



## Represent Women October updates

- **Labour Party Conference-** Erin attended the Labour Party conference and spoke on the panel for *Labour Womens Network on what's labours first term priority plan for women*. She discussed;
  - How dynamic and vibrant our women and girls sector is in the North East
  - How we must ensure that the Women and Girls sector in the North East is valued and listened to
  - How the government needs to listen and learn from the 'woman of the North report' by Equity North
  - How we can use campaigns to influence our local politicians and decision makers at election time
  - How we need to listen to experts like [#whiteribbon](#) and others when thinking about practical ways to halve male violence. (start with the men)
  - How we need clear routes to influencing change in the Westminster bubble.
- **Represent Women NECA PCC meeting** - Erin met with the etam last week. It was a great first meeting to introduce Represent Women and explain more about our vision and mission for the women and girls voluntary and community sector. They chatted about the pressures of funding streams coming to an end and pushing for updates from central government regarding decisions for futures rounds, and the preference from the sector for these to be grants and not contracts, we chatted

Represent. Amplify. Advocate. A voice for the women and girls sector  
[hello@representwomenne.org.uk](mailto:hello@representwomenne.org.uk) 07708 074114



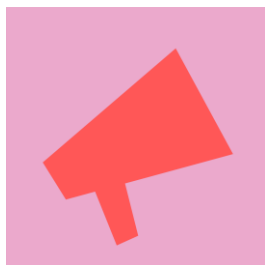
about the different projects that make a difference to women and girls across Northumbria delivered by the women and girls sector and the PCC office. They spoke about possible next steps after the well attended women's sector round table events to get feedback for the Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. The other North East PCC's have been contacted.

- **NECA VCSE Leadership Board** - Erin sits on the VCSE leadership board for NECA and will be contributing on behalf of women and girls VCSE orgs. She will be sharing updates and is welcoming contributions and input at any stage. As a newly formed board there are still a lot of details regarding the function and how it will work. We will keep you informed as and when developments happen.
- **NECA consultation-** Represent Women contributed to the Skills and Employment NECA consultation and requested a survey be created to allow for wider engagement and better representation of women's voices.
- **Middlesbrough Collaboration** - Jo attended the Middlesbrough Collaboration showcase event. Where a panel of women who had been involved with the grant planning and distribution shared their experiences. The collaboration combined funds from Turn2us, Smallwood Trust and Buttle UK, to work with community partners, Creative Minds and Ubuntu, to co-create a grant process which uplifted women from marginalised backgrounds who are in financial hardship to address poverty. It was really interesting to hear about the pitfalls and successes of their process of empowering the women at every stage of the process to design and disseminate the funds.
- **Heart of Blyth- Sector learning** - The Heart of Blyth showcased it's projects and findings at an event last month. This project was one of 5 local authorities countrywide to be funded by Shaping Healthier Lives funding via Local Government Association. Blyth LA created and trained a community panel of residents and through them disseminated micro grants to grassroots community organisations

Represent. Amplify. Advocate. A voice for the women and girls sector  
[hello@representwomenne.org.uk](mailto:hello@representwomenne.org.uk) 07708 074114

(not specific to women and girls). They had some excellent feedback about the supportive and mutually beneficial nature of this funding structure. Alongside this they empowered the community through community connectors (paid role for 4 years) to create better connection and collaboration.

- **Survey-** In September Represent Women produced and shared the first of their annual surveys. There were two circulated, one for all women and girls and one for VCSE sector workers. There were around 350 responses. Briefing papers are being created and used to feed into regional consultations to ensure the voices of women in the region are heard. The survey will be reviewed and developed year on year. **Briefing papers** to be shared directly with decision makers to date on: Women in Parks, Skills and Employment
- **Representation to student audiences-** Represent Women attended Northumbria University freshers fair to represent the North East w&g sector. They will be requesting a table at upcoming volunteering fairs at Teesside, Northumbria, Durham and Sunderland (capacity depending) as well as attending freshers fairs in 2025. If you have a vacancy or volunteer need that can be met by students speak to Jo and she can represent your projects at these events or reach out to the student support teams for you



## Member updates

- **Smartworks-** on the 17<sup>th</sup> (10-6) and 18<sup>th</sup> (10-1) there is a £5 fashion sale at Northumbria University, full details on their social media and website

Represent. Amplify. Advocate. A voice for the women and girls sector  
[hello@representwomenne.org.uk](mailto:hello@representwomenne.org.uk) 07708 074114



- **Durham women and girls orgs-** Two of the women and girls orgs we work with in the Durham area are looking for volunteers, if you have any corporate or community connections who may be interested in the area let Jo know and she will send specifics.
- **The Big Give Women and Girls fund-** My Sisters Place and The Girls Network are taking part this year, there is just one week to reach their targets, ending the 17th! During the week all donations, up to their target, are matched. Please support by liking their social media posts to improve their reach. If you are interested in finding out more about The Big Give process speak to Jo.
- **Nee Place Like Hyem-** Workie Ticket alongside Erin Parker Leonard gathered women voices through a survey and in person focus groups with East End Women and Free Womens Community. They explored experiences of the cost of living crisis and how it impacts women. A theatre piece was produced and shared at a one off performance last week. A report will follow.
- **Open Clasp -** Open Clasp are touring their show Mycelial, co created with sex workers. You can book tickets [here](#) and for the WEWG show [here](#)
- **Tina's Haven -** The site of Tina's Haven nature reserve is one of the chosen sites to receive a Sycamore gap sapling and will be a place of healing in nature. Read the Tina's Haven report [here](#)
- **The Millin Charity-** Named this years North East Charity awards Small Charity of the Year. Huge congratulations!

Represent. Amplify. Advocate. A voice for the women and girls sector  
[hello@representwomenne.org.uk](mailto:hello@representwomenne.org.uk) 07708 074114



## Useful Training

(not including offerings covered in Local Infrastructure bulletins)

- **Fundraising Regular Giving** - <https://www.resource-alliance.org/session/game-changing-advancements-in-regular-giving/>
- **Womens Budget Group Bridging the Gender Data Gap** - Learn to access and use census data, highly recommend! Various locations but you may need to travel, course itself is free [Join King's college and WBG for data workshops – Women's Budget Group](#)



## Events

**Reclaim the Night March Newcastle**

**Meet at the Bigg Market** (just outside TJ Hughes) - 6pm

**March to Baltic Square** - 6.15pm (women-only)

**Rally at the Baltic Square** - 7pm – 7.30pm (everybody welcome)

**Frankie Raffles exhibition viewing at the Baltic** - 7.30pm – 8pm

Represent. Amplify. Advocate. A voice for the women and girls sector  
[hello@representwomenne.org.uk](mailto:hello@representwomenne.org.uk) 07708 074114