



JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN 50P WINTER 2019-20

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in the bleak midwinter...

AW PRESIDENT ANITA WRIGHT CONSIDERS THE RECENT PAST AND THE LOOMING FUTURE



SO, the Christmas decorations are down and the general election is done. The wounded are reflecting on their defeat, while the victors are checking on their share values and tax havens.

Despite a record number of 220 women MPs taking up their seats in the House of Commons, there is no chance whatsoever that women will see their lives improve under this Tory government, who intend on spending more on repairing potholes than on improving childcare.

In the last 11 years successive Tory governments have pushed through policies that have inflicted untold damage on millions of people, but disproportionately on women and children. Insecure work, low and unequal pay means that over 70% of those earning less than a real living wage are women. One in 50 UK households now uses a foodbank. In 2019, 45% of single parents, 90% of whom are women and four million children are living in poverty. Domestic abuse is blighting the life of one in four women yet only 1.5% of rape cases are getting to court.

We have to prepare now to face the next onslaught that this vicious government is planning for us. It's time to get organised, and women are pretty good at

organising when we set our mind to it! Remember the miners' wives, the Dagenham Ford machinists; the E15 housing campaigners? In communities around the country it was groups of women who first set up foodbanks and babybanks; who campaigned to save their children's centre and local libraries. It was the WASPI women who shamed the government about robbing them of their pension and young women like Malala Yousafzai, Nadia Murad and Greta Thunberg who have inspired young activists around the world to fight for education, peace and environmental sustainability.

Women are also more likely to be trade union members than men. According to the TUC just over a quarter of all female employees is now in a union compared to just over one fifth of men. It has been encouraging to see many of the recent disputes over pay and conditions in the NHS and social care being led and won by trade union women.

There has been much talk in the mass media about the need to rebuild trust, particularly in politicians. But the media actively fuels distrust and undermines democracy when it suits them, notably if there is any threat to big business or capitalist self interest, as shown by their attacks on Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Manifesto. It's ironic that despite being known as completely untrustworthy, Boris Johnson won votes by projecting that other magic ingredient – decisive leadership, something that the ruling class has perfected over the centuries; with their born-to-rule swagger. But decisive leadership is important, not in the Churchillian lone-leader way but as a collective force which is stable and sustainable, something the opportunists and right wing have made every attempt to destroy in the Labour Party.

If we hope to rebuild trust in the Labour Party and its capacity to lead a future government based on a comprehensive programme of progressive policies it will have to be done from the ground up and built on deeds not words. Grandiose statements and promises do not butter parsnips.

We need to see party members and prospective candidates working in local campaigns – and there are plenty of them, big and small – to save hospitals; for school funding; for decent housing; to retain public toilets and libraries. Too often candidates, predominately white men, many unknown in their local area, just turn up in the weeks before an election. This has to change as no one is buying it, least of all women whose life experiences are too often marginalised and abilities underestimated. We are not an afterthought, we are not a minority, we are half the population. Without our contribution, most of it unpaid and undervalued this society would not function. Time to start the fightback.



OVER four million children are living in poverty in Britain, the fifth wealthiest country in the world. Weak wage growth, insecure work, cuts to services and benefits including the introduction of Universal Credit have resulted in millions of children suffering real deprivation, malnutrition and hunger, particularly during school holidays.

Over the past 10 years, we have had to witness the rise in the number of Food Banks but as austerity continues to bite we have started to see groups of women across the country set up Baby Banks to help families meet the needs of newborn babies and toddlers.

In 2015, Eva Fernandes, Dr Becky Gilbert and Melissa Burgers established the Baby Bank Network in Bristol to help alleviate child poverty and support families struggling to provide basic essentials whilst also trying to reduce waste and promoting reuse of items. Since then baby banks have spread across the UK with volunteers collecting baby clothes, bottles, nappies, cots, and prams and distributing them to families in need. There are now over 100 baby banks including in London, Sheffield, Cheshire, Aberdeen, Exeter and the Isle of Wight. Many of the families are living in poverty, but increasingly baby banks are being used by women escaping domestic violence, by refugee mums and families affected by the switch to Universal Credit. Last year more than 35,000 families used a baby bank, many referred by health visitors, children's centres and other local professionals who work with vulnerable families.

