

EUROPEAN & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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Date:	24 November 2005
Time:	09:00 - 12.30
Venue:	National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title:	The British Council's International Conference 'Women & Politics: Equal Numbers, Equal Impact?'

The British Council's International Conference

'Women & Politics: Equal Numbers, Equal Impact?'

Cardiff, 20-25 November 2005,

and the European Affairs Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Briefing

Background

Sir David Green, Director General of the British Council, and Dr Kevin Higgins, Director British Council Wales, attended the European Affairs Committee on 7 July 2005 in Llangollen, along with 16 young media professionals from 11 countries.

Their presence at the Committee was an integral part of the British Council Wales colloquium 'the role of journalists in facilitating pluralist democracy'. The Assembly's readiness to share best practice in 'open government' makes it a natural partner for the British Council in its mission to promote good

governance overseas.

The forthcoming international conference 'Women & Politics' builds on this partnership and aims to showcase the commitment of the National Assembly for Wales to issues of equality and gender balance.

The Assembly's All Party Group 'Women in Democracy' plays a leading role in the programme of the conference.

Purpose of the international event

The conference will examine issues that women encounter when they enter political forums and how the media portrays these women. It will also present an opportunity for delegates to share personal experience, explore vote education campaigns -- vote for women and the experience of quotas -- breakthrough or backlash? and how politicians work with civil society to deliver change for women.

National Assembly for Wales involvement

Jane Hutt AM, Cabinet Member with responsibility for issues of equality, and Christine Chapman AM, Leader of the Assembly's 'Women in Democracy' All Party Group, will welcome the delegates on their first day in Wales; Assembly Members are invited to attend and contribute to any of the sessions (a copy of the programme of the conference is attached at Doc. 1).

Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Presiding Officer, will host a Reception at the National Assembly for Wales for the delegates on Tuesday 22 November, from 18.00.

A number of women-AMs have volunteered to share their experience and be shadowed by the counterparts from overseas on Thursday 24 November.

Some of the delegates will attend the European Affairs Committee and the Equality Opportunity Committee on 24 November.

The British Council is very grateful to the National Assembly for Wales, Assembly Members and the Assembly Parliamentary Services for making this happen.

Participants

The delegates attending the conference are members of the parliaments and parliamentary candidates, first ever women-ministers and lawyers in their countries, senior officials and academics, leaders of national women's organizations, journalists and human rights activists (List of the participants is at Doc. 2).

Countries

Afghanistan, Albania, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burundi, Brazil, Chile, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland (t.b.c.), Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Palestine Territories, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Uganda.

European Affairs Committee and the presence of the delegates

The British Council is grateful for the invitation extended to the participants of the conference to attend the Committee (List of delegates accepting this invitation to follow).

Olga Kelly, British Council Governance Co-ordinator Wales, will brief the Committee on the conference, answer questions and introduce the guests.

Following the Committee meeting delegates will be available for informal discussions with the Assembly Members.

Olga Kelly

Governance Co-ordinator Wales

British Council

Welcome

Welcome to Wales and to this seminar where we will be looking at the issues that women encounter when they enter political forums and at how the media portrays these women.

We hope that you will enjoy the programme that our Event Director Mary-Ann Stephenson has put together, the sessions are intended to be participative and we expect them to provoke lively debate and to provide you with an opportunity not only to hear first hand about the experiences of women politicians from other countries but also to share your own. We are delighted that the women members from the Welsh Assembly have been so enthusiastic in their support for this event and will be joining us in some of the sessions as well as acting as hosts for a day to allow some of you to shadow them whilst they are going about their work. They have been responsible for a new political landscape in Wales and will be sharing some of their thoughts on how it has been possible to bring about this change that has now resulted not only in equal numbers of women in the Assembly but a cabinet consisting of more women than men.

Our Event Manager, Sarah Perons will be present throughout the week to help you with any accommodation or practical issues that you may have.

British Council Seminars designs produces and manages an innovative programme of international high-quality seminars and conferences that promote the sharing of knowledge and information, create opportunities for learning, and contribute to the development of people and organisations at all levels. The seminars are one of the British Council's vehicles for facilitating such contacts in order to create understanding and mutual respect among our event participants, as well as to project the UK's reputation as a creative, innovative and culturally diverse society. Our events are used to strengthen co-operation between the UK and other countries by developing sustainable networks of opinion-formers, champions of change and future leaders across the globe.

