



WOMEN'S SPACES

**Creating platforms to strengthen women's voices
in peacebuilding, civic and political life.**



Women's Spaces with Mr Richard Hill (North) & Mr Mark Hanniffy (South), Joint Secretaries, North South Ministerial Council & Sarah Keane, Director of Strategic Partnership, Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund

A year in reflection

By Jonna Monaghan, Director of Women's Platform
(Lead partner in consortium)

What a year to work on women and peacebuilding!

Women's Spaces is a three year project designed to give women the skills and capacity to engage in public life, and strengthen women's voices in peacebuilding and decision making. Our first year has very much confirmed we are meeting a demand: women want a stronger voice, and skills to build it.

In our first year, we worked with over 200 women, exploring women's role in Northern Ireland and perspectives on peacebuilding, beginning capacity building, and advocacy for women's priorities in policy making. The first year also included gathering women's views and ideas. Year 2 will build on these and widen the programme, and we look forward to sharing this and working with more women from across Northern Ireland.

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Where are the women?

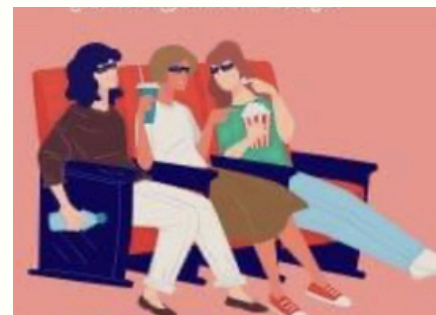
**WITH BRONAGH MCATASNEY & LISA DUGGAN
NI SCREEN: DIGITAL FILM ARCHIVE**



digitalfilmarchive.net

The project's first activity was in partnership with NI Screen and the Digital Film archive project. Bronagh McAtasney worked alongside the staff team to develop a series of three weeks of digital footage from the early 1900's to 1998, focusing on the role of women throughout the past century. The topics for conversation included comfortable and uncomfortable spaces for women, the issues and challenges women faced and how they overcame them either individually or as a collective.

The footage allowed meaningful dialogue with over 30 women from across NI, focusing on the past, present and future for women in our society. We are pleased to say that we are now rolling out this programme in local communities with women's groups and centres and many thanks to NI Screen for working in partnership with us on this initiative.



**Interested in
hosting these
workshops?**

Contact us!

info@womens-spaces.org



Who has rights anyway?

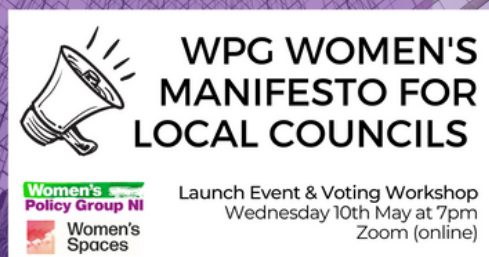
Developed and designed by Women's Platform (womensplatform.org), the Women's Spaces Team delivered a series of 3 workshops online during the day and evening with people from across NI. The focus of the workshops was awareness raising on what human rights are, the institutions and laws that exist to protect our human rights, and awareness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as international and local case studies on how this applies to every day life and the lives of ordinary women.

Visit the NI Human Rights Commission to learn about implementation in NI: nihrc.org

Online launch of "Women's Manifesto for Local Councils" and how to vote workshop

**WITH ELAINE CRORY
WOMEN'S SECTOR LOBBYIST (WRDA)**

By request, the Women's Spaces Team organised an online launch of the Women's Policy Group: Women's Manifesto for Local Councils (available at www.wrda.net). We also designed and delivered a workshop on how to vote in council elections and understanding the Single Transferable Vote. Visit www.electoralcomission.org.uk for voting info.



AGREEMENT+25 *your say?*

**WITH AVILA KILMURRAY
SOCIAL CHANGE INITIATIVE**



We were so blessed to have the recently awarded Avila Kilmurray join us for a series of 3 sessions focusing on the role of women in (1) Peacebuilding, (2) Agreement, and (3) Reconciliation. The first session looked at 1969 to 1998 leading up to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. The women then attended the highly acclaimed play *The Agreement* in the Lyric Theatre. They then re-joined Avila for a discussion on the play and a presentation on women's role in reconciliation until present day.

We discussed how much has been achieved and is still needed particularly in relation to UNSCR1325 women peace and security and gender equality.

"People working together can overcome many obstacles, often within themselves, and by doing so can make the world a better place."

— MO MOWLAM

Momentum: The Struggle for Peace, Politics and the People



Meet the team



Sarah Stack (left)
Urban Co-ordinator
sarah.stack@wrda.net

Charmain Jones (right)
Rural Co-ordinator
charmain@nirwn.org

Participant testimony

"I have had the most enjoyable time. Always made welcome there's been a lot of fun and learning looking forward to plenty more activities and talks in the future. Women need this project as we are so often overlooked under estimated and under valued so its good to have a voice and the backing behind us. Thanks to all the staff who cater for all women's needs."

Many thanks to everyone who has supported our project throughout year 1. We look forward to working with you all in year 2 and beyond.

WOMEN'S SPACES PARTNERSHIP

Women's Spaces is an innovative programme strengthening women's capacity to take their rightful place as leaders in society. Delivery is led by Women's Resource and Development Agency and Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network, building on extensive experience of working with grassroots women and communities. Women's Support Network will assist with identifying and engaging participants, and Women's Platform will contribute to capacity building, while also acting as overall coordinator and focal point for the programme. Women's Spaces is funded by the Government of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs
RECONCILIATION FUND



Women's Spaces seeks to strengthen the voices of all women and girls in peacebuilding and decision making, delivered by a consortium involving Women's Platform, NIRWN, WRDA and WSN.