

Peace Offerings: November 2024

UN DAYS OF ACTION

25th November 2024:
**International Day for the
Elimination of Violence Against
Women**

**10th December 2024: Human
Rights Day**

**24th January 2025: International
Day of Education**

Women and finances

The Women's Budget Group is a policy think tank that carries out work on a wide range of issues in public policy that affect women. The group has considered topics such as women's independent access to income, the recognition of the importance of women's unpaid work to the economy and society, childcare, taxation and pensions. The Women's Budget Group has a significant voice in both Houses of Parliament and provides analysis of financial issues from the perspective of women.

The Group regularly publishes an analysis of budgets and their implications for women. Their response to the first budget of the Labour government was published on 30th October and you can read it here:

<https://www.wbg.org.uk/article/some-promising-green-shoots-for-women-challenge-of-poverty-remains-says-wbg/>

UN Women: Afghanistan

UN Women has published its first gender country profile for Afghanistan. Since 2021, the Taliban has dismantled much of the country's legal structures, and it seems that there has been a particular focus on the progress made on gender equity and women's empowerment made in the years before 2021. The country gender profile reveals that women and girls are experiencing unprecedented levels of oppression and UN Women is calling for global action to address this.

You can read more about this and find a link to the full country gender profile for Afghanistan at:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/in-focus/2024/06/afghanistan>

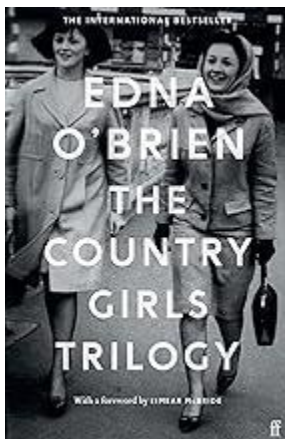
Sisters' stories

"I want to show people women can do it."

These are the words of Lhakpa Sherpa. I had not heard of her until recently but she certainly showed the world that women can do it. Lhakpa Sherpa has climbed Mt Everest 10 times – more than any other woman – and has overcome poverty and domestic violence to achieve her goals. Her story is the subject of a documentary on Netflix called Mountain Queen: The Summits of Lhakpa Sherpa. If you have access to Netflix, I highly recommend it. Find out more about her story at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckrrgdpvrdpo>

Edna O'Brien



Irish author Edna O'Brien died in July 2024 aged 93. Her early novels, such as *The Country Girls* published in 1960, were very controversial in their depiction of female friendship and female sexuality. *The Country Girls* and two other stories, *The Lonely Girl* and *Girls in Their Married Bliss* were banned by the Irish government. Copies were even burnt in Edna O'Brien's home village in County Clare. Many of her novels explored the role of women in a male dominated communities and she is credited with challenging traditional views of Irish society and of playing a role in enhancing the status of women.

You can read an obituary of Edna O'Brien at:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/jul/28/irish-author-edna-obrien-dies>

Concerns about 'Ask for Angela'

Many of us will know about the Ask for Angela initiative which provides support for women who feel vulnerable or at risk in pubs or bars. Asking to speak to Angela should prompt staff to put in place procedures for ensuring the safety of those in need of help. However, a recent investigation carried out by the BBC found that bar staff in some venues across London did not recognise the code word 'Angela' even though the venues had signed up to the initiative, and there is evidence that this is the case in other parts of the country too. This is clearly of great concern and the Director of Ask for Angela is meeting MPs to discuss ways of strengthening the scheme. Find out more at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c789nn3d918o>