But as Sophie Parker, founder of Little Village in London said "it's not about the rich giving to the poor, but about families helping families in the same community". Although she's adamant that baby banks should not exist she said "It gives me hope that people are so generous. But after 20 years working as a policy analyst looking at gender and poverty, I have never felt so angry and so saddened by what is happening in our society."

WWW.BABYBANKNETWORK.COM
WWW.LITTLEVILLAGE.ORG (LOCATIONS IN CAMDEN, SOUTHWARK AND WANDSWORTH)
WWW.EASTBOURNE.FOODBANK.ORG.UK (CO-ORDINATES BEST START-BABY BANK)
WWW.SPACESHIP.ORG (CO-ORDINATES 10 LITTLE TOES IN CRAWLEY, HORSHAM AND WORTHING)
WWW.CASCADEBABYBUNDLES.ORG.UK (IN CHESHIRE)



seeking sanctuary

In November 2019, Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees held a public event to celebrate their fourth anniversary. Margaret Blake, Chair gave the opening address:

"No-one wants to be a refugee. To leave home, family, job and security. Yet, worldwide, for 70 million men, women and children that is the sad reality of life for them. 80% of them find sanctuary in neighbouring countries, the others are dispersed around the world. Europe – and in particular, the UK – only accept a small percentage of these. But I don't want to dwell on statistics. For behind the numbers are people just like you and me; with hopes, fears and aspirations of their own. But our society – especially the media – treats those seeking sanctuary in a very negative way. Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees – like so many other organisations – exists to counter this by providing opportunities to welcome and support those who have had to flee their homeland."

Later that month HBTSR organised a special day out for people from Swansea seeking Sanctuary.

ALISA DUNN REPORTS ON HOW THE DAY WENT...

In November, Gavin and Vina Hogg opened their home, Penpont House and Gardens in Wales, to a coach load of people from Swansea who are seeking Sanctuary. This brilliant, seasonal event was organised by Hay, Brecon and Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees. Yet again there was a constant production line of wonderful food and drinks from the kitchen coordinated by Jackie and a very well practiced team of supporters. There were horses, crafts, face painting, clothes, walks and the magnificent Live and Kicking choir to entertain. There was the wonderful friendly atmosphere and the fires both indoors and outdoors. There was opportunity to catch up, to chat, to meet new people and to immerse again in the beauty of the surroundings and marvel at the generosity of our hosts in sharing this all with us. For a change we also had alpacas that people could pat and walk with and the weather was almost fine!

So here are little snippets that stuck with me. The chance to meet up with Michael for whom we campaigned when he was detained. He is so happy to be free (albeit still waiting for the legal processes) and to show photos of his beautiful son and wife. P who is going to appeal for refugee next month was able to meet with some of the team who will go to support him and we were able to agree to pay travel expenses so his friend could go with him. Adil carrying a large piece of wood that will be turned into a chopping block by the family who have just had their Leave to Remain confirmed. The faces of people watching the choir and



the transformation of a couple who often look very sad as they sang and clapped along with the music. The choir's songs seemed so appropriate especially The Long Road to Freedom and their warmth and enthusiasm was contagious doubtless inspired by Tanya their conductor. The children with beautifully painted faces, carrying large plates of cakes and wearing badges that they had made with Pat. The joy of a young man who used to round up sheep on a horse when he was farming at getting back into a horse – "much bigger than the horses at home". The mum who had never ridden who fell in love with the horse – "I'd love to have him". Simon telling me about visiting Matthew's House in Swansea and being able to talk to H who volunteers there regularly. The alpacas walking by the elephant shaped hedge with children leading them. H who had come on the service bus to catch up with a few of her local friends. T who had come so he could thank people who had been to court with him. C telling us about how having support when he went to court made him feel that nothing could go wrong and how his heart had felt like it was going to burst when the leave to remain letter arrived.

