



Women's  
Environmental  
Network

# briefings

Gender means the relations between women and men and the behaviours expected from them by society. Gender roles are learned and can be affected by factors such as education or economics. They vary widely within and among cultures, are socially determined and can evolve over time.

## Why women and the environment?

This briefing looks at why women matter when it comes to the environment, and what needs to happen to bring about change.

Why, when the environment impacts on all life, do environmental concerns need to be considered from a gender perspective?

Connections between women and the environment are most obvious in less industrialised countries where women still grow much of the food, and are typically depicted as “hewers of wood, haulers of water”.<sup>1</sup> But gender differences exist in all societies and affect everyone’s experience of the environment and their impact on it.

While much progress towards equality between the sexes has been made, relevant gender inequalities and differences do exist:

- **social roles** which expose women to environmental problems in particular ways;
- Women are more likely to be living in **poverty**, which exposes them to more environmental problems;
- **biology** makes women more physically vulnerable to toxic exposure at particular times of life;
- women are active at the grassroots and have many **solutions** to environmental problems but:
- have less influence over the major environmental **decisions** because men still, by and large, hold the reins of **power** in politics and business.

### What you can do

- Use your consumer power: boycott environmentally damaging products, demand greener products and support greener businesses.
- Talk to other women and make your voice heard.
- Support or get involved in WEN, WECF or linked groups.
- Use your power as a citizen and get involved in your local community or local politics.
- Raise issues at work or in your children’s schools and nurseries.
- Offer your skills to NGOs and community groups.
- Be an example to others in your lifestyle choices.
- Do what you can to make happen the changes listed on p7.

Small numbers in the text refer to sources. See back page.



Despite these differences, surveys, opinion polls and research consistently report that women have a greater understanding of environmental issues, are more concerned about their impact, and are more prepared to take action. Women are sometimes cast as ‘custodians of the environment’, adding to their double, sometimes triple roles of childcare, work in the home and paid employment. There is a line to be drawn between recognising the realities of some women’s lives, and consigning them to those lives; these issues need to be incorporated into decision-making bodies at the highest level to offer women opportunities to advance, for their voices to be heard, and to reduce the burden of multiple roles.



See p7 for how to act on these ideas

## If women and the environment counted

Parallels can be drawn between the undervaluing of women's work and the treatment of the ecosystem. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Gross National Product (GNP) are the indicators used in international accounting to measure what's considered to be a country's productivity. They are supposed to show the total value of goods and services produced. Yet neither measures the output from subsistence farming or unpaid work in the home, family businesses or the community - all largely performed by women. Nor do they subtract the environmental costs of the goods and services that are included.

**"..water carried through pipes has a value but water carried daily and a long distance by women does not."**<sup>2</sup>  
Gloria Steinem, introduction to *If Women Counted*

In *If Women Counted*, (1988) Marilyn Waring, a member of the New Zealand parliament from 1975 to 1984, observed the impact of changes suggested by the United Nations (UN) to New Zealand's System of National Accounts. She wrote: "Since the environment effectively counted for nothing, there could be no 'value' on policy measures that would ensure its preservation. Hand in hand with the dismissal of the environment, came evidence of the severe invisibility of women and women's work."<sup>2</sup>