Our thanks go to our colleagues in Wales for all their efforts in putting together this event and for their hospitality and we hope that you will enjoy your stay and that your visit to Cardiff will be a memorable and productive one. We look forward to meeting you all.

Felicity Harris Project Director British Council Seminars	Alison Smith Gender and Equalities Consultant British Council Manchester Olga Kelly Governance Manager British Council Cardiff
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British Council Seminars would like to express their gratitude to the National Assembly for Wales for their contribution to this event and in particular to the All Party Women and Democracy Group

Programme

Sunday 20 November 2005

1400 Registration

onwards Reception

Park Plaza hotel

1830 Welcome Reception

Park Suite

Park Plaza hotel

1900 Dinner

Park Suite

Park Plaza Hotel

Monday 21 November 2005

Context Setting

0900 Welcome and participant introductions

Mary-Ann Stephenson and Alison Smith

0930 An Introduction to the Welsh experience

Jane Hutt AM and Christine Chapman AM

1030 Coffee/tea

1100 Aims and objectives

Ground rules

Personal leadership journey

Mary-Ann Stephenson

1245 Lunch

1400 Sharing personal experiences

(Group work)

1530 Coffee/tea

1600 Feedback from group work

Plenary session

Round –up and

Questions to consider during the week

Mary-Ann Stephenson

1730 Close

1900 Welcome dinner

Guest speaker: Julie Morgan MP

Tuesday 22 November 2005

Quotas, capacity building and representation mechanisms

0900 Training and capacity building

Jenny Willott MP or Julie Morgan MP

Val Price

Francine Fernandes

Chair: Mary-Ann Stephenson

1030 Coffee/tea

1100 Voter Education Campaigns - Vote for Women

Alison Woodward

Chair: Helen Mary Jones AM

1230 Lunch

Sponsored by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Wales

1330 Quotas in practice

Fiona Mackay

Chair: Kate Bennett

1500 Coffee/tea

1530 Experience of quotas: breakthrough or backlash?

Sarah Childs

Welsh AM

Chair: Mary-Ann Stephenson

1630 Close

1745 Please meet in Reception for departure by coach to National Assembly for Wales

1800 Drinks Reception (and Group Photograph)

Hosted by Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas

Presiding Officer, National Assembly for Wales

1930 Return to Park Plaza Hotel

1945 Dinner

Wednesday 23 November 2005

Partnerships and alliances

0900 The Media portrayal of women in politics

Panel discussion:

Elin Wyn

Hilary Footitt

Emily Thornberry MP

Chair: Elan Closs-Stephens

1030 Coffee/tea

1100 The Media and portrayal of women in politics (continued)

Group work

Chair: Mary-Ann Stephenson

1230 Lunch

1400 Working with civil society to deliver change for women

Jan Pickles / Sian James

Chair: Welsh AM (tbc)

1530 Coffee/tea

1600 Delivering change for women through partnerships

Group work

Chair: Mary-Ann Stephenson

1730 Close

1800 Assemble in Reception for departure to the Mansion House

1815 Drinks Reception at the Mansion House

Hosted by Councillor Jusith Woodman, Deputy Leader Cardiff County Council.

1900 Return to Park Plaza hotel

1930 Dinner

Thursday 24 November 2005

Visits

0900- 16.00 Visits and Shadowing of Welsh AMs

1915 Drinks reception

Aberdare Hall

2000 Closing dinner

Aberdare Hall

Hosted by the British Council

Friday 25 November 2005

Reflections and strategies for the future

0900 The future:

Feedback from visits

Small group work to consider questions from Monday

Chair: Mary-Ann Stephenson

1030 Coffee/tea

1100 Feedback from group work

Report from event director/ rapporteur

Chair: Mary-Ann Stephenson

1230 Lunch and close of event

Checkout and departure

The event closes after lunch on Friday 25 November. Please settle all outstanding bills and check out of your room by 12 noon on that day. Luggage may be left at Reception pending your departure.

