back-office – over a
near-50 year period. The stated aim was
to collect 'intelligence' to assist uniformed
policing of public order. Almost as soon
as the SDS began it started to collect
masses of detailed information on any
groups and individuals deemed 'subver-
sive'. The information was typed into
reports that were sent to Special Branch
and Security Service filing systems. MI5
even directed some of the tasking of the
officers and targetting decisions made by
SDS management. Over 1,000 groups
were spied upon – almost exclusively on
the left-wing of the political spectrum.
'Intelligence' reports show that the offi-
cers didn't see fascists as a public order
issue!

The abuses committed by SDS and
NPOIU officers are many – the unofficial
SDS motto being 'By any means neces-
sary':

- There are over 50 miscarriages of jus-
tice as a result of these deployments.
- They spied on at least 18 family justice
campaigns – often families who had lost
loved ones to police violence.
- There was reporting on Members of
Parliament – all Labour MPs.
- Information collected by officers was
passed to the illegal construction industry
blacklist, which was used to bar workers
considered troublesome (for expressing
health and safety concerns or political
views) from work for decades, with cata-
strophic financial effects.
- Officers trawled death registers and
stole the identities of children who had
died as their cover 'legends'.
- We now know of over 60 women who
were sexually abused by undercover offi-
cers deceiving them into relationships.

Undercover political policing is only a
small part of undercover policing. We are
now finding cases of the abuse of women
in the sphere of undercover policing of
crime – which forms the vast majority of
undercover operations. If the same
undercover tactics have been used in
policing of crime then the numbers of
women abused will rise exponentially.
The trouble is we are unlikely to ever find
out about these highly secret operations.

In 2023 the case of 'Mary' was report-
ed in *The Guardian*. Mary's case was in
the Avon and Somerset Constabulary
area. She had a 19 year long relationship
and a child with a man who she consid-
ered her life partner. He was in fact
undercover, spying on criminals in the
area Mary happened to live in and he
was using her to aid his cover. She didn't
even know his real name.

Throughout centuries we have seen
spying and violence from the state

MEGAN DOBNEY



SISTERS EDITOR
ANITA WRIGHT



towards progressive movements for
change. We always knew there would be
some kind of surveillance of left-wing
activism, but many of us had no idea of
the scale of the intrusion. As one of our
lawyers said during Inquiry hearings "this
is the British Stasi".

Police Spies Out Of Lives is campaign-
ing for amendments to the 2021 Covert
Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS)
(Criminal Conduct) Act. This enshrines in
law everything we have been campaign-
ing against as it allows for any conduct by
CHIS to be authorised, even the most
serious crimes in our society – murder,
rape and torture. Other countries have
legislated to prevent this type of conduct
by CHIS. Not the UK.

We will continue to campaign for it to
be illegal for undercover operatives to
have sex with members of the public. We
have a petition calling for this, which is
open until mid-November. You can sign it
here [https://petition.parliament.uk/
petitions/721401](https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/721401)

Please sign and share this petition and
follow our campaign and the Inquiry pro-
ceedings. Only if there is public interest
we get something akin to justice.

To end on a note of positivity – there
are many of us who would never have
worked together in the past, because of
different political approaches and aims.
But that is the root of our strength as
groups campaigning around the issue of
spycops. We are contributing to the
undercover Policing Inquiry hearings and
closely documenting proceedings for
future use and we are a pretty formidable
force!

[HTTPS://POLICESPIESOUTOFLIVES.ORG.UK/](https://policespiesoutoflives.org.uk/)

our sister **maggie bowden**



MAGGIE BOWDEN, a sister in struggle, a feminist, internationalist and socialist who continued campaigning into her 80s, died a day short of 95th birthday in September 2025. Born in

Wales at the height of the depression, she moved with her family to London and then, within a few years, experienced living through the Second World War. Like so many children during that period she was evacuated with the consequent interruption to her education. Maggie recognised that these experiences were an influence on her throughout her life and joined the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) Young Communist League at 17 years old and said that this was where she received her education.