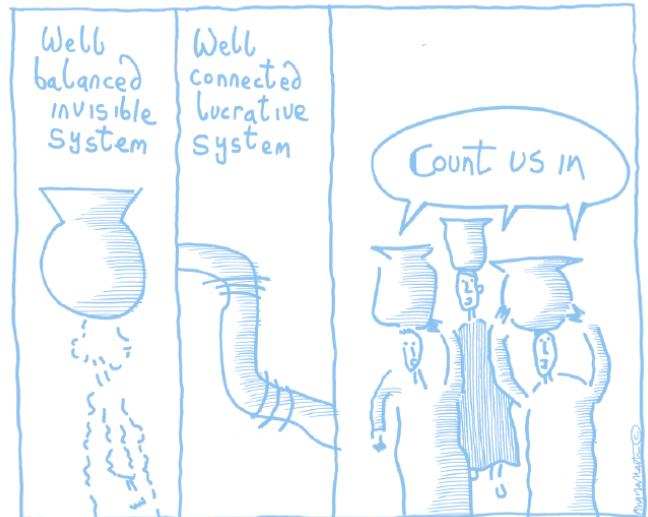
Waring gave the example of Philippine women who raise farm animals and grow their own food. Although the women are keeping their families fed, no money changes hands so their activities do not register as productive in terms of national accounts. Conversely, she said, the cleanup operation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill registered as productive because it cost huge sums which passed through the Canadian economy.

- In the UK women on average spend more than three and a half hours a day on household tasks; men spend just two hours.
- More than 60% of women always or usually do the laundry, cooking, cleaning and looking after sick family members.

Social Trends 34: TSO, London, 2004<sup>3</sup>

There are now some moves to take account of other quality of life indicators aside from narrow economic indicators, but it is not enough for these to be add-ons. New systems need to be developed so that women's unpaid work and environmental protection

are visible and integral to national and international accounting systems, so



that they cannot be ignored when government policies are formed.

### Womens' unpaid/undervalued work

- A UN Human Development Report (1995) survey of 31 countries found that if women's unpaid work was valued it would be equivalent to 40% of GDP - even based on the low rates of pay for women.<sup>5</sup>
- In 1984, research in West Germany established that unpaid work by women contributed around DM6,000 million (€3,067.75 million) to the national economy each year.<sup>6</sup>
- Domestic work isn't the only unpaid work that women do: women constitute more than 70% of the unpaid work force in family enterprises (such as shops and small family businesses) in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Greece.<sup>7</sup>



### 'Women's work', or the work women do?

Despite the alleged rise of the 'New Man' in the 1990s, surveys and research across Europe still show women do most of the grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, childcare and care of others.<sup>3,4</sup>

Whoever is doing these tasks comes

### Womens' paid/valued work

- In paid work women are more likely to work in services, such as in tourism, or as cleaners, hair and beauty salon workers, in caring and industries and jobs exposing them to hazardous chemicals.
- Work available to women is more likely to be part-time, casual and insecure, often lacking regulated pay and conditions or access to trade unions.
- Women may do paid work at home, or have to combine part or full time jobs with housework and the care of children and relatives.<sup>8</sup>
- UK women working full time will, on average, earn 81% of the hourly wage of men in full time work.
- The hourly pay gap between women in part-time work and men in full-time work in the UK is widening; women part-timers earn 61% of men's full time rate.<sup>9</sup>

into closer contact with many environmental concerns and problems, whether checking food or toiletries in the supermarket to ensure they are organic, not tested on animals, GM free and otherwise free of risky chemicals, or protesting about a proposal to site a waste incinerator nearby, or opting to use real nappies or washable sanitary protection.

## Roles inform campaigns

Umbrella group Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) and its partners, including WEN, work on issues women care about, such as toxic chemicals in food and household goods, waste from packaging and disposable products, and ways women can act to improve the environment and everyone's well-being.

Examples below show how women's social roles inform these groups' and other women's actions and responses to problems.

### Changing nappies

Women drive WEN's campaign for real (cloth) nappies to prevent waste. As a result the UK government and authorities now encourage cloth nappy use. WEN estimates 15% of UK parents now use real nappies.

### Water has a woman's face

Pit latrines are common in Romania and Ukraine. When full, they are closed in and a new hole is dug but they pollute the groundwater in nearby wells. MAMA 86 developed eco-sanitation in a school of 200 pupils and several private houses, at a fraction of the cost.

