

International Women's Day 2016

Pledge for Parity



What's on in Newcastle?

Women all over the world celebrate International Women's Day, to mark various achievements of women but also to draw attention to the plight of many women all over the world and to challenge the status quo. The theme set for this year by the United Nations (UN) is 'Pledge for Parity' #PledgeforParity. Many voluntary and community groups hold events and activities to celebrate International Women's Day; these groups arrange events and activities all year round. Check out their website, or phone them for details of their work. Newcastle CVS thought it would be helpful to pull together the activities we know about but there will also be other activities happening, which aren't listed here and around the region. A number of events are taking place over the next month. Please engage, enjoy and **Pledge for Parity**.

Northumbria University's Gender and Society Research Hub has organised a **Festival of Feminist Ideas and Actions 2016 (FFIA)** which features a range of events and talks during March and April.



Gender & Society Research Hub

'Deeds Not Words' – Suffragette Walk

6 March, 2.30pm, please meet at the Haymarket, Newcastle

This walk launches the 2016 Festival of Feminist Ideas and Activism. It celebrates the women who campaigned for the right to vote, delivered by Newcastle City Guides. Find out where Emily Wilding Davison was arrested in Newcastle and how local women met, marched and behaved badly, in order to win the vote.

To book, please visit the Newcastle City Guides' website:

www.NewcastleGateshead.com/City-Guides

Prices are £4 per person and £3 for seniors (60+). Places are limited, so please book early.

**International Women's Day Screening – *Suffragette* (dir: Sarah Gavron, 2015)
8 March, 5.30pm, Tyneside Cinema**

The film will be introduced by Carol Stephenson (Northumbria University) and after the screening, there will be an opportunity to discuss how the Suffragettes' struggle remains relevant in the 21st century.

Organisers: Sue Regan and Carol Stephenson (Northumbria University).

Q/A Panel: Carol Stephenson (Chair) with Karen Ross and Sue Regan (all Northumbria University)

For tickets, please book directly with Tyneside Cinema. www.tynesidecinema.co.uk

Feminist Magazines and Print Culture

16 March, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, City Library (refreshments available from 6.00pm)

What is the relation between writing, publishing and activism? To what extent do we need to read and visualise feminism in print? To what extent is the history of feminism bound up with the history of magazines? How can feminist periodicals be understood as feminist spaces? Has feminist periodical culture moved online and into digital spaces and if so, does this matter? This session brings together researchers and activists to discuss the relation between feminism and periodical culture.

The speakers include Victoria Bazin (Northumbria University), Rosie Lewis (Angelou Centre) Penny Remfry, Anne Torode (*Scarlet Woman*) and Mel Waters (Northumbria University)

Free event, but you need to book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-feminist-ideas-and-actions-tickets-20859735029> Access is via Princess Square.

Feminism, Activism and Social Media

12 April, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, City Library (refreshments available from 6.00pm)

Once heralded as a haven for free speech and democratic dialogue, the online world has come to be characterised by the same gender inequalities as the offline world.

This session will present new information from current research projects about women's experiences online; how they explore the potential of social media for political activism and their strategies for responding to and resisting online abuse.

The speakers include Marloes Jansen, Ruth Lewis and Jessi O'Donnell (all Northumbria University)

Free event, but you need to book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-feminist-ideas-and-actions-tickets-20859735029> Access is via Princess Square.

Lesbians in Feminism

20 April, 6.30pm to 7.30pm, City Library (refreshments available from 6.00pm)

Lesbians have made and continue to make vital contributions to the feminist movement, as leaders, activists and sisters. This conversation with a panel of local women will explore and celebrate the diversity and significance of lesbians' work and activism generally, as well as its importance to the North East in particular.

The speakers include Caroline Airs, Louise Evan-Wong and Jen Remnant
Organisers: Sue Regan and Julie Scanlon (Northumbria University)

Free event, but you need to book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-feminist-ideas-and-actions-tickets-20859735029> Access is via Princess Square.