I first met Maggie in the early 1970s at a meeting called by Selma James on Wages for Housework. We joined forces in putting an opposing point of view. Within the CPGB at that period there had been an increase in the membership of mostly young women and there were some lively debates on feminism and the need for the greater recognition within the CPGB of the importance of the contribution made by women. Maggie became the London District CPGB women's organiser as well as having a full-time job. She put huge amounts of energy and commitment into ensuring that women's voices were heard and that there was support from the predominantly male leadership for campaigning on equal pay, free childcare, and access to contraceptive services and abortion rights. Maggie had a capacity to get women with quite opposing views to come together and focus on campaigning and when Maggie became the National Women's organiser

she continued to work in this way.

Her work within the CPGB was just one aspect of Maggie's life. In the 1960s she began work as a legal executive in the radical legal firm set up by Ben Birnberg there, she demonstrated her tenacity in fighting for justice for her clients. There are undoubtedly many people who owe Maggie a great debt of gratitude as she pursued many cases others within the profession would not take on.

For the last 30 years of her very active life, Maggie became the General Secretary of Liberation and more recently Joint President with Jeremy Corbyn. One aspect of Maggie's work when she became General Secretary was to give greater attention to women worldwide in their struggle for equality, freedom, social justice and in opposing violence against women. Maggie took very seriously how best to use the voice that Liberation had at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and worked to ensure that issues of most concern to women were raised.

Finally, I am sure that the sisters who met Maggie and worked with her over many years will remember her as a fun-loving, generous and kindhearted person she will be greatly missed.

BY ACTIVIST AND FEMINIST JENNY WILLIAMS

Early Day Motion tabled in the House of Commons by Brian Leishman MP 4 September 2025 and signed by 14 Members. Brian Leishman, MP for Alloa and Grangemouth, is one of the four MPs suspended by Labour because he voted against the welfare reform bill.

Passing of Maggie Bowden former General Secretary of Liberation

That this House notes with deep sadness the passing on 1 September 2025 of Maggie Bowden, Joint President and long-serving former General Secretary of Liberation; pays tribute to her three decades of tireless work as a true internationalist and fighter for peace, showing solidarity with peoples oppressed by neo-colonialism and despotic regimes across the world; recognises her role in bringing issues of justice and human rights before the UK Parliament and the United Nations Human Rights Council; further notes her kindness, generosity and humanity as attested to by all who worked with her; and sends its condolences to her family, friends and comrades, while affirming that her lifelong commitment to peace, justice and anti-imperialism will continue to inspire future generations.



80 years on for the widf



NAW PRESIDENT, LIZ PAYNE, REPORTS ON THE FORTHCOMING WIDF 80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

In the Spring 2025 issue of *Sisters*, we published a piece on the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) at 80 years old, pointing to some of the highlights of its worldwide struggle for women and peace through the decades. The WIDF's actual 80th birthday is on 1 December 2025 and, as this issue of *Sisters* goes to print, detailed planning for the celebration of the 80th anniversary, to be held in Havana, are well underway.

Women from affiliated organisations across the world, including from the NAW, will arrive in Cuba in late November and join a three-day meeting of the WIDF's World Secretariat, followed by a one-day anniversary event on Monday 1 December. Our delegation – NAW executive members Mary Davis, Vicky Knight and Liz Payne – will be able to join in discussion on women and the geopolitical situation in the world. Also, as members of the WIDF European Regional Group, they will have the opportunity to contribute to regional and plenary meetings on the implementation of WIDF strategy, assessing the effectiveness of current plans and how to take the WIDF's work forward.

The WIDF's actual birthday will be marked by a day entitled "80 years of anti-imperialist struggle, for peace and in defence of women's rights", with themes including violence against women, women and armed conflict, social justice, women and climate change and women and technology. As well as looking back at the great struggles and achievements

of the past, sisters from across the continents will consider ways to move forward together in the most challenging and hostile circumstances of today's world. Our networking and deliberations will provide a very timely prelude to the much-anticipated WIDF World Congress in 2026.

