

NAW Annual General Meeting Report 14 May 2016

Siobhan Endean, Unite National Officer for Equalities described the National Assembly of Women as “the authoritative body of women who could inform the trade union movement and build the policy agenda for women.” Speaking at the NAW AGM in Salford on Saturday 14th May, Siobhan said that it is vital for women to build a strong network at all levels and praised the work of the Women’s Budget Group, the TUC and women in the labour and trade union movement who made sure that “equality issues are not held in one headline.” She said that although we face great threats we have great opportunities to influence economic and social policy, particularly since Jeremy Corbyn’s election as leader of the Labour Party and that the NAW had a huge role to play in making sure that our voices are heard.

The day was filled with friendly debate and high quality discussion. Delegates from newly affiliated trade unions said how inspired they felt and commented on the welcoming atmosphere. Special thanks was given to Sharon Hutchinson, Unite NW Regional Women’s & Equalities Officer who made all the arrangements for the AGM to be held in the Salford Unite Building

Motions were unanimously passed opposing the expansion of nuclear power; the further privatisation of NHS England and the attack on pensions. A motion on the Charter for Women was also carried agreeing in principle that the NAW would take ownership of the Charter and incorporate its demands in the campaigning work of the NAW if the affiliates of the Charter for Women endorsed the proposal.

The Officers of the National Assembly of Women were elected unopposed as follows:

President Anita Wright; Secretary Liz Payne; Treasurer Eleanor Lewington;

There were nine nominations for seven places for the Executive Committee. The following were elected:

Megan Dobney; Siobhan Endean; Rose Keeping; Carolyn Simpson; Joanne Stevenson; Yvonne Washbourne and Barbara White.