

Strategic Plan

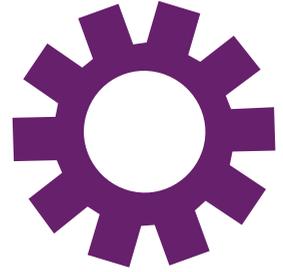
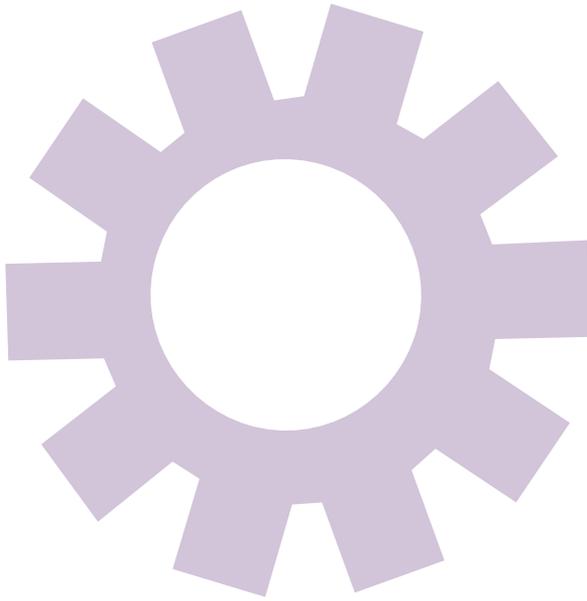
WSN
WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

2015-2020

Key Influencer
Key Supporter
Key Representative



Funded by:
Belfast City Council under the
Community Development Support Grant
(Capacity Building)



What We Do...

WSN is a:

- **Key influencer** of policy, practice and provision that impact the everyday lives of women in disadvantaged areas, through sustained delivery of robust research and effective advocacy and lobbying.
- **Key supporter** of women's centres, groups and organisations in Northern Ireland, assisting WSN members to effectively deliver women-led and women-only services and childcare that meet local need, while also promoting the sustainability and enhancement of the wider women's sector.
- **Key representative** of women's centres, groups and organisations in Northern Ireland, with a strong regional focus and emphasis on collectivism.

Vision

Our vision is of a just and peaceful society devoid of gender discrimination, gender-based violence and women's rights violations, in which women from all backgrounds and communities can experience full equality of opportunity and participation across all spheres of their everyday lives, including: employment, education and training, public and political life, health and the home.

Mission

To advance women's equality and rights by working to influence policy, practice and provision while also regionally supporting and representing the interests, needs and perspectives of women, particularly those in disadvantaged areas.



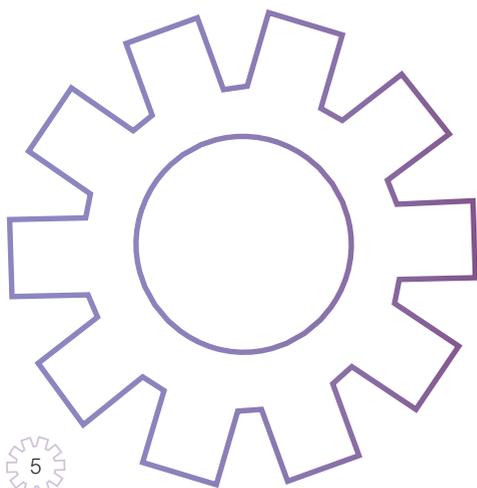
Strategic Aims and Objectives

Influence: advocacy and lobbying

Strategic Aim 1

to seek to influence legislation, policy, practice and provision by advocating and lobbying for women's equality and rights and the elimination of gender discrimination against women across all spheres of society.

The **strategic objectives** that pertain to this particular aim are as follows:





- To engage with key decision makers at local, regional, national and international levels, advocating and lobbying for gender equality in policy, practice and provision impacting women's everyday lives.
- To contribute to policy development affecting women by meaningfully engaging in consultation processes while also conducting substantive research to facilitate evidence-based, gender-responsive policymaking and strategising.
- To continue to challenge public expenditure cuts that adversely and disproportionately impact women, particularly those in disadvantaged groups.

Support



Strategic Aim 2

to support women's centres and groups by promoting the sustainability and expansion of women-only, women-led spaces and provision in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland.

The strategic objectives that pertain to this particular aim are as follows:

- To advocate for requisite resources to facilitate the sustainability and expansion of women-only, women-led spaces and provision underpinned by free childcare.
- To facilitate the sharing of information, good practice - and, where possible, resources - between women's centres, groups and organisations, developing an online presence to accommodate same.
- To support women's centres, groups and organisations to work together collectively and strategically, not only for the benefit of women in disadvantaged areas but also to promote women's equality and rights across Northern Ireland and beyond.
- To act as a first point of contact that signposts women in disadvantaged communities to services, advice and information relevant to their particular needs and interests.



Representation



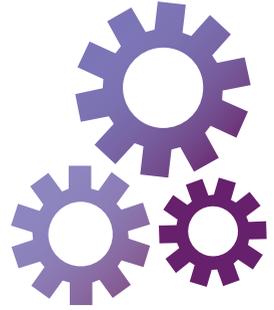
Strategic Aim 3

to act as the voice for women's centres, groups and organisations in sectoral and cross-sectoral fora, networks and partnerships by liaising with, listening to and mobilising WSN members in respect of key issues affecting women in disadvantaged areas.

The strategic objectives that pertain to this particular aim are as follows:

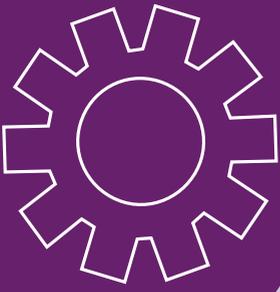
- To effectively represent and promote the perspectives, needs and interests of women's centres, groups and organisations on all relevant fora.
- To strengthen connections and relations with sister organisations through membership of local, regional, national and international networks.
- To advance a shared future in Northern Ireland by seeking to increase women's representation on, and influence in, key regional peacebuilding processes.
- To contribute to the Women's Regional Consortium as a strong, positive and productive partner.

Organisational Development



We will work to progress the sustainability, efficiency and effectuality of WSN by:

- Seeking to secure adequate resources to strengthen the organisation as an effective support network for women's centres and groups.
- Consolidating the organisation's public relations and marketing strategy.
- Exploring additional capacity building and resourcing opportunities for the women's sector, to take account of the ever-changing and challenging operational and funding environment affecting women's centres and groups.
- Extending the organisation's cross-sectoral relationships with such key fora as community hubs and partnerships.
- Promoting more effective and strategic communication across the wider women's sector.



WSN

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