

## European and External Affairs Committee, 8 March 2011 – Gender Equality

<b>Date</b>	March 2011
<b>Time</b>	10.20 – 11.00am
<b>Title</b>	Gender Equality

### Introduction

1. This update has been prepared in response from the European and External Affairs Committee's request for an update on Gender Equality.

### Gender Equality

2. Each year around the world, International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8. Hundreds of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organisations, governments and women's groups around the world choose different themes each year that reflect global and local gender issues.

3. The 2011 Welsh International Women's Day theme is 'a celebration of women's achievements in the last 100 years'. The Welsh Assembly Government through its Advancing Equality Fund is providing funding to the organisations set out below in order for them to hold events to celebrate International Women's Day this year.

AWEMA  
Cyfanfyd  
Glanymor and Tyisha Communities First Partnership  
Holywell Communities First  
National Federation of Women's Institutes  
Neath Port Talbot Tigers  
North Wales Women's Centre  
Soroptimist International Wales – South  
Ta'aleem Alnyssa  
University of Wales, Newport  
Welsh Women's Aid  
Women4Resources  
Women Connect First

4. The Welsh Assembly Government has funded a number of initiatives that have sought to promote equality of opportunity for women in Wales. During 2010/11 funding was awarded to Cardiff Women's Workshop, Women Connect First and the National Federation of Women's Institutes'. This represents a quarter of the Advancing Equality Fund allocation.

5. The Welsh Assembly Government endorsed the ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women by the UK Government in 1986, and are currently working with the UK

Government and Devolved Administrations to produce the UK's seventh report.

6. A review is currently being undertaken on equality representation in Wales and gender equality representation is being considered within this context. The Welsh Assembly Government aims to involve and consult with equality groups and organisations on this issue in the near future..

7. The Welsh Assembly Government has recently consulted on its proposals for the specific public sector equalities for Wales entitled ' Equality Act: Performance of Public Sector Equality Duties in Wales – a consultation on the draft Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011. Sex is a protected characteristic defined in Part 2, of the Equality Act 2010.

8. The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to ensuring that Wales' citizens are not discriminated against and have the opportunity to succeed in life. To do this we need to listen, communicate and strengthen engagement in order to understand the needs of the citizens of Wales and to develop better public services to realise the goals set out in the 'One Wales' commitment.

**Carl Sargeant AM**  
**Minister for Social Justice and Local Government**