Thanks to everyone who made this wonderful day possible.

Every visit to Penpont is wonderful, every visit is different, every visit is inspiring and uplifting. Thanks to the continued generosity of Gavin and Vina Hogg, another marvellous away day was enjoyed by around 55 visitors from Swansea. Most of these visitors currently reside in Swansea, some by choice, but most because they have been sent there to live whilst awaiting for their asylum claim. This can take anything between a few months and more than 17 years as a worst case scenario. This is a time of isolation, poverty, extreme stress and sadness for many. Asylum seekers are not allowed to work, so many are in a long term state of low self esteem and pover-

ty, existing on around £36 per person. The current political situation often creates an unwelcoming atmosphere, although we try our very best in Swansea to provide venues which are welcoming and positive.

Days away such as today are invaluable to the well being of our guests. Today was organised by Margaret Blake, aided by an amazing team who make hosting about 60 visitors look easy! There is no doubt that although it may look effortless, in reality, quality organisation, in addition to generous contributions of time, effort, skills, money and food, are required. Thanks to all the hard workers behind the scenes in the kitchen!

There is nothing to match the welcome received from HBTSR members – warm, genuine and inclusive. This welcome is extended to familiar visitors and new friends from Somalia, Eritrea, Sierra Leone, DRC, Sudan, Iraq, Iran, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Kurdistan, Syria, China and Kuwait.

Some of the new visitors had to be gently persuaded to come on a 'trip'. Many are unsure of where they will go, and have to put their trust in the coordinators who assure them of a day they will remember. Once one visit is made, a return is always wanted.

HAY, BRECON AND TALGARTH SANCTUARY FOR REFUGEES IS ALSO AFFILIATED WITH REFUGEES WELCOME, A GROUP WHO HAVE A STRONG FOCUS ON CAMPAIGNING. THERE ARE OVER 90 REFUGEES WELCOME CAMPAIGN GROUPS AROUND THE UK

THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS IS THE LARGEST IN GENERATIONS. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP AND WE NEED TO DO MORE. THE COUNTRY STANDS READY AND WILLING BUT WE NEED OUR POLITICAL LEADERS TO ACT TO MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN

HBTSR IS A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS COORDINATING A LOCAL RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS. FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.HBTSR.CITYOFSANCTUARY.ORG

the price of women's progress...



NAW EC MEMBER MEGAN DOBNEY REPORTS
ON THE ANNUAL SEMINAR – HELD IN
OCTOBER 2019

THERE are signs that women's rights, needs, opportunities are going backwards in the labour movement said Mary Davis at the seminar on the Charter for Women organised by the National Assembly of Women. And the Charter can reverse that. How? Because its implementation requires a socialist feminist women's movement with close links to organised labour.

Quoting the campaign song of Women Against Pit Closures

*United by the struggle,
United by the past,
And it's – Here we go! Here we go!
For the women of the working class.*

she said the key thing is to ally our feminist work with the working class.

Feminism is often perceived as to do with identity politics – with glass ceilings where women break through and (often but not always of course) pull up the ladder behind them.

Mary was presenting to the weekend seminar the updated Charter for Women – written in 2002 and launched in 2004 at RMT headquarters in London. Supported by 27 affiliated bodies (18 of which were national trade unions) the Charter didn't invent policy, but put it all in one place – to be used by labour movement organisations to highlight their central concerns about women's position and link the oppression of women across the social, work and labour movement spheres.

What happened? Why isn't it at the core of the movement today? Well, as with so many brilliant initiatives, events overtook us. We organised three brilliant conferences and many minor actions. The TGWU (now part of Unite) was a leader in adopting and adapting the Charter, and other unions and trades councils followed suit.