'Words to inspire Deeds' Pop-up Feminist Reading Group

25 April 6.30pm to 7.30pm, City Library (refreshments available from 6.00pm)

Have you been looking for a Feminist Book Club? Here's our 'pop-up' version, revisiting one of the enduring debates of feminism: Is feminist work best organised and carried out in mixed-gender groups or as women-only groups? This session will be an informal discussion on this debate based around two or three short extracts from feminist texts from the 1970s/80s and from the present. Participants will be encouraged to read the extracts in advance and the readings will be made available for free after booking a place on the session.

Organisers: Julie Scanlon and Sue Regan (Northumbria University)

Free event, but you need to book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-feminist-ideas-and-actions-tickets-20859735029> Access is via Princess Square.

Murder She Wrote: Gender and Crime Writing

28 April 6.30pm to 7.30pm, City Library (refreshments available from 6.00pm)

'Dead women sell books' – this commonly held notion reinforcing violence against women as a staple of crime fiction appears at odds with feminist principles and values. Yet many of the most gruesome crime thrillers containing graphic depictions of violence against women are written by women. This session will take the form of an 'in conversation' with two contemporary crime fiction authors, Yrsa Sigurdardottir and Denise Mina, exploring the challenges of writing crime fiction as feminists.

Organiser: Jacky Collins (Northumbria University)

Free event, but you need to book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-feminist-ideas-and-actions-tickets-20859735029> Access is via Princess Square.

Representing the Women's Movement: Films from the *Sisterhood and After* project

29 April 6.30pm to 7.30pm, City Library (refreshments available from 6.00pm)

Sisterhood and After: The Women's Liberation Oral History Project is a major oral history project charting the lives and activism of 60 women who fought for equality in the 70s and 80s. Lizzie Thynne (director), Sussex University, will show selected films from the project including *YBA a Wife?* (with Zoe Fairbairns), *On Tools* (on Barbara Jones, pioneering woman builder) and *Voices in Movement* (2014). She discusses the challenges and pleasures of documenting this key period of feminism and its relevance for today.

Sisterhood and After was funded by The Leverhulme Trust and is archived at the British Library.

<http://www.bl.uk/sisterhood/interviews?formats=video&page=1>

Organiser: Rosie White (Northumbria University)

Free event, but you need to book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/festival-of-feminist-ideas-and-actions-tickets-20859735029> Access is via Princess Square.

To mark International Women's Day

Local artist Jayamini de Silva exhibits her work at City Library from 3-10 March.

To learn about Jayamini's work please visit <http://jammidsv.wix.com/inkonrice>. The City Library is also hosting six of the Festival of Feminist Ideas and Actions events.

Spring Activities Taster Day for women aged 50 and over

**1 March, 10.30am to 2.00pm at Fenham Association of Residents (FAR),
Acanthus Avenue off Cedar Road, Newcastle**

West End Befrienders and Search have organised a range of activities for women. These activities include crafts, flower arranging, Tai Chi, Bollywood dance, iPads, and hand massage. A buffet lunch is included.

If you want to attend or need more information, please phone Search on 0191 273 7443

A Feminist Economy for the North East of England

3 March, 9.30am to 4.30pm, West End Women and Girls Centre, Stephenson Building, Elswick Rd, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6SQ

The Purpose of the event is to orientate and position the North East Women's Sector within the emerging devolved North East economy and identify how women's organisations can work collaboratively on an economic-driven agenda to:

- Articulate and recognise the contribution of the women's sector to economic growth
- To work out how we can align holistic and innovative forms of service delivery and skills development with the requirements of public sector tenders and contracts
- To work towards developing consortia and partnerships of women's organisations that are in a position to successfully bid for contracts
- To network and mark a collaborative way forward with a celebration in advance of International Women's Day 2016

The event will be chaired by Caroline MacDonald, The Big Lottery. Speakers include Janice Rose, Association of North East Councils, Claire Prospert, Newcastle City Council and Carol Botten from VONNE.

The event is for women only and for paid and volunteer staff and board/management committee members of local voluntary and community organisations.

To book your place <http://data.wrc.org.uk/civicrm/event/register?id=957&reset=1>

International Women's Day Networking Lunch hosted by the Women's Fund at the Community Foundation

4 March, 11.45am to 2.30pm, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle

The lunch is a networking and fundraising event on behalf of the Women's Fund at the Community Foundation which aims to ensure that all women in Tyne & Wear and Northumberland have the opportunity to learn, grow and achieve. This year the keynote speaker is Jo Barnett, Executive Director of Virgin Money Giving and there will be a presentation from Open Clasp Theatre.

