

Represent Women

2025 January bulletin

News and updates for the women and girls sector
and it's allies in North East England



Contents

Pages 2-3 Women and girls sector updates

Pages 4-5 Wider sector updates

Page 6 Funding Opportunities

Page 7 Represent Women Updates

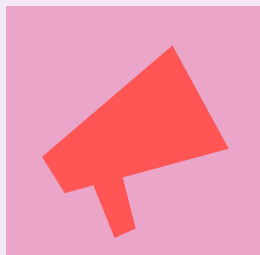
Page 8 Reports, wider reading and women's issues in the media

Represent Women

2025 January bulletin

News and updates for the women and girls sector
and it's allies in North East England

**Represent
Women**



Women and girls sector updates, requests and resources PART 1

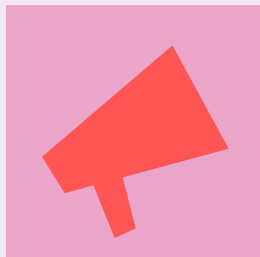
- RSACC will be hosting a screening of the play 'Rattle Snake', by Open Clasp Theatre Company at The Forum Music Studios in Darlington on Wednesday 5 March, followed by a panel discussion. Tickets are available to [purchase now](#)
- Women's Streetwatch Newcastle are holding a candlelit vigil on the evening of the 8th March, International Women's Day, 6pm-8pm, Monument Newcastle
- Young Women's Film Academy have supported local young women to produce the short film 'Impact' on the dangers of fast fashion. The film has been nominated for a Smiley Charity film award Charity. The girls worked so hard on the film and would greatly appreciate your vote, <https://smileycharityfilmawards.com/films/impact>
- Sister Shack are hosting a [Decolonising Music, Identity, Spaces and Beyond Workshops, Performance, and Discussion](#) as part of the the Newcastle MOBO Awards Fringe programme. Saturday, February 15th, The Old Coal Yard. Venue Opening Time: 12 PM - Walk-ins welcome
- Reform have rebranded as [Her Circle](#). Her Circle is an organisation ran by women for women. who specialise in issues related to complex motherhood and women's recovery from trauma and abuse.

Represent Women

2025 January bulletin

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**Represent
Women**



Women and girls sector updates, requests and resources PART 2

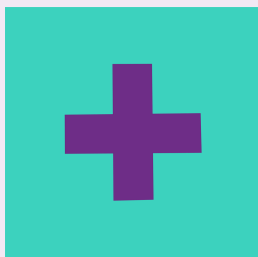
- Rape Crisis Tyneside and Northumberland, in collaboration with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, launched a new educational resource, [It All Adds Up](#). The resource aims to tackle toxic attitudes through early education to help drive culture change around sexual harassment and misogyny.
- Aspire Learning Support and Wellbeing, Chester Le Street, are looking for some inspired and passionate women to join them as trustees. Their key priorities are, mental health and wellbeing, domestic abuse, suicide and self-harm and poverty relating to women. If you feel that you have skills to offer in the areas of finance, marketing, HR, business planning, bid writing, or are interested in offering your time and expertise then they would love to hear from you. Please contact colleenbaker@aspire-northeast.co.uk or valkilner@aspire-northeast.co.uk
- Own My Own Life February online training is over two weeks in February (5th - 7th and 10th - 11th). More information can be found [HERE](#). Earlier this month, they launched their evaluation for Own My Life Employability, it was a targeted course for women, in a context where most employability courses are default male, even if they can be attended by women. There's a short blog about it [HERE](#) and the full report can be found [HERE](#).

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Women**



Wider VCSE sector updates, requests and resources PART 1

- Reclaiming Our Regional Economies (RORE) is a project working in the North East to bring communities together with local organisations and businesses and with leaders in local councils and the combined authority to figure out how we can reform our North East economy so that it can meaningfully deliver the things our communities really need. They take a community-led approach and are very keen to hear from local groups and campaigns to hear about your work and how we can support you to create the change we all want. For more information, please contact Maeve at maeve.cohen@neweconomics.org
- Durham University is hosting a two-day Participatory Action Research course for doctoral students and members of community organisations Thursday 12th and Friday 13th June, 2025. The course includes workshops, theory, and active inquiry based learning. Spaces are limited, we would love to see some women and girls orgs there.
- Newcastle City Council host quarterly events for those new to the city, especially targeted at migrants and refugees, to help them find out what's available in the area. If there is interest from multiple organisations in this space Represent women will look to host a table and signpost to regional women and girls services
- Connected Voice are pulling together a Steering Group for Digital Inclusion work in Newcastle and Gateshead. If you are interested in speak to Stella

Represent Women

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**Represent
Women**



Wider VCSE sector updates, requests and resources PART 2

- Change Grow Live, an addiction service in Gateshead, have a 4 minute survey to identify barriers for women accessing addiction support. Please complete and share.
- **The Child Poverty Reduction Unit are holding roundtable discussion across** the NECA region to gather opinions, experiences and increase their understanding and awareness of local projects which could be scaled up to address poverty across the North East. To find out more and express your interest **to contribute to one of these roundtable discussions to ensure women's employment and enterprise are thought of, please click here.**
- Skills for People, who provide support for people with learning disabilities and autism, have a women's only group as well as a Geordie mums group for women who are carers of children with Learning Disabilities or Autism. Speak to Andrea to find out more.

