



November 19 2010

The Right Hon. Secretary of State, Teresa May MP
Minister for Women and Equality
The Hon. Lynne Featherstone MP
Minister for Equalities

Dear Theresa and Dear Lynne,

Draft Outcomes Report of Meeting of Women's Organisations and individual women called by NAWO and held at Fawcett on November 17 2010 to imagine a new gender architecture for the UK.

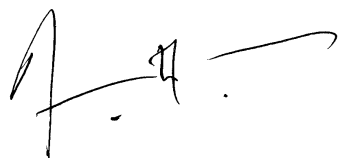
We would like to present you with the attached draft document which provides you with information resulting from the November 17th meeting called by the National Association of Women's Organisations (NAWO) and supported by the Women's Resource Centre (WRC) and The Fawcett Society, where we met. It has been produced as quickly as possible. This is so that you have a chance perhaps to consider, but at least to know something of the 'blue sky' thinking that the women present came up with, before your meeting on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the planned discussion of a new gender architecture on Monday 22 November 2010 which we, and many of those who participated on the 17 will be attending. We very much hope you will find the ideas interesting and helpful.

Of course, both meetings are set in the context of the abolition of the Women's National Commission (WNC) and with an understanding of the limited resources available.

Jonathan Rees has reassured us that the consultation period for the new arrangements will last until the end of March 2011 and is a serious process. We would like to see this first piece of work as part of the consultation process in which we intend to engage as thoroughly and as widely as possible. The paper is intended to be helpful to you and the Government Equalities Office (GEO) as you plan for the new conditions and to meet government goals.

We have pulled out just a little of the background to the discussion and have focussed on providing you with the main suggestions that emerged. We do need to stress that in the interests of getting it to you before Monday 22 November we have not been able to obtain comments from the group as a whole and it must be seen therefore as draft. The meeting represents the beginning of a whole process of engagement and discussion with women in all their diversity.

With best wishes,



Annette Lawson
Chair, NAWO



Ceri Goddard
Chief Executive, Fawcett



Vivienne Hayes
Chief Executive, WRC