

Europe in 3D: Democracy, Dialogue, Debate
ENGAGING WITH EUROPE ON GENDER EQUALITY

Dialogue Groups
Shaping a Women's Manifesto for Europe

NIWEP has been tracking the issues that are important to women in Northern Ireland through the European Gender Equality Roadmap, CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action and UNSCR 1325. Women here can bring international attention to bear on specific Northern Irish issues as well as empower ourselves through the international solidarity of women. And we can strive to realise our aspirations through working for domestic application of the highest international standards.

There are two avenues currently through which to make our views visible:

1. A Women's Manifesto for the European Elections in 2009
2. A further CEDAW Committee Hearing in 2009 for the UK (including NI) to respond to the Committee's concerns communicated in July 2008.

To help frame the issues for the Manifesto in particular NIWEP is keen to hear your top 2/3 demands in each Equality Roadmap area. The six Equality Roadmap areas are:

- Achieving equal economic independence
- Enhancing reconciliation of work, private and family life
- Promoting equal participation in decision making
- Eradicating gender based violence and trafficking
- Eliminating gender stereotypes in society
- Promoting gender equality outside the EU

We would also like you to tell us what you need from NIWEP given its European and international role.

Each dialogue group should appoint a facilitator/scribe and quickly prioritise three areas for discussion. Allocate 15 minutes to each of the three areas, finally agreeing to 3 points on each. You may also make key points on the remaining three areas if you have time. In the final 15 minutes please consider and list what you want from NIWEP. Agreed points, and any additional detail, should be noted on flipchart paper. NIWEP will take your views on board.