Women and Politics Seminar : November 2005 Cardiff

Participants	Shadow
<p>Afghanistan – Mrs Shukria Barajkzai MP</p> <p>Founder and editor of Kabul's Aina-E-Zan (Women's Mirror) and parliamentary candidate. Former teacher and then established Asia Women Organization along with Women's Mirror Weekly . In 2003 member of the constitutional commission and constitutional LOYA JERGA (national assembly). For 20 years has written articles for newspapers received the award of EDITOR OF THE YEAR 2004 from Wordpress.org. One of the successful candidates for the coming parliament. Now I dared to nominate my self for head of parliament among many men.</p>	
<p>Albania – Ms Brixidia Gjikondi</p>	

Bahrain - H.E. Mrs. Lulwa Al-Awadi,

Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women and the head of the legal group of the Arab Women Organization, is the first Bahraini women to hold the status of a minister. In 1976, she became the first registered woman lawyer on the island; she was a member of The National Charter preparatory Committee, and The National Charter Activation Committee.

Bahrain - Maryam Al Rowaiei - Supervisor,

Public Relations and Media General Organisation for Social Insurance. Spearheaded campaign for granting Bahraini women full citizenship rights. Women's rights activist. 2004-Present, Chairperson of the Implementation of Gender Quotas for Public Elections Committee in Bahrain. The committee- a community effort to enhance women's participation in the political decision making process- works alongside prominent parliament members to achieve its objective. 2001- Present, Chairperson of Preparatory Committee of Bahrain Womens Union.

Bangladesh – Advoc Ferdaus Akter

MP and Member of Bangladesh Bar Council.

Enrolled as an advocate in the Bangladesh Bar Council in 1989 and an advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh in 1993. Also a member of the National Children's and Women's Development Committee (NCWD) headed by the Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh. Elected Member of Parliament in 1996 and again in 2005. Senior Legal Advisor of the Land Reforms Board and Government Lawyer (Rajuk), Ministry of Works and Administrative Tribunal.

Burundi - Gladys Ntibareha

Brazil – Sonia Jay Wright

Politics and Sociology Lecturer at UFES Brazil. Vice President of CMC feminist NGO is north east of Brazil and secretary of human rights organisation that focuses on rights and communication. Previously City Council member.

Chile**Georgia - Maia Kuprava-Sharvashidze**

Co-ordinator of Women and Politics Unit at International Centre of Education of Women Georgia. Director of the ICEW (International Center for Education of Women) and member of Gender Equality Policy Achievement State Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia. Also representative of SPA (Single Parents' Association) and UNIFEM/WPC (Women Peace Council) and worked as Trainer of UN Resolution 1325. Member of the Network Women for Conflict Resolution and for Peace building in the South Caucasus

India- Dr Bonita Aleaz

Reader In Political Science, University of Calcutta and member of the Academic Committee and Adjunct Faculty in the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Calcutta. I have received the Women Achiever's Award 2005, given by the alumni association in Kolkata. My special research interests are on investigating the status of women of different minority communities in India, and investigating how they contest their positions vis-à-vis different forms of authority, In this light, my research publications have looked at the situation of communities and women. Some of the publications specifically on women are: Emergent Women, Mizo Women's Perspectives; "Tribal Women and their Rights: The Indian Women's Movement in Perspective", "Women in Participatory Democracy in Kerala: A case study of Women Panchayat members"; Muslims and Civil Society in contemporary West

Indonesia -Ms Francisia Saveria Seda (Ms Eri Seda)

Senior Lecturer at the University of Indonesia and a Commissioner of the Indonesian National Commission on Violence Against Women. Ms. Eri Seda is a sociologist specialising in sociology of gender. She is a senior lecturer and previously the Director of the Division of Women and Elections of the Centre for Electoral Reform (CETRO), Jakarta (2001-2004).

Iran - Dr Jaleh Shaditalab

Currently Associate Professor at the University of Tehran. Returned to Iran after receiving PhD in Sociology in the USA and worked as the Deputy of Planning in Management and Planning Org. for 7 years. Also holds the position of the Director of the "Center for Gender Studies" at the University of Welfare teaching courses on the Women's Studies programme and as well as development and planning. Published many articles on women's issues in Iran such as:- women's social participation ,women's access to credit, gender dimension of labour market, the patterns of poverty among women, empowerment of the female headed households. Has also published a book on "Development and Iranian Women's Challenges"..

Iraq – Dr Rajaa Al- Khuzai

Current member Iraqi Transitional National Assembly and Iraqi Governing Council 2003. Head of Civil Society Committee member; Education and Health Committee. Founder Iraqi Widows Organisation and President of the National Council for Woman 2004. Head of Women’s Health High Commission in Iraq Member Iraqi National Council 2004.