### Food for thought

Women in industrialised economies rarely grow food but, where they do, they are more likely to grow organically. For example, women make up only five percent of the UK's conventional farmers but almost 50% of organic farmers.<sup>10</sup>

## Gender, poverty, environment - the links

Women are more likely than men to live in poor environments because:

- poor communities generally have the worst environments
- women are more likely to be poor.

Poor communities are more likely to live close to polluting factories, landfill sites or major roads, to live in poor housing and to have inadequate access to healthy fresh food or health care. They're also less likely to have access to the funds or facilities they need to fight for environmental justice. For example, Friends of the Earth compared the Environment Agency's factory emissions data with the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation. It found that 11,400 tonnes of carcinogenic chemicals were emitted to the air from large factories in England in 1999; 82 per cent were from factories located in the most deprived 20% of local authority wards (FoE 2001).

Gender and poverty are linked (see box above). The Women in the World Atlas (Seager, 2003) focuses on two of the more prosperous countries in Europe to

**UK women are more likely to be poor on all four Government indicators of poverty**<sup>16</sup>

- 1 lacking two or more perceived necessities: eg. fresh fruit and vegetables daily, regular savings for retirement, warm waterproof coat, damp free home;
- 2 earning less than 60% of the median income;
- 3 subjective poverty: people identifying themselves as poor;
- 4 receiving income support

illustrate inequalities in poverty: both the United Kingdom and Sweden have 120-130 women in poverty for every 100 men.<sup>7</sup>

Having a job clearly contributes to financial independence and empowerment, but a number of factors already mentioned - the existing pay gap, low status, poorly paid jobs, childcare responsibilities - place women at a disadvantage. And older single women are more likely to be poor because of lower entitlements to the basic pension, and because they are less likely than men to have an occupational pension.<sup>9</sup>

## Hidden hazards of women's work

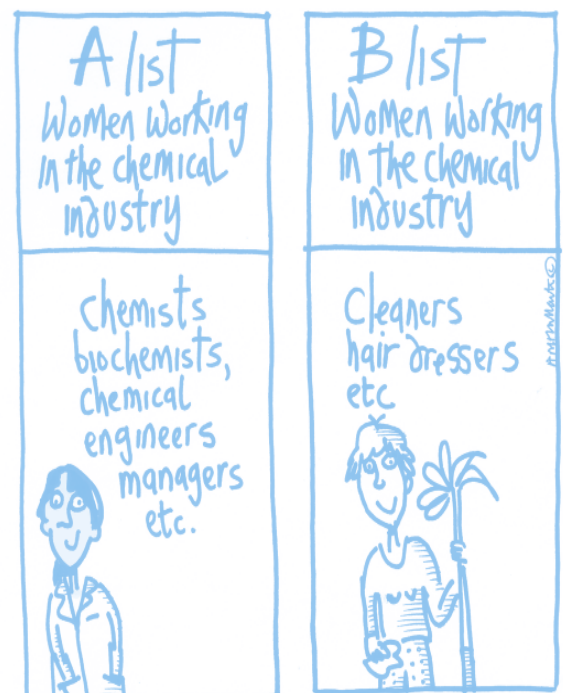
We know that many of the jobs men do can be dangerous. Men may work in hazardous environments and be injured or even die as a result, but much less is known about how work affects women. It is becoming apparent that women are presented with different hazards, or the same hazards in different forms. For example, male and female agricultural workers may have different exposures to pesticides where women do more planting and weeding and men do more pruning.<sup>11</sup>

It has been assumed that work-related cancers mainly affect men, but almost no studies have included female workers.<sup>12</sup> However, recent findings have indicated increased risks of:

- breast cancer for women working with pesticides, solvents, health care or doing shift work.<sup>13</sup>

- ovarian cancer working with herbicides and in the cosmetics industry
- lymphatic cancer working with pesticides, solvents or as hairdressers
- brain cancer among women in agriculture
- bladder cancer in the cosmetics and food industries<sup>12</sup>
- lung cancer among women in the furniture, asbestos and food industries.<sup>14</sup>

Women's health problems are often compounded by the 'double jeopardy' of domestic work, which can mean a second shift involving lifting, responsibility and exposure to chemicals on top of those experienced all day at work.<sup>15</sup>



## Different bodies, different tolerances, different exposures

Male and female bodies are different. Body weight, body mass, fat to muscle ratios, hormones and reproductive functions, for example, all vary. This means they have different tolerances to toxicity. Women are more vulnerable to certain toxic exposures during puberty, pregnancy, the menopause and old age.