However, we do believe that the need for the Charter and a strong and vibrant women's movement is greater today than ever. The policies of the Tory/LibDem government following the international

banking crash impacted on women (and continue to do so) more than on any other group.

poverty is a political choice

Mary quoted the United Nations rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, Philip Alston, when he said in 2013: "If you got a group of misogynists together in a room and said 'how can we make a system that works for men but not women?' they wouldn't have come up with too many other ideas than what's in place."

So, the things that made us write the Charter for Women in 2002 are now doubly or triply meaningful.

action, not inaction

And delegates responded with the tales of success that make the difference – the wonderful Unison home care workers in Birmingham who won their strike – even though all the workers are mobile and work in individuals' homes. The brilliant ballot results in CWU's Royal Mail section



JOY JOHNSON AND LISA ELDRET



defending their terms, conditions and national agreement – 97% in favour.

We know that for women the balance between work and home is challenging, but solutions are possible (and not only “men should do more in the home”) – women’s rights are not pie in the sky. It was perfectly possible during World War 2 to provide nurseries and childcare for women workers when capitalism demanded it, and National Restaurants recognised that the collective provision of food made the work possible for women. We’re not buying into the need for cuts in social services and know that social provision is possible now.

forwards or backwards?

“Women’s freedom is a sign of social freedom” said Ruth Serwotka from Women’s Place UK. She listed some of the industrial fights led by women – from the matchgirls, the Burston school strike, the Dagenham women, and some of the massive legislative changes won by women’s struggles – supported by men in



KAREN REGAN AND SHEILA BIGGINS

many cases – such as voting rights, universal child benefit, the Equal Pay Act, the Sex Discrimination Act.

The tangential attack on women’s rights, under the false clothing of a development of the rights of trans people, is emblematic of our interests. The promotion of gender, an ideological concept, to undermine women’s rights is a cynical manoeuvre designed to set working class people one against the other.

The key is to develop a women’s movement that engages the next generation – on a collective, not an individual identity, basis.

women’s voices locally?

Lisa Eldret, leader of the Labour group on Derby council, focussed on the reality of political power locally. Local authorities have a massive impact on women’s lives with their provision of education, transport, housing and many other vital services. But only 33% of councillors are women and, worse still, only 20% of council leaders are women.

Councils have lost 60p in the £ with cuts to local budgets since 2008. The decisions on cuts have predominantly been made by men with the impact predominantly felt by women. A local description of the national reality...

Although Labour is not in power in Derby they are looking, as are other Labour groups, at the “Preston model” – a procurement approach that relies on bringing together key organisations in the locality and giving preference to spending with local organisations (particularly worker-owned), demanding apprenticeships and so on. Their model originated in Cleveland in the USA, but a similar model is active in Oslo in Norway with a strong involvement of trade unions and the “fight against labour crime” central,

and expressed through a stated opposition to social dumping, and for green procurement strategies, apprenticeships, permanent jobs and commitment to core ILO conventions on employment rights.

speaking out

To achieve progress we have to get our message across. Easier said than done said Joy Johnson from Unite. But it can be done! We watched the clarity of the stars – Sikh MP Tam Singh Dhesi speaking out for Muslim women, Marsha de Cordova challenging Esther McVey, Dawn Butler putting Liam Fox in his box, and the wonderful Maya Angelou “still rising”.

shutting up

The purpose of the seminar was to develop a strategy to promote the Charter. The enjoyment was to spend time with a truly diverse group of women – political and trade union activists and leaders, delegates and individuals – it doesn’t happen often...

The proposals were to develop local groups – not in a formal structural sense, but in an organic and flexible way – drawing in those that exist, whether trade union, party political, feminist, campaign or whatever – all who believe that progress for women demands socialist feminist activity.

We’ll be seeking to influence the Labour Party manifesto with our demand for a Ministry for Women and equality impact assessments on all policies, and we’ll be looking for a wider conference at the end of this process.