Member Constitution Drafting Committee; Health Committee and Youth and Sport committee

Iraq – Dr Elham Naji Faesal

President of the Peace and Love Society IDF Co-ordinator . Head of Red Crescent and ADF Training Manager

Israel – Ruth Dayan Madar

Present Occupation:

THE ORGANIZATION FOR PROMOTING LONG SCHOOL DAY, 266 Dizingof St. Tel Aviv

Chairperson of the organization. NOA – Women and Labour – Head of the movement.

NOA is comprised of activists as well as female lawyers who

represent women for minimum fees.

Memberships and social activities:

A member of Israel's Women Network organization (shdulat Hanashim) A member of the Israel Bar committee for promoting female lawyers A member of KEN – (Women Power) organization A regular visiting member of the Knesset Education Committee A MEMBER OF THE LABOUR PARTY SINCE 1994 AND A CANDIDATE FOR THE PARLAMENT

Israel – Mrs Abeer Kopty

Media Coordinator, Mossawa, The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel, Nazareth. During my work, I try to ensure fair representation for women in the Media. As part of the Mossawa Center's projects, we developed a project which aims to empower Arab women to become involved in politics and to be part of decision-making processes. Nominated by the most popular regional Arabic radio in Israel- "Radio Elshams", to edit & host a radio show. My purpose is to do a show with feminist orientation, which will deal with the actual political, social & cultural issues through the feminist perspective. As a political activist, and as feminist, I'm involved in the Arab Women's struggle to be represented in all circles of influence and decision-making, but also in the women's struggle in Israel in general.

Jordan His Excellency Mr Tariq Saleem Masarweh

Member of the Upper House of Parliament / Columnist Ar Ra'I daily newspaper, Amman

The Political Commentator of Radio Jordan in 1959; Press Attache at the Jordanian Embassy in Bonn, 1968-end 1970; Press Adviser to the Crown Prince/Prime Minister of Qatar 1971-1975; Director of Programmes, Radio Jordan 1975-77 Managing Director and Partner of Ad Dustour Newspaper 1977-80; Since 1980 has been writing a daily column for Al Rai Newspaper; Participated in establishing Jordan's daily Al-Arab Al Yaum as Chief Editor; Director General of Jordan TV Production Company – 1984-86 Adviser to the Jordanian Prime Minister 1996 – 2000; Member of the Upper House of Parliament in 2003;

Kenya – Ms Enid Muthoni Nidiga

Women’s rights activist worked with Education Centre for Women in Democracy as the National co-ordinator of the Young Women in Leadership programme conducted training for women in local and parliamentary elections. Co-founded the Youth Agenda – a national youth organisation to increase the number of young men and women interested in political processes. Participated in civic and voter education programme for young people countrywide and the development of a youth training manual on civic education. Joined Federation of Women Lawyers undertaking training for women candidates on issues of gender and leadership and how to handle gender violence during campaigns. Implemented voter education and election monitoring in 19 constituencies during 2002 elections.

Kosovo -**Macedonia – Ms Gabriela Loskovska**

Co-ordinator of the Programme: Women in politics and decision-making structures ESE Organisation for Equality, Solidarity and Emancipation of Women. This role includes: Preparing annual programmes for women in politics, Producing materials for Trainings (so far I have written brochure on topic Decentralization-Sector Guideline), Preparing and writing materials for seminars and counselling on different topics (Lobbying, methods in leading campaigns, Public speech, presentation skills, Team working skills, Decentralization, gender mainstreaming etc), Working on improvement of the position of women into the Macedonian Society and Local governmental bodies- working on increasing the quota of 30% into the 40% representation in the decision bodies, -

Has also worked as Polling Supervisor for the Presidential elections in Macedonia, September 1998.(ODHIR,OSCE); - Polling Supervisor and Interpreter for the local Parliamentary Elections, ODHIR,(OSCE) September 2002, -Instructor for the Macedonian Model United Nations, November

Mongolia - Ariunaa Shagdarsuren

Executive Director Women's Federation and a journalist.