Risk assessments and 'tolerable daily intake' levels for chemicals, have traditionally been based on the likely exposure of adult male workers. This takes no account of the different tolerances of women's and children's bodies or the reality of day-to-day exposure. Pre birth and early life exposures to certain chemicals can have detrimental and sometimes life long health consequences.

**“...most health and safety policies and prevention practice are still framed on a gender-neutral model - for which, read the standard male worker.”<sup>17</sup>**

Laurant Vogel, *The Gender Dimension in Health and Safety* - initial findings of a European Survey, March 2002.

Environmental policy makers have scarcely acknowledged these differences. The Royal Commission for Environmental Pollution advises the UK Government. Its report, *Chemicals in Products: Safeguarding the Environment and Human Health* (2003) discusses the wide variety of responses to chemicals between species, but in the section on human health effects there is not one mention of the potential differences between females and males. The whole report only refers to women three times, two of those to do with pregnancy and breast milk.<sup>18</sup> A 1998 report from the same august body made a similar omission.<sup>19</sup>

Nevertheless, the 2003 report does caution that workers' exposure to chemicals at the workplace is over a shorter period and in higher concentration, so any effects will become apparent more quickly than in the general public. This suggests people exposed to lower but more chronic doses are less likely to be identified.



### Pesticides

Gender differences in the effect of pesticide exposure are becoming recognised. Changes during pregnancy, lactation and cyclic hormonal changes may result in greater sensitivity to pesticide exposure in women.<sup>20</sup>

Much of women's exposure is likely to be chronic, from repeated low doses at home or in work. Surely the gender dimension here is being overlooked?

### Out of REACH

A new regulatory framework for the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals, known as REACH, is being considered by the European Parliament in 2005. It proposes that 'derived no-effect levels' (DNELs) may need to be identified separately for different populations (such as workers and consumers) and sub groups (such as pregnant women). However, as yet (Feb 2005), women are rarely mentioned in REACH documents or the EEA 2003 Environmental Assessment Report. This incidentally cautions that a number of chemicals, such as mercury (in fish) and dioxins, are present in the environment above target levels making it necessary to issue particular food recommendations for pregnant women.

### Bodies of evidence

Our own bodies contain the evidence of chemical pollution of the environment and the harm it can do. There is growing evidence that a great many environmental health impacts on males and females happen before birth.

Protecting pregnant women is like shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted: toxic chemicals build up in women's body fat throughout their lives. Mothers then inadvertently pass them on to their children in the womb and through breast-feeding.

- Reproductive effects on baby girls are less apparent because most of their reproductive tissue is internally hidden at birth - but this does not mean no damage is done.
- At least 60% of the fat in breast milk is drawn from fat reserves in the mother's body, only 30% comes from her daily diet.<sup>21</sup>
- Population tests in the US found higher levels of phthalates, synthetic compounds that threaten reproduction, in women aged 20-40.<sup>22</sup>
- Women with breast cancer are five times as likely to have pesticide residues in their blood such as DDT. DDT was banned in 1972.<sup>23</sup>
- Women are typically more prone than men to develop auto-immune diseases such as lupus, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis because of the differences in the immune response between the sexes.<sup>41</sup>

**“... breast milk is the most contaminated of all human foods... prevailing levels of chemical contaminants in human milk often exceed legally allowable limits in commercial foodstuffs.”<sup>21</sup>**

Sandra Steingraber, *Having Faith*.