We’re not going to reinvent the wheel – hey ho! It’s there already. We will draw on existing activism to get a real future for women. And we know that the price of women’s equality is eternal vigilance.

iran's women activists

NAW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER
LIZ PAYNE REFLECTS ON THE IMAGES AND
STORIES OF IRAN'S WOMEN ACTIVISTS

AS I write, I'm looking with great sadness at a banner that was recently hung at an international festival I attended. I was there to campaign against human and democratic rights abuses in Iran. The banner drew lots of attention. It calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease the arrest, torture, prosecution and imprisonment of workers, women, young people, students, national minorities and environmental activists and calls for all political prisoners in Iran to be freed.

But right now it isn't the words but the pictures of the incarcerated that make the biggest impression. Of the 24 images, 12 are of women. Some need no introduction. There on the second row is lawyer Nasreen Sotoudeh, jailed for 38 years and sentenced to 148 lashes for nothing other than representing those charged with political "offences" (including Nobel Peace laureate, Shirin Ebadi), women's rights protesters who have removed their hijab and children subjected to harsh sentencing and death penalties.

Readers are all too familiar with others from previous editions of *sisters*. On the third row is writer and rights campaigner, Golrokh Ebrahimi. *Sisters* covered her imprisonment in filthy, insanitary conditions in a former chicken farm and her subsequent torture in Evin prison. One of her so-called major crimes was to author a story against punishment by stoning, horrifically still used by the regime – predominantly against women. Penning it was enough; the novel had never been submitted for publication. It was found when the security services turned over her home after they arrested her. And below her on the lowest line is Narges Mohammadi. Qualified in physics and an engineer by profession, she has campaigned ever since her student days for women's rights, becoming the vice-president of a leading national human rights campaigning organisation. Now a long-term detainee, she has been on hunger strike this year in protest at the denial of medical care to women political prisoners.

Now let me introduce some faces with which you may not be as familiar. Here are Niloufar Bayani and Sepideh Kashani, both wildlife conservationists. Up in the left-hand corner is Parvin Mohammadi, a labour movement activist. She was arrested in January 2019 after writing an open letter to protest at night raids on the homes of steel workers and arrests in Ahvaz. Further to her right is Sepideh Gholian. This young woman has been arrested several times in the last 12 months for engaging in peaceful labour rights protests, including on social media. Specifically, she joined workers at the Haft Tappeh sugar cane factory in Khuzestan province, who were demanding their unpaid wages. But she is now

serving a 19-year sentence for something other than demonstrating with workers. When released on bail some months ago, she reported to Amnesty that she had been tortured in custody – beaten, thrown against a wall and threatened with flogging, sexual abuse and execution in order to extract false confessions. This exposure is the "crime" the regime could not tolerate. Marzieh Amiri, looking out resolutely from the middle of the bottom row, has been condemned to 10 years imprisonment and enough lashes to kill her if the sentence is ever carried out. What did she do? She joined a rally last May Day in Tehran.

One photo that is not on the banner is that of Sahar Khodayari. She is already dead. She tried to get into Tehran's Azadi Stadium in March this year to watch a football match. As women are not permitted to do so, she went disguised as a man... and was caught. In court she was accused of "openly committing a sinful act... by appearing in public without a hijab". The case was adjourned but will now never be heard. In protest at the accusation, Sahar set herself on fire on 2 September and died in hospital a few days later.

Looking at the photos of all these brave women, we see sisters, wives, mothers, daughters, friends. They are young and old, some traditional in their dress and others modern. Some are serious in aspect, others smiling. All, without exception, strong and determined. Their faces, their stories and their cruel punishment by a theocracy summon us to show solidarity by ensuring that the truth of what the regime is doing to women in Iran is widely known, by protesting to the Iranian government, campaigning for the immediate release of all political prisoners in Iran and stating that never again should peaceful protests for equality and justice be equated with treasonable offences against the security of the state. Only the harshest dictatorship could feel so threatened.



