

**Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
Europe in 3D: Democracy, Dialogue, Debate**

**Roundtable on Violence Against Women
Thursday 11 December 2008**

Annie Campbell

Annie Campbell was appointed Director of Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland in March 2006. Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland is the lead voluntary agency tackling domestic violence in Northern Ireland. It has a membership of 10 local Women's Aid Groups throughout Northern Ireland and directly manages the 24 hour Domestic Violence Helpline.

Women's Aid aims to work in partnership with others to eliminate domestic violence and all forms of violence against women. Annie is a member of the '*Tackling Violence at Home*' cross-departmental and multi-agency Regional Steering Group on Domestic Violence.

Annie's previous posts include Deputy Director (Policy Development) at NICVA; Director of Belfast Group of Citizens Advice Bureau; and Co-ordinator of Downtown Women's Centre, Belfast. Before joining Women's Aid Annie worked with ex-prisoner groups through the Community Foundation Northern Ireland. Annie has also worked as a journalist and as a trade union organiser. She has a background as an activist in the women's movement, trade union movement and community work.

In 2003 Annie was appointed a Commissioner of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and recently completed her second term.

Elizabeth Law

Liz Law has worked in the statutory and NGO sectors. She is currently a policy officer with Northern Ireland's single equality body, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Previously she worked for the Northern Ireland NGO umbrella body, NICVA.

Liz is the Northern Ireland member of the UK coordination – the UK Joint Committee on Women – which represents the UK in the European Women's Lobby. She has been a committee member of the Northern Ireland Women's European Platform – a constituent part of the UK Joint Committee of Women – since 1998. She previously provided the secretariat to NIWEP in its first six years of operation through her work at NICVA. In 2004 Liz became NIWEP's European Representative. Earlier this year she was nominated as the UK Board member of the European Women's Lobby and was elected in 2008 to the seven-person Executive Committee of EWL in the role of Treasurer.

In a voluntary capacity she has served as a committee member of her local community development network, Carrickfergus Community Forum, and is a former chair of Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid which provides services to women and children who have experienced domestic violence. She has an interest in women in policy and decision making, women's economic independence, women and peace building and violence against women.

Dr Annette Lawson OBE

Annette is a sociologist, feminist scholar and activist. She has held leadership roles in women's campaigning and lobbying organisations in the UK and in the European Women's Lobby, working to improve the capacity of women's organisations and their members to enhance the status of women and empower them everywhere. She has been Chair of the Women's National Commission, the UK government's official advisory body on women, and of its international Working Group. She was awarded the OBE in 2004 in recognition of her work for equality and diversity, especially for women and disabled people.

NAWO asked Annette to take the lead in organising the unique European-wide NGO consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women held in January 2007. This year NAWO has focused on following up the consultation with publications and work on forced marriage, as well as seminars held around the country. NIWEP's Plan D Roundtable on Violence Against Women will make a Northern Ireland contribution to this process.

Dr Marsha Scott

Marsha Scott is the Convener of Engender. She is a feminist activist, researcher and practitioner and has advocated, volunteered, researched, and worked in the violence against women sector in the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe for twenty years.

Marsha represents Engender (and Scotland) on the UK Joint Committee on Women, which sends UK representation to the European Women's Lobby. She has been a UK board member on the EWL and is the UK Expert delegate to the Lobby's European Observatory on Violence Against Women.

She is a member of the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Men's Violence Against Women and Children and sits on the Women's National Commission's Violence Against Women subgroup. Marsha is Principal Officer for Health, Policy and Planning at West Lothian Council, where she manages the Policy and Equality team.