Yet the benefits of breast-feeding still far outweigh the risks, the same author writes.

## Decisions, decisions

Women have less influence or control over decisions that affect them and the environment because men still dominate politics, business, industry, trade

unions and even environmental bodies, as the charts below show.

This means decisions often - but not always - get made without considering the impacts on women or benefiting from women's knowledge and experience.

In general the further down the decision-making ladder, the more women you'll find, though this is not always the case. Women are more involved in local politics: in France

**“Those who are making decisions are men, and those values which are excluded from this determination are those of our environment, and of women and children.”**

Marilyn Waring, *If Women Counted*.

women make up 47% of elected councillors but only 26% of the national government.<sup>24</sup> It's only at the grass-roots where women feel they can really voice their concerns

and opinions - informal representations such as community forums or action groups are dominated by women.<sup>25, 42</sup>

A lack of women in environmental professions such as planning, architecture, surveying and civil engineering, and in scientific research has serious implications for how our environment is managed and developed and for which research agendas are pursued.<sup>26</sup>

## Gender Justice in Germany

Germany has started 'gender impact assessments' of official measures and organisation. First up was the Environmental Information Act, which grants public access to information. Formally it contributes to sexual equality by not making different provisions for men and women. But by ignoring gender or other differences it leaves those most likely to be environmentally disadvantaged with less access to information. More targeted messages through accessible media are needed.<sup>27</sup>

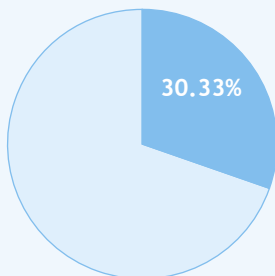
The new Welsh Assembly is, by law, 50% women. It has statutorily committed to achieving sustainable development.

## Women's slice of the European power pie

### Percentage of women and men in top positions

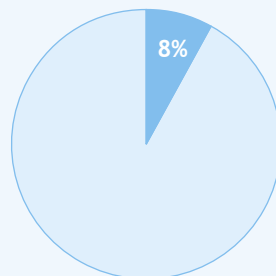
■ Women  
■ Men

#### Politics



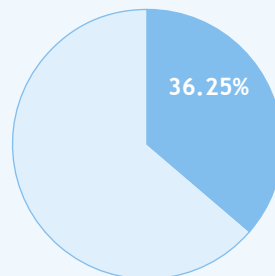
Members of European Parliament as at July 04 <sup>28</sup>

#### Companies



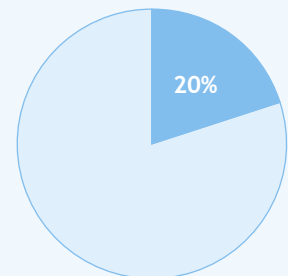
Boardroom seats in Europe's top 200 companies <sup>29</sup>

#### NGOs



Heads of European NGOs which are members of the Civil Society Contact Group <sup>30</sup>

#### Trade unions



Heads of Trade Unions <sup>31</sup>

## Critical mass gets results

A 'critical mass' of women is needed in positions of power to support each other in policy initiatives, to be able to allocate and control resources and be a catalyst for other women to become involved. Around 30-35% is the breakthrough level, argues gender studies specialist Gambhir Bhatta.<sup>32</sup> Bringing more women into power will not guarantee gender equality or environmental change but it creates the potential, which can make a difference, as the decisions of the Welsh Assembly suggest. The council of

*Critical mass: the minimum amount of resources required to start or maintain a venture*

Europe's gender equality programme is committed to achieving a balance of women and men in political and public decision making. But it has some way to go: the *Women in the World Atlas* <sup>7</sup> shows the proportion of women in some European governments actually dropped between the late 1980s and 2000 including Russia, Poland, Hungary and Italy.

