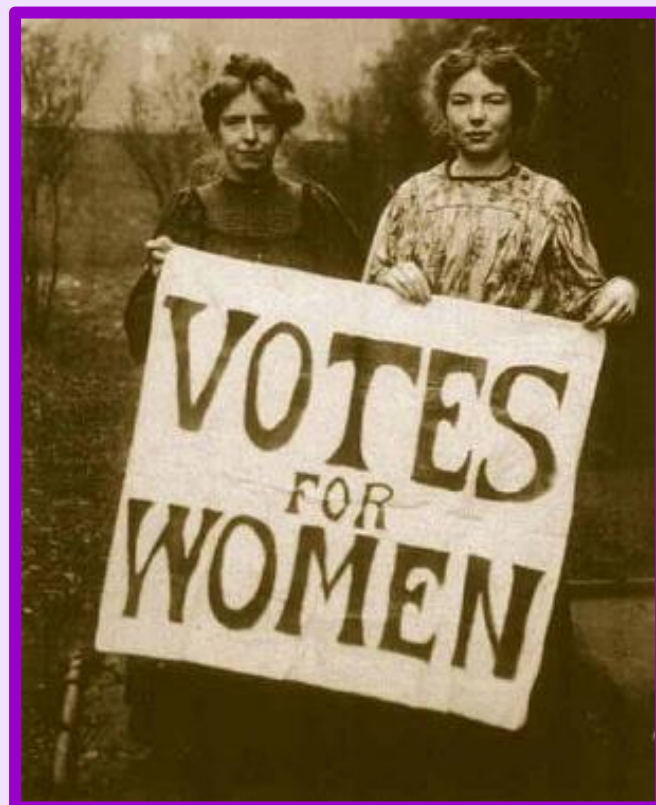


**County Durham  
Women's Conference  
100 years of progress?  
Report**

**Stanley Civic Hall**

**Saturday 20th October 2018**





Conference organisers were delighted when approximately 200 people participated in this ground-breaking event, which brought together women from North Durham and throughout the region and indeed some men, in support of the women, too.

The conference was a colourful affair with stalls, workshops, high profile speakers and a fantastic vegetarian buffet provided by a local community organisation, PACT House. As well as the launch of the Co-operative Women's Network, much networking took place throughout the day, many connections made and plans for joint future work formulated.



A recreation of a suffragette rally was held at the beginning of the event, attracting people passing, as well as conference delegates. There was even a heckler, Jack Pallas, berating the women just as happened to the original suffragettes, but he was soon put in his place!

# Agenda

- 9.00 Rally at Stanley Civic/Louisa Centre
- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 Welcome and housekeeping
- 10.10 Kevan Jones MP – Welcome to North Durham and Importance of Women Activism in this area
- 10.20 Durham Women’s Banner Group – Laura Daley
- 10.30 Time Bandits - visual exploration of progress through the decades
- 11.00 Keynote speaker – Professor Selina Todd with Q&A
- 11.40 Workshops
- 12.30 Lunch & Stalls
- 1.30 Launch of Cooperative Party Regional Women’s Network - Janine Docherty
- 1.45 Workshops
- 2.45 Question Time Panel –  
  
Karen Brown, Verna Fee, Linda Kirk, Jude Kirton Darling MEP, Syl O’Brien, Selina Todd, Ijjou Derrache Thompson of the Diverse Women's Network.
- 3.45 Chair’s Concluding Remarks & Feedback
- 4.15 Entertainment North East Women Singers

# Welcome and Speakers



Veronica Alvarez (L) and Janine Docherty, Co-op Party Vice Chair (R), our excellent compares at the women's conference.



North Durham MP RT HON Kevan Jones, opened the conference. Welcoming the women talking about the importance of women in society.

Speakers included Professor Selina Todd of Oxford University, Kevan Jones MP and Jude Kirton Darling MEP as well as Laura Daley, Co Durham, Women's Banner Group. Workshops ranged from domestic violence, history of women in the Labour Movement, Women in Business to Just for Women's fabulous "proggy" mat making. Topics discussed by the speakers and during the Question Time included Brexit – in particular, the impact on women; the impending consultation and legislation involving transgender rights and safe spaces for women; the true history of the suffrage movement and the importance of trade unions in protecting women's rights.