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Women**



Funding Opportunities

- St James Knott trust grant program's next grant deadline is the 20th of February. [Apply here](#). The trust has grants of various amounts up to £15,000 and offers multi year grants up to three years. They fund registered charities, community groups and social enterprises.
- Dogger Bank Wind Farm Operators Fund is open for applications, the offers grants up to £1,000 to constituted organisations, delivering activities in South Tyneside with an annual turnover below £100,000. [Read more here](#)
- The Pilgrim Trust Young Women in Mind fund will be opening for 2025 applications in March/April you can sign up for notification on their [website](#)
- [The National Lotter Reaching Communities England Fund](#). Projects and organisations that work to make positive changes in their community. Funding starts at £20,001

Represent Women

2025 January bulletin

News and updates for the women and girls sector
and it's allies in North East England

**Represent
Women**



Events, training and consultations

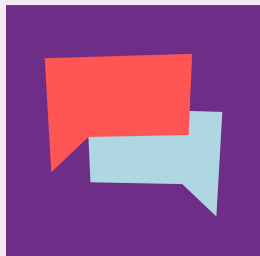
- The Great to Relate Conference is on 5th February, Grand Hotel Gosforth Park. A full day conference to explore topics including Reducing Parental Conflict, Solihull and Relational Practice. With guest speaker, Honor Rhodes OBE.
- Women of the World 2025 North East Festival WOW North East Think Ins join the 'think in' event to help shape the North East WOW festival which will be held in Durham in October
- North East Anti Racist Coalition 'Working Towards an anti-racist region' online event, 20th February, 9.30-12.30,
- Digital Voice is running free digital learning day for VSCE workers in Gateshead/Newcastle, 11th February 2025 at One Strawberry Place, Newcastle. <https://connectedvoice.org.uk/events/digital-learning-day-vcse-organisations>
- Newcastle's Marmot City Conference on Wednesday 26 February 2025. Sign up for Newcastle's Marmot City Conference at Eventbrite.
- Call for evidence on Community Mental Health. An inquiry will examine what good looks like from the perspective of service users and their families/carers. The Committee would like the inquiry to shine a light on case studies of innovative practice and high-quality care across the country, and to undertake meaningful and impactful engagement with people accessing these services.

Represent Women

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**Represent
Women**



Represent Women update

What we've been up to

- The new website is up and running! [Check it out here](#). If you, or someone you know of, is not included in the [directory of women and girls services](#) across the North East please speak to [Jo](#) and she'll add the details joanne.armstrong@representwomenne.org.uk
- The Represent Women membership is (touch wood) running smoothly, you can [find out more and sign up here](#). If you'd like to chat through the tiers or the membership reach out to [Jo](#)
- We will be switching to a digital newsletter in the coming months. [Sign up to the mail list here](#)
- We have a new ['theme collector' form](#), which is a tool to collect data on what is impacted the women and girls sector and how that changes over time. Members can share the issues impacting their work and the women they work with monthly. **Note you must be a registered Represent Women member to complete the form.**

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**Represent
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Reports, wider reading and women's issues in the media

- [NDAS report Coercive Control Conference Report](#)
- [Represent Women briefing papers on Skills and Employment](#)
- [The Dark Secrets Behind the Neil Gaiman Abuse Allegations](#)
- [Ryan Wellings jailed after partner Kiena Dawes took her own life | Domestic violence | The Guardian](#)
- [Strength Through Trauma: What We Can Learn From Gisèle Pelicot — Pi Media](#)
- [Love Island star Sharon Gaffka on coercive control: 'Abuse is more than hitting a partner' | The Independent](#)
- [Family of mum abused by 'Jekyll and Hyde' partner call for inquiry into death after suicide ruling](#)
- [WASPI' women affected by State Pension age rise WON'T be compensated, Government confirms – here's what you need to know](#)

The Represent Women Bulletin goes out to our network around the third week of each calendar month. To contribute email [Jo Armstrong](#). We are interested in sharing your:

- **Events**
- **Reports**
- **Vacancies**
- **Training and networking**
- **Funding, consultation and research opportunities**