## Critical mass in waste management

A European study WEN was involved in shows the impact women in senior positions can have. Waste management authorities that have more women managers and use their authorities' equal opportunities mechanisms effectively tend to recycle more and be more innovative about preventing waste. They involve the public more and have partnerships with concerned women's groups, such as WEN and Women's Institutes.<sup>33</sup>

## The international picture

Globally, women still face massive environmental inequalities. The United Nations is key in raising the profile of women in discussing environmental issues. Generally acknowledged as the most successful outcome of the UN conference on Environment and Development, 1992, Agenda 21 specified that women needed to be more involved in environmental decision making - to redress previous inequalities in exposure and decision making; to acknowledge women's practical environmental experience; and to acknowledge their particular exposure to environmental problems over which they had very little control.

The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 required all signatories "to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis is made on women and men respectively." Environmental programmes were specifically named as being important for women to be involved in and this combination - women and environment - is now a standard part of UN policy, including the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Action released at Johannesburg in 2002. What's become known as 'gender mainstreaming' is also, since 1996, part of European Union and UK Government policy.

### Millennium Goals

Since 2000, all UN proposals have been informed by the eight Millennium Goals for social, economic and environmental improvement by 2015. Two goals are specifically women focused but all carry a clear gender dimension.

**Goal 3** is to promote gender equality and empower women, eliminating gender disparity in education by 2015.

**Goal 5** is to improve maternal health, reducing the maternal mortality rate by 75% by the end of 2005.

### Women represent

- 70% of those in absolute poverty<sup>34</sup>
- two thirds of illiterate adults<sup>35</sup>
- 51% of the world's agricultural workers<sup>36</sup>

**Gender mainstreaming:**  
*Taking into account the attitudes, roles and responsibilities of women and men, recognizing that the sexes and different social classes do not have the same access to and control over resources, and that work, benefits and impacts may vary widely across social and gender groups. Considering the needs, roles, capacities, benefits and burdens of women and men, rich and poor, young and old.*

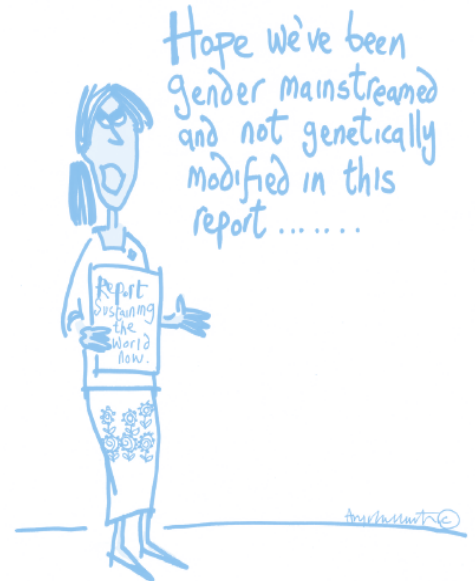
Source: UNDP, 2002-c

### Women push for green energy

The German campaigning group on gender justice and sustainability 'gen.net' refer to studies which demonstrate that it is usually the women household members who push for 'green' electricity when deciding to shift to a new supplier, although they have less collective financial ability to do so.<sup>37</sup>

### Role models

Women are green role models in their thousands, though they tend to prefer co-operating and sharing the credit rather than seeking the limelight as individuals. The roll-call includes Wangari Maathi, founder of Kenya's Green Belt Movement and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004; Rachel Carson, author of the ground-breaking *Silent Spring* about pesticides; Dr Alice Stewart, who established there's no safe level of radiation; ecologist and biologist Sandra Steingraber; Vandana Shiva who writes on development, food and GM issues; Theo Colborn, co-author of *Our Stolen Future* about chemical threats to future generations; the first 'tree huggers' of the Chipko movement in India and the women of Bhopal fighting for justice for their poisoned community. They are joined by thousands, probably millions, of other nameless role models in indigenous, local and community movements working to protect or improve their environment and human health.<sup>6</sup>