AS this issue of *sisters* goes to print, news is reaching us of mass protests across Iran, in which women are at the forefront, and their brutal suppression by the police and security services.

On Friday 15 November, without any warning, the Iranian regime hiked the price of petrol by as much as 300%. The effect was immediate, with the cost of essentials – basic food items, fuel and public transport – soaring, hitting the poorest in the country hardest. Hundreds of thousands came onto the streets within hours in 23 of Iran's 31 provinces. Women, desperate about how to feed their families, were very visible on the demonstrations, so much so that the regime accused women's groups opposed to the Iranian government of being in the leadership of the mass protests.

The government's response was swift and brutal. All internet contact with the outside world was shut down, as the authorities moved on the demonstrators, blatantly operating a 'shoot to kill policy'. Within a week of the start of the protests, 250 people had been murdered by security forces on the streets and 3,000 were injured – rushed to hospitals predominantly with bullet wounds to the head and upper body.

Arrests began immediately. Many women were dragged off to prison and tortured. One woman, Fatemeh Davand, was forced to appear on state TV and 'confess' to being a ring-leader of the unrest. Such, however, was the anguish and determination of people everywhere that even threats and brutality did not succeed in clearing the streets.

As the crackdown continues, it is vital that sisters let the Iranian authorities know that we know what they are doing and that they can't get away with it. We must also call for an immediate end to shootings and arrests, cessation of abuse and torture of those held and their immediate release. We must demand that relatives be informed as to the whereabouts of their family members, including, if they are dead, the location of their bodies and the circumstances in which they died.

Please write as quickly as possible to:
The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran
16 Princes Gate, London SW7 IPT or
iranemb.lon@mfa.gov.ir

IF YOU COULD SEND A COPY OF YOUR
LETTER AND ANY RESPONSE YOU
RECEIVE TO NAW@SISTERS.ORG.UK IT
WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL

Justice for Rojawa! Erdoğan's war crimes



appeal to the NAW

We are an informal group of Kurdish and other people outside of Kurdistan. Our diverse group includes long-standing NAW member Dr Ute Navidi who is also a member of the Unite union.

Like many people around the world, we have been deeply shocked by the Turkish attack on Kurds and ethnic minorities – Armenians, Assyrians etc – in Rojawa (Northern Syria) who were living in harmony and sharing the running of their communities.

In October 2019, the United States suddenly abandoned its Kurdish partners which had been instrumental in defeating Daesh. Withdrawing US troops gave Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan the green light for invasion. The ethnic cleansing that followed caused a massive displacement of the Kurdish population, including tens of thousands of children.

We are seeking to take Erdoğan to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. We are taking this action as concerned individuals, because Kurds have no country of their own that could defend them. We are in direct contact with experts and specialist medical staff on the ground who are willing to testify to the Court. We aim to raise funds for the legal costs through the trusted CrowdJustice organisation which not long ago also raised such funds for the Women Against State Pension Age Inequality (WASPI) campaign.

We need your support for this action.

We hope that sisters may contribute and share the information now, as widely as possible. For example you may want to raise the appeal at your local branch, and invite other membership organisations, to do likewise.

Here is the link to the CrowdJustice page, where you can donate online (this is the only way of contributing) and for sharing: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/justice-for-rojawa/>

Through this legal channel, we want to give the Kurdish and other victims and survivors a voice in their quest for justice. Our case aims to get Erdoğan to remove the Turkish forces from occupied Rojawa and to stop bombing and other atrocities, so that those displaced can return, rebuild their lives, and feel safe again in Rojawa.

background

The Turkish military action saw many atrocities and war crimes committed against the Rojawa Kurds and other ethnic groups: "The city of Ras al-Ayn is suffering shelling, artillery, airstrikes and ground incursions with tanks and heavy weapons. This has led to many civilian injuries, and our medical teams have been targeted." Kurdish Red Crescent (Cross).

