

REPORT ON WOMEN'S FORUM NI

2018

General Business

Due to the absence of an Assembly at Stormont there have been fewer consultation documents to reply to but those that are relevant have been answered.

Women's Forum is represented on the Women's Policy Group, NI Rural Women's Network and Joint Consultative Forum-Education. Meetings of all these groups have been attended during this time frame.

The AGM took place on 22nd Feb. As well as Chairman's and Treasurer's reports there were reports from the representatives on:

Belfast Healthy Cities, UN Women UK, NIWEP, Women's Ad Hoc Policy Group, Education Joint Consultative Forum and Women's Fund NI.

Speakers at Meetings

April- John Brogan from the Driving Policy Branch, Dept. Of Infrastructure talked about the new proposals regarding the use of mobile phones while driving. This provoked lively discussion and helped us to reply to this consultation.

June/September

Joanne Jennings from Politics Plus was due to speak in June but due to a death in the family came in September instead. The June meeting gave members a chance to discuss consultation documents. In Sept. Joanne spoke of her involvement in the many events throughout the year to celebrate 100 years of the Representation of the People Act 1918 and the project for women across the Province "The Next Chapter". Reports of some of the celebration events attended by our members are in the news section of the Women's Forum NI website.

50th Anniversary Lunch

On 21st April we held a very successful lunch in the beautiful surroundings of the Belfast City Hall to celebrate 50 years of the Forum. Journalist Anne Hailes MBE was our guest speaker. The winner of the Iris Colvin Lifetime Achievement Award was announced as Justice Teresa Doherty and the Women's Forum Special Recognition Award was presented to Rosemary Rainey OBE. Full reports and citations together with photographs of the event are on the WFNI website.

Report by Paddy Skates

October 2018