### Credit where it's due

Micro-credit is one way to resource and empower women in deprived areas. Experience of schemes in the South, such as the Grameen Bank, Bangladesh, is beginning to inform World Bank policy and some social and economic strategies in the UK. Full Circle Project in Norfolk was piloted in three communities in a city, an agricultural area and an industrial zone. After the pilot, 40 lending circles were formed between 2000 and 2004. See [www.weetu.org/fc.html](http://www.weetu.org/fc.html)

### Seeds of growth

Supporting local groups is one of WEN's strengths. Women have gained valuable skills and confidence through their involvement in WEN groups. Buoyed by their experiences organising meetings, dealing with the media, speaking at public meetings and lobbying local authorities, some members have found paid work or gone into local politics. Members of WEN's food groups have found friendship and community spirit while growing organic fruit and vegetables to feed their families. And a thriving real nappy industry employs many women who started out as concerned parents who banded together through the network to improve access to cloth nappies.

## Women in the community: campaigners for change

As has been said, research regularly shows that women have a greater understanding and concern about the environment and are more prepared to take action.<sup>3,38,39,40</sup> Domestic roles have a lot to do with this. If you do most of the cooking you're more likely to be alert to the potential dangers of genetic modification or chemicals used on crops; cleaning makes you think about the chemicals in products; caring for children and others makes you worry for their future.

In the political pyramid of environmental (and most other) decision-making, women dominate the foundation. It's often the only place women can raise concerns about how pollution or bad decisions might negatively affect the health of their children, other family members, neighbours and the wider environment. Many women feel frustrated at their lack of influence and angry at how decisions are made, insensitive to gender, poverty or race. But there are campaigns that exemplify what women can bring to the policy table, and how they become empowered in the process.

It is crucially important that women's environmental activities are not confined to grass roots - this is unfair on women and on the planet. Grass roots actions must be incorporated into wider policy if they are not constantly to be reinvented; the gender and other inequalities they reveal must be redressed.

WEN and WECF support any activity which will get more women involved in environmental politics and decision-making, and in enough numbers to achieve the critical mass needed to create co-operative and sensitive ways of doing business and prevent gender concerns being sidelined ever again.

### One Woman's PAIN

WEN activist Theresa Brzoza campaigned against the incinerator proposed for Neath/Port Talbot in Wales.

Theresa says that the campaign changed her: it questioned her political values and attitudes, caused her to join the Green Party and stand as a candidate for the local council and raised her sights from the battle to the war.

PAIN - Parents Against the Incinerator set up with a bunch of mums over cups of tea, was her second transformation. The first was having a baby, which, Theresa said, changed her life, and opened her eyes to environmental problems.



## What needs to happen

- Policies need to take more account of women's experiences and be based on patterns of work and consumption that are sensitive to the human life cycle and to ecological sustainability.
- Policy makers need to make more effective use of gender analysis in formulating policies. Such moves are likely to benefit all. In the case of local government policies, think easier recycling, better public transport.
- More women (a critical mass) are needed in politics, management and all areas concerned with the environment - women need to be at the heart of things as well as at the maverick 'cutting edge'.
- The insufficient recognition given to environmental inequalities is clearly a human rights and environmental justice issue. It's time to extend the focus of the environmental justice movement to include gender; up till now it has looked primarily at race and, more recently, poverty.
- Risk assessments and the setting of toxic exposure limits should no longer be gender-blind.

## What you can do

- Women are the main buyers of everyday products. Use your consumer power. Write to supermarkets and manufacturers. Some of the most successful campaigns have been product boycotts. The increased availability of organic food is largely a result of consumer demands.
- Support and get involved with WEN and WECF which aim to empower women and place women and environment firmly on the political agenda.
- If you're in business employ sustainable practices. Market, produce and sell products which won't damage workers or the environment.
- Talk to each other. Get your voice heard, make your opinions known, write to local media.
- Get involved in your community and exercise your citizen's rights: a residents group, or local government and political life. Start small with something you know you can achieve.
- Raise issues in your workplace, for example the use of plastic cups, using Fair Trade organic coffee, recycling paper and printer cartridges or become a health and safety representative. Ask employers and colleagues to offer business skills to NGOs or community groups.
- Raise issues in schools and nurseries: suggest a school garden, composting waste, speakers in the classroom to talk on environmental issues, using real nappies.
- Be an example to others in your lifestyle choices.