**County Durham Women's Conference 100 years of progress?**



Our incredibly knowledgeable, intelligent and astute Keynote speaker, Professor Selina Todd.



Participants, engaged by the exceptional speakers



Time bandits recreate the experiences of women from our past



The brilliant Women's Banner group told us of their successful, cooperative project.

# Workshops

## **1 Women girls and domestic violence– Domestic Violence**

### **Agenda**

Facilitators: Aspire, Chester le Street & Durham Police and Crime Commissioners Aims of Workshop

- To create a visual a time line showing significant events, additions and changes relating to DVA over the past 100 years.
- To give accurate information regarding the above and the impact on women
- To consider what DVA could look like in 21st Century

## **2 History of proggy mat making** plus practical work to teach art of proggy mats. Facilitators – Linda Kirk and Lestryne Tweedy Just For Women

Facilitators – Linda Kirk and Lestryne Tweedy Just For Women

## **3 Women in Business “Your Sparkling Moment”**

Facilitator Karen Brown Managing Director of KBC Ltd. Stanley Co. Durham.

## **4 W. A. S. P. I. Women against State Pension Inequality: taking action now –**

Facilitator Syl O’Brien

## **5 Early Labour Women, building a better society in Co Durham**

Facilitators Kath Connolly, Carole Williamson and Dorothy Rand

## **6 Brexit – What does it mean for women?**

Facilitator - Jude Kirton Darling MEP

# Workshops



Ava makes her first proggy mat with Just for Women.



Dorothy Rand speaks passionately about Bella Lawson.



MEP Jude Kirton Darling explains the specific impact Brexit could have on British women for years to come

WASPI Women discuss injustice, get advice and make campaign plans



# Stalls

- 1 MHNE Women and Mental Health - A Truly Horrible History \*
- 2 ASPIRE – Learning Support and Well Being
- 3 Just for Women – Art & Crafts
- 4 Time Bandits
- 5 Durham P.C.V.C
- 6 The Coop Party
- 7 The Fed (LGBT)
- 8 City of Sanctuary/Stand up to Racism
- 9 Beamish Museum
- 10 Durham County Archive
- 12 WASPI
- 13 Soroptimists International Durham
- 14 Worker's Education Association\*
- 15 G. M. B. Union



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# Stalls



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# Participants



## What participants learned from taking part....

- 'To have confidence in our shared skills and knowledge'
- 'More about WASPI and Brexit'
- 'Women working together can achieve anything'
- 'The existence and functions of the Cooperative Party'



**County Durham Women's Conference 100 years of progress?**

# Evaluation



Question Time Panel

Praise on the day from many of those attending the event was reflected in evaluation forms which reveal a high level of satisfaction and enthusiasm for taking issues raised, forward.

“I need this turned into an annual event!”

“Another one and support to do one in Newcastle”

“A thoroughly well organised event, so many more people are here than the Tory conference, because we care!”

“Feedback from this event should go to all (Labour Party) CLPs”

“Conference well organised and enjoyable”

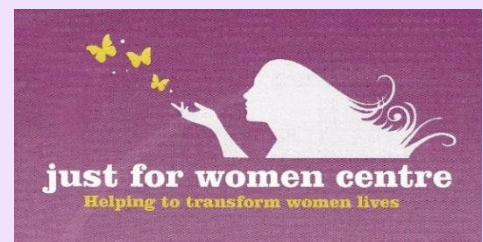
“The question time panel was inspiring, massive congratulations to the organisers”

This report was written and collated by Lyn Boyd, Janice Docherty and Carole Williamson

**County Durham Women's Conference 100 years of progress?**

# Thank you

**Mental Health North East**, lead delivery organisation, would like to thank all their volunteers and The Co-op Depot for the wonderful hamper donated for the raffle. Also, the brilliant artistic team from North West Durham who decorated the hall and the fantastic staff team from Stanley Civic Hall who work tirelessly to prepare the venue and continued with support throughout the day and our local Miners' Banners Group, for fabulous stage backdrop provide by local banners.



A video of this event is available, please contact event organisers for link.

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