

NPC Women's Working Party

Today there are around 7m women pensioners in Britain, a significant number of which are living below the official poverty level, whilst others struggle with the responsibilities and costs of caring or the difficulties associated with loneliness and isolation.

The National Pensioners Convention (NPC) is Britain's biggest pensioner organisation, with 1.5m members representing 1000 groups across the country.

The Women's Working Party is part of the NPC and is made up of women from all walks of life, from around the country who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern. Together we:

- Produce an electronic newsletter: The Women's Exchange Network bi-monthly which reports on issues of particular relevance to women.
- Organise seminars on relevant topics and have a stand and hold a fringe meeting every year at the Women's TUC.
- Build links with other women's groups both at home and in Europe.

Some key issues

Women make up by far the majority of today's 11m pensioners because women tend to outlive men. There are many issues which affect all older people, such as financial security, mobility and independence - as well as others that are specific to women.

These will include issues such as having limited pension income (sometimes due to incorrectly paying the married women's stamp or time spent at home caring for dependents), living alone in isolation which can lead to loneliness, depression and other health problems, the pressures of caring for older loved ones in retirement and the lack of mobility or access to local shops and services for those without their own transport.

It is extremely important therefore that we recognise the contribution that older women have made to society, through work both inside and outside of the home, and encourage greater involvement in local, regional, national and international debates to ensure their concerns and issues are part of the mainstream agenda.

If you are interested in getting more involved or in receiving the newsletter or other information complete the form on the reverse of this leaflet.

What we stand for

The NPC campaigns for:

- **A universal basic state pension for all pensioners set at 70% of the Living Wage (outside London) - currently around £200 a week. This would particularly benefit millions of older women who were unable to build up enough national insurance contributions when at work to qualify for a full state pension.**
- Suitable compensation for those women affected by the 2011 Pensions Act, who have seen their state pension age accelerate without proper notice.
- **Free care funded from general taxation and provided to the highest standards in order to maintain dignity and without the need for means-testing, rationing or a postcode lottery.**
- The weekly Carer's Allowance to be paid to all older carers in addition to their state pension to help with the increased costs of ageing.
- **Free UK-wide travel on buses, trams and local rail to encourage independence and greater mobility, as well as helping the environment and reducing demand on care services.**
- A winter fuel allowance of £500 per pensioner household to maintain a warm and comfortable home.

Getting involved

Please send me:-

- a) the electronic newsletter
- b) information about my local NPC Region
- c) information about future NPC activities

(Tick as appropriate)

Name:.....

Address:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

Please also send us your suggestions for future campaigns on women's issues

Please return to NPC

**Marchmont Community Centre,
62 Marchmont Street, London
WC1N 1AB**

T: 020-7832-6622 / www.npcuk.org

About the NPC

The NPC works in a number of ways, and on a wide range of issues, to promote our concerns to government, politicians, other organisations and the public at large. This includes:

- **Campaigning:** Lobbying MPs, holding rallies around the country, issuing petitions and organising protests.
- **Meetings:** Regularly meeting ministers, officials, representatives of other parties and other official bodies. Organising events to look at important issues, including the annual 3-day Pensioners' Parliament in Blackpool.
- **Public Profile:** Issuing statements to the media, promoting our views on a particular issue and regularly appearing in the national and regional press.
- **Research:** Developing detailed policies and research material to support our arguments for improvements in pensions, health care, transport, housing and other areas of older living. We regularly publish pamphlets and briefings, alongside the Pensioners' Manifesto.



Introducing the National Pensioners Convention's Women's Working Party