"Tens of girls from the city of Afrin have been kidnapped by the Turkish army and have been raped. One of the mothers said that her 14-year old daughter was among them."

"Three members of a family went out of

their house to get some food from the next shop. They got killed the moment they stepped out." Kurdish Red Crescent.

Children were among the first innocent casualties of Turkey's ethnic cleansing of Rojawa residents; they are hurt and traumatised. Many photos we have are too horrific to share but will be presented to the Court.

A report by Dr Abbas Mansouran of 28 October 2019 details the use of chemical weapons by the Turkish Armed Forces in Rojawa. Drones have dropped bombs with white phosphorus, causing terrible, life-changing burns and other severe injuries.

how much are we raising and why?

We have commissioned a renowned legal team in the United Kingdom, led by Michael Mansfield QC of Nexus Chambers, to advise and take the necessary steps to enable the ICC to fulfil its obligations under the Rome statute with regard to the investigation and prosecution of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

We need a minimum of £8,000; costs could be up to £20,000.

On behalf of the Rojawa Kurdish and other ethnic groups, we thank you very much for your kindness, solidarity and generosity. Long live Rojawa! Long live the children of Rojawa!

justiceforrojawa@yahoo.com

cards,
mugs
and
more



HURRAY! new merchandise from the National Assembly of Women.

A beautiful porcelain mug – £8 each. Metal and enamel badge (30mm with butterfly clip) £3. Two postcards – one shows the NAW banner, the other is a print from a poster on display in Wortley Hall “you can’t hug your kids with nuclear arms” – 50p each. And finally the ever popular NAW bookmark – also 50p.

Please add postage as follows:

- badge £1.26
- cards £1.26
- mug £3.50

For mixed and international orders please ask; for orders over £50, postage free.

carolyn.simpson@unitetheunion.org for further details, or post a cheque, payable to NAW, to Carolyn Simpson, Unite, 33-37 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB.



donations needed...

DULWICH and West Norwood Labour Party Women’s Forum is organising a solidarity campaign with refugees in Calais. We are working with the Refugee Women’s Centre in Calais and Dunkirk to raise awareness and collect donations from our community to take to the refugee encampment, which now receives no support from any government and relies solely on volunteer work and donations. There are many ways to get involved: donating items, giving money, or joining us on the convoy to Calais on 25 January 2020. We will spend a weekend volunteering with the Refugee Community Kitchen and Help Refugees in Calais.

The following items have been asked for by the Refugee Women’s Centre in Calais and Dunkirk, and Help Refugees:

Tents (2-8 person, especially 4+), hand

warmers, tarpaulin, sleeping bags (adult, children, baby), thick blankets, rucksacks (medium & large), torches (especially wind-up), new vacuum flasks, baby milk powder (No.2 & No.3, Gallia, Aptimol, Cow&Gate), tissue packs, toilet paper, new women’s and children’s underwear, women’s leggings (especially medium & large), women’s jeans (large only), smartphones, phone chargers, power banks, nail clippers, tweezers, materials for women’s activities: henna, nail varnish & remover, make up, wool, thread, beads, watercolour paint pallets, containers for storage.

Cash donations: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dawnwomensforum>. Collection point: Emmaus Lambeth, 88 Knights Hill, London SE27 0JD

For more info: womenssolidarityconvoy@gmail.com, 07584 486 594 (Maria)

what’s on...

NAW Executive Committee meetings are open to *all* members. The next meeting is on Saturday 14 March 2020 in London.

The **AGM** will be 25 April 2020 in Liverpool.

If you would like to attend please contact the Secretary on naw@sisters.org.uk or at NAW, Bridge House, Newport Street, Hay on Wye, Powys HR3 5BG

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)

Name _____

Address _____

postcode _____

Organisation _____

phone _____

email _____

Send to: NAW, c/o C Simpson, Unite, 33-37 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB