



BPW UK Report for 6-0 Meeting - January 2021

The journey through a new way of communication!

Using Zoom is an entirely new venture for us all and is, I am sure, **the future for lots of organisations like ours**. This last year is in reality the story of how we have adapted to new forms of communication. The **Media Working Group**, run by **Jo Kinsey** and **Jackie Franklin**, is finding ways of helping our less than techie members - like me. They are working on the principle that if **THEY** don't know the answer, then **THEY** know someone who **DOES!!** They have organised workshops for members who would like to be able to do more with this communication tool. They have also given members help on a more individual basis.

Members Day Saturday 19 September

We held our **Members' Day on Saturday 19 September** by Zoom. There were **three sessions** for the day, **one in the morning, one at lunchtime and one in the afternoon**. We deliberately chose to have **three different Zoom links** so that our members could join in one, two or all three sessions.



The morning speaker was **Neelima Basnet**, the **Young BPW International Representative**, who spoke to us from her home in **Nepal**. **Neelima** gave an over-view of the work of Young BPW and the mentoring work that they carry out. She told us about the projects of **BPW Hong Kong** and of the work of the **Italian Federation**. There are mentoring projects for **Small to Medium Enterprise business projects in Africa, too**.

Neelima told us about her mother who worked in the village where she had grown up. Her mother returned there as a teacher helping the girl children who would otherwise have been married off as child brides. **Neelima has taken these ideas to heart and is herself**

fostering girls from deprived backgrounds. She said;

Life is not about how much you earn or learn, but how much you give and share your knowledge for humanity.

We know that our members are **missing face-to-face meetings**, so at **lunchtime** the members **met together and chatted** to each other. The subjects, as you would expect from BPW ladies, were varied and wide ranging. Although it seems strange chatting to each other by Zoom, everyone enjoyed it. The members were just so glad to meet up again. **We will make all lunchtime**



sessions open chat sessions in the future. After all, this is just what we would have done around a lunch table at conference!

The **afternoon speaker was Sir Muir Gray** and his message was clear. We cannot **prevent ageing but we can age WELL.** The turning point of our active life begins in our 20's. His argument is that if you look after your health, eat sensibly, drink in moderation, and exercise your body then **you can keep active for longer.** You cannot **prevent dementia,** but if you keep engaged and intellectually active then you can **slow down the onset of dementia.**



A great concern for him is the way that GPs actively dole out pills and repeat prescriptions. The **NHS bill for drugs is £16 billion** per year. He argues that if the Health Service would divert some of this money into **programmes to keep us active and fit,** then the period of ill health at the end of our lives would be considerably reduced. Sir Muir is actively campaigning to **divert money from the drugs budget into keeping the older person fit.** His book is called **“Sod 70! The Guide to living Well!”**

The Royal Society for Public Health

Under the guidance of **Liz Jowett** and **Jill Turner,** we have been working with the **Royal Society for Public Health** throughout the winter. The **RSPH** is campaigning to halt the decline in the uptake of vaccinations at all stages of life. We campaigned, early in the **COVID-19 pandemic,** for those of us who are older to have our **Winter Flu Vaccine.** It is now more than **important that anyone who is eligible takes up the Covid-19 vaccine.**

Our Annual General Meeting

We realised that **the Federation Executive Committee** was obliged by the **Constitution** to issue a **Financial Report for 2020 and a Budget for 2021.** So, we held our **Annual General Meeting of BPW UK by Zoom on Saturday 3 October.** In total 36 members attended the meeting.

International Congress Resolutions

One casualty of the lockdown was the **30 International Congress** which was to have been held in **Orlando Florida on 21 to 25 August 2020**. We held **10 weekly meetings** during the summer months to discuss the **19 proposed Resolutions** to be discussed at the Congress. On **Friday 9 October** we were joined by **6 members** of the **Federation of New Zealand** to discuss the **Six Resolutions** they had proposed for the congress. They range from “**Gender Responsive Budgeting**”, and “**Gender Equality in Sport**” to the “**Provision of Alternatives to Detention for Women and Girls**”.

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

On November 10 we held an extra **Zoom Meeting** run by **Sylvia Perry and Janice Alexander**. In 1995 they attended the **Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing** where the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)** was adopted. In 2020, the global community is marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. In 2020 there are milestone conferences and seminars taking place all over the world to mark this anniversary. These conferences are to chart the progress made towards achieving the **17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2030**.

The Wednesday Talks

We wanted to keep in touch with our members during the year so we planned monthly meetings throughout the winter on Wednesday evenings. They are called, imaginatively, the “**The Wednesday Talks!**” As I write we have had three so far.

The first one was on **21 October** and the speaker was **Anu Viks from Estonia**. Anu is the nominee for the post of **Regional Coordinator for Europe** and she will go forward for election at the next **BPW International General Assembly**. She talked about the work of BPW Europe and what it means to belong to BPW Europe.



The second “**Wednesday Talk**” meeting took place on **November 18 2021** and the speaker was **Sarah O’Leary** who is on the right of this picture. Sarah works across three sister organisations in the South West supporting women in difficulty!

Sarah works for **NextLink** - providing domestic abuse support services including running

refuges in Bristol and South Gloucestershire, **SafeLink** - providing independent support across the whole of Avon and Somerset area for anyone (women, men, or children) who has been the victim of rape and sexual abuse, and **MissingLink** - providing women's mental health and domestic abuse support services.

Wednesday Talk December 9 2020

While doing a **degree in green tourism in Kenya**, **Therese Green** discovered that secondary education has to be paid for by the family. The **children in these photos** have **secondary education** because of the hard work of Therese, and the fact that her charity **MaaChild** raises the money to pay for the 4 years of secondary education which each of these children has been promised. Over 50 children have now been supported through their education.



Here are the boys at **Enkii Boys School** outside the building works for their new school hall.

The boys will be able to get work instead of being cattle herders for their families. The education that they are given will give them choices as adults.

These are the girls currently at **Rombo Girls High School**. All secondary schools are boarding schools and each child is given books and pens to help their work. **The girls will be able to get paid employment instead of being married at puberty and leading a life of drudgery.**

Girls who marry early are in danger of not surviving the inevitable pregnancy because their bodies are not ready to give birth.



The **January Wednesday Talk**, was a **discussion meeting**. There were several items to discuss, and it proved the value of giving our members the opportunity to **talk rather than just listen**. It proved the point that our members want to have their say in the running of BPW.

In **February our speaker is a member of Young BPW, Yasmin Knight**, who has recently joined us from the **West Indies**. She comes from **St. Kitts** where her mother is a **BPW member**. She needed companionship as she is in lockdown in Edinburgh so she joined us. In **March** the team from **Northern Ireland** have asked **Brendan Quinn** to speak about **Mindfulness**. He must be **very brave** but then after lockdown we will all need a bit of **TLC**.

The BPW Europe Green Working Group

The **European Coordinator Pinella Bombaci** has established the **Green and Sustainable Working Group of BPW Europe**. Under the leadership of **Eva Pumpure of Latvia, Siiri Puttonen of Estonia, Dovile Sipeliene of Lithuania** and **Ozge Varis of Turkey** the Working Group is taking shape.

They are guided by SDGs 3, 13 and 15.

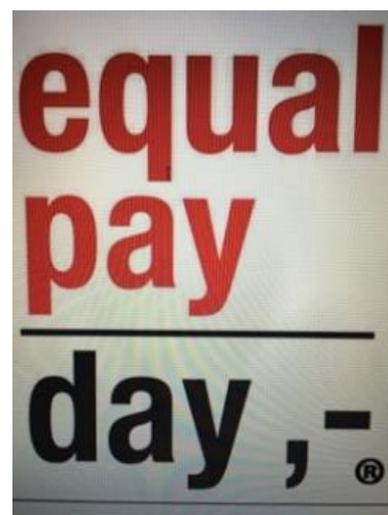
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being for all People,
Goal 13: Climate Action
Goal 15: Life on Land

The group wants to guide members of BPW Europe to run their businesses and lifestyles with a minimum impact upon the natural world. They want BPW Federations to sign the UN Global Compact. We are looking forward to learning more about this, and working with this group.

#EPD 2021

BPW Europe Equal Pay Day Conference 28 November 2020

Pinella Bombaci, Coordinator of BPW Europe, welcomed us and then handed over to Christa Kirchmair from Austria and Karine Babule from France, the current leaders of the BPW Europe Working Party on Equal Pay Day. The aim of the conference was to assess where we are now and to look forward to the future.



Sadly in light of the Covid-19 lockdown, the FEC of BPW UK has decided that we are going to support Equal Pay Day by running a Media Campaign on International Women's Day on March 8 2021.

What we are planning for the future!

Commission on the Status of Women 65 15 – 26 March 2021

Under the guidance of Jo Kinsey, our members will be able to access CSW 65. BPW International has Consultative Status with the United Nations, which means we can take part in the discussions and actively advocate during these sessions. In previous years some of our members have attended the UN in New York to be a part of these. As things are different this year, we all will get a chance to attend virtually. Our BPW International Vice President Dr Catherine Bosshart from Switzerland is our BPW International Representative.

Jo Kinsey is registered as an NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum Advocate to have access and will guide us on the programme and attending the various sessions.

The Priority Theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

The Review theme: Women's Empowerment and the link to the Sustainable Development Goals (The agreed conclusions of CSW 60).

Women's Empowerment Principles, UN Women

On Tuesday 2 February, we had an exploratory zoom meeting with Doris Hall and Sheila Crook of BPW Canada and the Canadian Coalition to Empower Women. The Women's Empowerment Principles offer guidance to businesses on how to promote gender equality

and women's empowerment in the workplace. The WEPs have been established by **UN Global Compact and UN Women**. Statistics prove that businesses that support and nurture their women employees are more secure and profitable. **This has to be the way forward to secure equality once the pandemic is over.**

On April 17 2021 BPW UK is hosting a Europe wide meeting for the **Young BPW group**.

Conny Montague from Germany on the left, and **Anu Viks, from Estonia** on the right, are the joint leaders of the **Lifelong Learning Taskforce of BPW International**



In the morning they are delivering a seminar on how to negotiate safely and successfully in the

workplace. The afternoon programme is to be about relationships at work when you are a new member of staff. As I write members of BPW Bristol are rehearsing mock interviews. We hope the role-play will give YBPW members confidence when going for an interview.

Annual Conference Day 24 April 2021

The FEC have again decided that we cannot meet face to face for our Annual Conference. So, our Conference Day is booked for the **24 April by Zoom**. The speaker in the morning, it is hoped, is the **CEO of the Royal Society of Public Health, Christina Marriott**, with whom we have been working. In the afternoon we are planning **the WEPs Seminar** which will run by the ladies of the **Canadian Coalition to Empower Women and BPW Canada**. This meeting will be advertised to the members of **BPW Europe and BPW Canada, to 6-0 and to the public.**