As well as the programme taking place in Havana, the WIDF plans to mark its milestone anniversary in other ways. A history of the WIDF, first published in 2005, is to be updated and translated into several languages and a photographic exhibition reflecting the eight decades is being put together – with a commentary that can be translated into whatever language is wanted prior to printing as paper panels. The WIDF is asking each of its affiliates to search its archives for pictures and documents that can be used for this, and the NAW is sure it can help.

Of course, the WIDF is asking each of its affiliates to commemorate the anniversary including by focussing on the contributions of their own members who have been prominent in working with the WIDF. We will do this in forthcoming issues of *Sisters* and on our website.

In other news, the WIDF Europe Group held a teleconference on Friday 12 September attended by affiliated organisations from Britain (NAW), Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey and joined by the Democratic Organisation of Iranian Women and the Movement of Democratic Women in Israel. Here the European Vice-presidents, Skevi Koukouma (Cyprus) and Ada Donno (Italy) talked about the WIDF's plans to hold an in-person "Court of Conscience" on Palestine at which an international panel of legal experts would hear the testimonies of victims, witnesses, medical personnel, journalists and many more and pass judgement on the perpetrators. This is inevitably an ambitious, logistically complex and very expensive project but all present hoped that, given the daily deterioration of the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, funds could be raised and it could take place in the not-too-distant future, perhaps as early as January or February 2026. The NAW will keep members informed.





ON THE STALL AT THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE FESTIVAL: A PLEASURE AND ALSO PRODUCTIVE – £203 FOR THE NAW!

continued from page 2

social care, the new Social Care Negotiating Bodies and Fair Pay Agreements stand to recognise the value of care work disproportionately carried out by Black and Ethnic Minority and working class women that has long been overlooked.

Stamping out exploitative zero hours contracts, including for agency workers, and giving protections to workers whose shifts are cancelled last minute, means women won't be out of pocket for child-care costs that allow them to work. And protections for the 54,000 pregnant women and new mothers a year who experience employment discrimination can't come soon enough.

It is equally important that there is adequate enforcement of the new laws and regulations once in force, and that the Fair Work Agency is sufficiently resourced to uphold worker's rights. We would also ask you to consider establishing a new independent commissioner for

workers' rights in line with the Young Women's Trust's demands to stamp out illegal behaviour such as sexual harassment that continues to cloud young women's early experiences of employment.

There are other important government equalities reforms that will help tackle disadvantage and discrimination, including measures to recognise discrimination cases based on more than one protected characteristic, ethnicity and disability pay gap reporting, and mandating gender pay gap action and menopause plans.

Large employers however, including public sector bodies, often contract out many of their services, meaning gender pay gap reports rarely tell the full story of the scale of sectoral segregation and its impact on women's pay compared to men; particularly the working class women working as cleaners, care workers and administrators. The Women's Budget Group raised this issue with your department and the best they can do (for

legitimate data protection reasons) is require companies to report the pay gaps of their contractors, which does nothing to show the real wage gaps between firms' CEOs and the women who clean up after them.

Which is why strengthening the rights and conditions for those workers is crucial for improving women's material living standards. Any slowing or watering down of the package of reforms in the Employment Rights Bill would undermine the Government's commitments to gender equality as well as to working people.

We would welcome a meeting to discuss ways in which we can support your work on the Employment Rights Bill and wider progress towards women's equality.

UK WOMEN'S BUDGET GROUP, FAWCETT SOCIETY, PREGNANT THEN SCREWED, YOUNG WOMEN'S TRUST, RIGHTS OF WOMEN, WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE, MATERNITY ACTION
TO READ THE FULL PRESS RELEASE VISIT WWW.WBG.ORG.UK

what's on...

NAW Executive Committee meetings are open to *all* members. The next one (online) will be on 21 October at 17.00. For more information about the meetings please contact the Secretary, Sandra Durkin, on naw@sisters.org.uk or at NAW, 72 Beaconsfield Road Coventry CV2 4AR

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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