The lunch is an opportunity for women to pool their giving in support of the Women's Fund at the Community Foundation and raises a substantial amount year on year. The Women's Fund was created by women, to inspire and support other local women in our community to make a change. By joining this event, you will be able to help us support more women's causes and make a difference to the lives of women in the North East.

If you would like to purchase tickets at £40 per ticket, please email mn@communityfoundation.org.uk or ring the Community Foundation at 0191 222 0945

**IWD Conference - Inspiring Success, Women in Management
4 March, 9.00am to 14.00pm at Newcastle University Business School, 5
Barrack Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4SE**

This event will celebrate International Women's Day with a host of excellent speakers, who are all achievers in their own right. Each of the speakers will share their stories, including the tough stuff, to show how anything is possible if you believe in yourself.

The speakers include Sarah Callender - B Daily; Nicola Stoker - Nissan; Tina Young - Barking Mad; Holly Armstrong - GF White; Angela Anderson - Zenith People and Rising Star; Ami Davies - My Little Explorer; Louise Allcroft - Complement Geonomics; Jayne Archbold - Ex CEO, Sage.

Join Women in Management afterwards for lunch and networking

Book your place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-womens-day-conference-newcastle-inspiring-success-tickets-21005463908>

A number of voluntary organisations including **Tyneside Women's Health** and **Riverside Centre** are holding events for their attendees.

This Girl Can 2016

It is now one year since the 'This Girl Can Campaign' was launched in Newcastle on International Women's Day (IWD). This Girl Can (TGC) addresses the gender gap between males and females with 1.73 million fewer women taking part in sport and physical activity. On 5 March Newcastle City Council, sponsored by Sport England, will be recognising the achievements of these local women at an awards ceremony.

Newcastle's initiative has been particularly successful with over 200 local ambassadors for the campaign. These ambassadors have encouraged other women and girls within their own communities and online to become and remain more active. Local women have done this in a variety of different ways, from posting selfies to becoming friendly and encouraging coaches and leaders.

Newcastle City Council is also putting on a number of sporting activities for women of all ages and abilities to get involved in over the week commencing 6 March. On IWD we will invite people to join us in raising money for 'Sports Relief' to help us to continue to get more women involved in sport.

The awards ceremony is invitation only; however, you can learn more about how to get involved in the different activities taking place across the week by visiting: <http://activenewcastle.co.uk/content/this-girl-can>

Understanding the past, a journey through time...

To mark International Women's Day Newcastle City Council are planning to show the film 'Suffragette'. Women across the Council will be invited along with their female friends and family members to learn more about how local women were involved in the Suffragette movement. Following on from this brief journey through time; the Council will invite everyone to sit back and enjoy a free screening of the film.

So why do this?

In 1857, 1907 and 1908 American garment workers, all women, marched and demonstrated demanding better pay. In 1910 their example was the inspiration for Clara Zetkin to declare an International Day for Women, at the Socialist Women's Conference in Copenhagen that year.

The day chosen in 1913 was 8 March, and has been so ever since. The early 'Days' focused on pay and voting rights for women. More recently women's liberation has been prominent but the Day has always been concerned with the broader struggles of women in the world.

All around the world on 8 March women choose different ways to mark our Day. The emphasis may be on liberation struggles; on women's working conditions; on freedom from hunger or violence; or a celebration of the strength, vitality and potential of women.

Many of the original ideals have been achieved but many more are still to be won. So please spread the word about these events, try to attend yourself and encourage others to get involved. There is still a lot to be done (especially for women in other countries), so help make our voices heard.

Newcastle Council for Voluntary Services (CVS)

Newcastle CVS provides a trusted, independent voice to individuals who struggle to be heard and support to voluntary and community organisations in Newcastle to be more resilient and sustainable. We do this by utilising our established reputation and signposting within our extensive networks; working with integrity and strength to promote social justice and a fairer society and through influencing and challenging the debate.

This information is published in good faith but Newcastle CVS accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracy in the items. You are welcome to copy any item for use in the promotion of voluntary sector activity, but please acknowledge the source.

Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service, Higham House, Higham Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AF Tel 0191 232 7445 www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk

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