## Further reading and useful resources

### Books and reports

*Democratisation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding: the perspectives and roles of women - Declaration and Programme of Action, Gender Equality: a core issue in changing societies*, from 5<sup>th</sup> European ministerial conference on equality between women and men, Council of Europe Skopje, January 2003.

*Eurostat Yearbook: data 1991-2001*, European Commission, Luxembourg: CEC, 2003.

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*Gender and Environment*, Buckingham-Hatfield S, London: Routledge, 2000.

*Gender and Poverty in Britain*, Manchester: Bradshaw J, Finch N, Kemp P A, Mayhew E and Williams J, Equal Opportunities Commission, 2003.

*Green Paradise Lost*, Elizabeth Dodson Gray, Roundtable Press, 1979.

*Having Faith: an ecologist's journey to motherhood*, Sandra Steingraber, Perseus Press, 2001.

*If Women Counted: a new feminist economics*, Marilyn Waring London: Macmillan, 1988.

*Of Geese and Ganders: mainstreaming gender in the context of sustainable human development*, Bhatta Gambhir, Journal of Gender Studies 10,1, 2001.

*Social Trends No 33 & 34*, Office for National Statistics, London: TSO, 2003, 2004.

*Stolen Harvest: the hijacking of the global food supply*, Vandana Shiva, London: Zed Books, 2000.

*Sweeping the Earth: women taking action for a healthier planet*, Ed. Miriam Wyman, Canada: Gynergy Books, 1999.

*The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World*, Joni Seager, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 2003.

*Women and the Environment*, UN Environment Programme (UNEP), WEDO, UN Foundation, 2004.

*Women of the European Union, the politics of work and daily life*, Maria Dolos Garcia-Ramon and Janice Monk, London: Routledge, 1996.

### WEN Publications

*Pretty Nasty: phthalates in European cosmetic products*, 2002.

*Legal Tools for Environmental Activists: a brief guide to international treaties*, 2003.

*Getting Lippy: cosmetics, toiletries and the environment*, 2003.

### References

A list of references is available on request or can be downloaded free from [www.wen.org.uk](http://www.wen.org.uk).

### Websites

[www.europa.int](http://www.europa.int) - European Union website.

[www.thefword.org.uk](http://www.thefword.org.uk) - feminist news & discussion

[www.genanet.de](http://www.genanet.de) - German women/ environmental organization.

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk) - Office of National Statistics online.

[www.thewnc.org.uk](http://www.thewnc.org.uk) - Women's National Commission, the official, independent, advisory body giving women's views to the UK Government.

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org) - United Nations.

[www.wedo.org.int](http://www.wedo.org.int) - Women and Development Organisation.

[www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk](http://www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk) - Government department that supports the Ministry of Women.

[www.womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org) - the European Women's Lobby, co-ordinating body of national and European non-governmental women's organisations in the European Union

#### About WEN

Women's Environmental Network is a registered charity educating, informing and empowering women and men who care about the environment. It researches and campaigns on environmental and health issues from a female perspective.

#### Individual membership (women & men)

£20 ordinary, £12 unwaged  
£40 supporting

#### Affiliate membership (organisations)

£35-150 depending on size.

#### About WECF

Women in Europe for a Common Future is a network of organisations in 30 countries across Eastern and Western Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. WECF helps women to actively take part in making their communities healthier and more sustainable. They propose solutions and ask politicians to take action. WECF believes in our right to a healthy environment!

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