Nigeria – Mrs Josephine Amenith

Special Adviser Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs

Nigeria – Mrs Oby Nwankwo

A lawyer, a Chief magistrate and a Women's rights activist. Served as Chairperson and Project Coordinator of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria (Anambra State Branch) from 1989 to 1997. In 1997, founded the Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) Nigeria, an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation committed to the promotion and protection of Human rights and women's human rights. Presently an independent development consultant after serving as a Chief Magistrate for 23 years and has worked with UNICEF, UNIFEM, CIDA, African Development Bank etc. on issues of women's rights, children's rights, HIV/AIDS, country governance profiles etc. An author of several publications and articles on human rights including Gender and Politics in Nigeria, Current Themes in the Domestication of international Human Rights Norms, Affirmative Action Strategies from around the Globe, Manual on Violence against Women, Women's Human Rights - A Compilation of International Human Rights Instruments and Treaties, etc

Nigeria – Dr Habiba M. Lawal

Director Women Affairs, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, Abuja. Director, Planning, Research & Statistics, National Centre for Women Development, Abuja, from August 2001 - 2005. Senior Lecturer: Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, 1986 - 2001. Honourable Commissioner: Ministry of Commerce, Ind. & Tourism, Project Manager NCWD/World Bauchi State, Project Manager NCWD/UNICEF Child/GAD Rights Survey, 2001 2003 - 2005 Project Manager NCWD/International Republican Institute Women in Governance

Project manager, NCWD/ UNICEF projects. 2001 - Aug. 2005

PhD Inorganic Chemistry, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), Bauchi, Nigeria, 1993 - 1997 M.Sc. Inorganic Chemistry, Ahmadu Bello (ABU), Zaria, Nigeria 1989 - 1991 B. Sc. Chemistry, Ahmadu Bello (ABU) 1982 - 1986 Leadership for Environment and Development Fellow, International Membership of Association & Bodies: Member Chemical Society of Nigeria, National Association of University Women, FOMWAN, ANWIST.

Palestinian Territories

Serbia – Mrs Gordana Comic MP

Member of Parliament of the Republic of Serbia/ Democratic Party

www.parlament.sr.gov.yu

or party web site: www.ds.org.yu

Sierra Leona - Lovetta Buckle

Programme Assistant with Conciliation Resources. In my own time I do volunteer work and am President of the Young Women Leaders Sierra Leone (YoWLS). I have had the privilege of working on gender issues especially with young emerging women leaders in their communities, building up their capacities, raising funds for projects so that they understand the concept better and work towards issues of valuing differences. I advocate for the rights of young women in the country that we can have the same opportunity as others as we see ourselves being marginalised over lots of issues in the country. My work also entails consultations, networking and creating the space for others to enable them to do great work. I am also part of the executive of the National Youth Council (Assistant Secretary) which is in the formation stage. Elections for the Western Area Urban District were recently held and I emerged as the only woman in the executive of seven (7).

Tanzania –

Minister of State, President’s Office, Public Service Management, Dar Es Salaam

2000- 2005 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE; PRESIDENT/S OFFICE, PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

1995 – 2000 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, WOMEN AFFAIRS AND CHILDREN

Guided the Ministry to develop three Policies; the Policy for Community Development the Children's Development and the Gender and Women's Development Policy

Played a big role in reviewing laws that were oppressive;

Prepared Proposal for the education for women Parliamentarians

1994 - 1995 SENIOR CONSULTANT, PARASTATALS SECTOR REFORM PROGRAMME

Developed National and role of the Private sector in Economic Development and Employment Creation 1987 - 1994 GENERAL MANAGER TANZANIA LEATHER GOODS COMPANY

Achievements: . Being the first women general manager I was able to change positively the men's attitudes towards women in management

**Trinidad and Tobago - Hon. Eudine Job-Davis, MP
Trinidad and Tobago ,**

Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs from Trinidad & Tobago. She is also a member of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians' (CWP) Steering Committee, representing the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region.

Turkey – Dr Selma Acuner

A lecturer at Ankara University teaching ‘EU Social and Equality Policies’ to MA level students. Women’s political participation and its conceptualization constitutes a part of the teaching and I am also the Head of International Relations of KADER, an NGO specifically established for enhancing women’s status in political life and public sphere.

Uganda - Honourable Betty Amongi MP

Previously worked as Programme Officer for Gender at the Global Pan African Women’s Liberation Organisation (PAWLO) but now a member of the Ugandan Parliament. Has been spokesperson for Ugandan Women’s Parliamentarians and Secretary General of the Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum for Peace. A member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and currently co-ordinator for Northern Uganda Women’s Parliamentary Forum (NUWOF) and instrumental in ensuring the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks on gender by the Parliament. Has been actively involved in lobbying for return of multi-party democracy in Uganda.