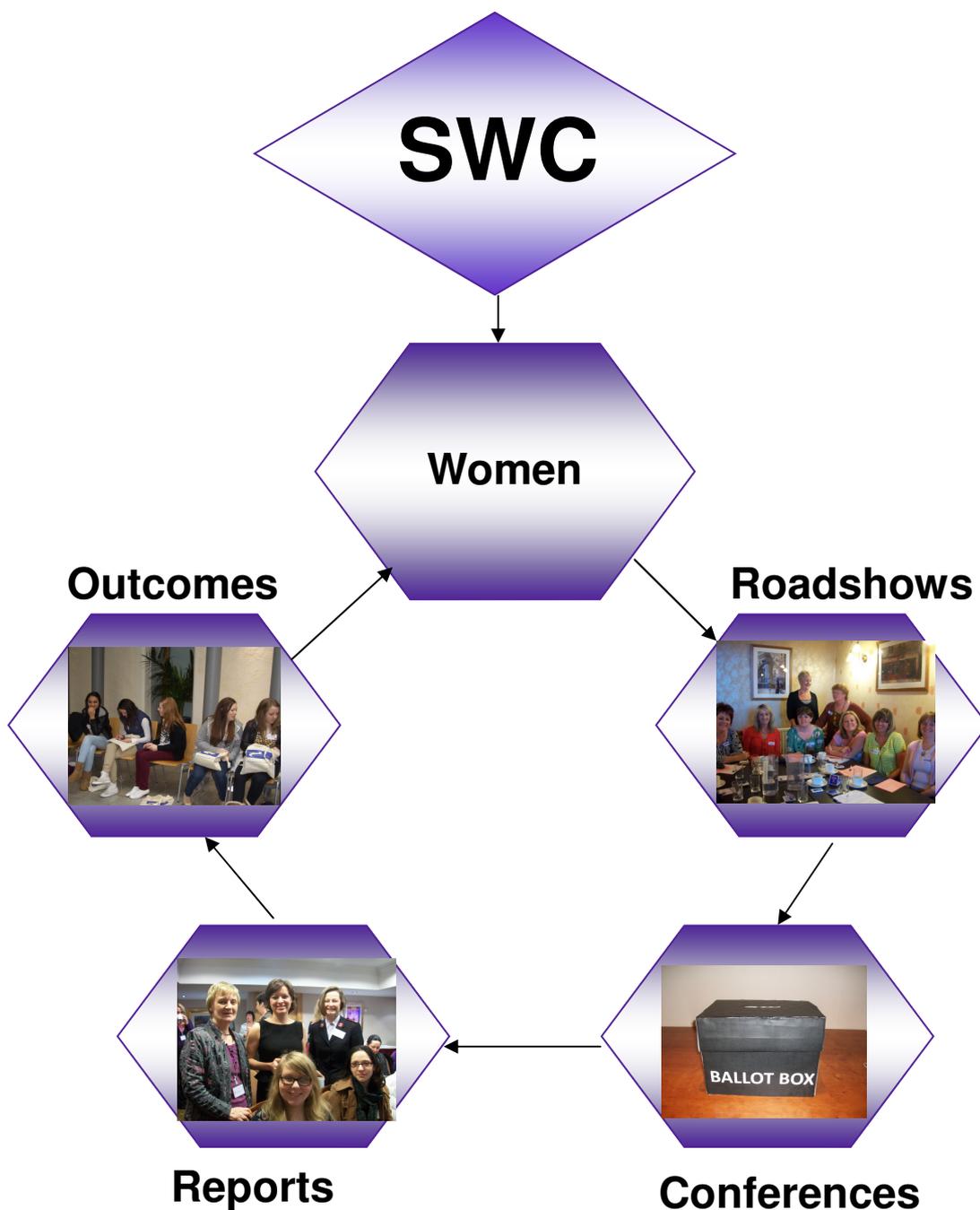


# ANNUAL UPDATE 2012



## The Scottish Women's Convention aims to:

- enable women to influence policy in Scotland.
- ensure that issues important to women are considered at all stages of the policy making process
- .

### Development Manager's Report

This has been a rewarding year for the SWC.

The development of the organisation has ensured that as many women as possible have an opportunity to attend events and have their views heard in order that the SWC can inform decision makers.

By using the information given by women throughout Scotland, the SWC has produced consultation responses expressing the concerns of local communities.

The SWC continues to increase networks and ensures women contribute to the decision making process.

### SWC Staff

#### Development Manager

Evelyn Fraser

#### Events and Networks Organiser

Isabelle Lannon

#### Research Advisor

Lorna Kettles

#### Development Coordinator

Mary Kerr

#### Administrative Officer

Deborah Ruddy

(Left - August 2012);

Samantha Ritchie

(Started - September 2012)

### SWC Board of Directors

Agnes Tolmie (Chair)

Helen Adamson

Suzanne Conlin

Sarah Cumming

Patricia Donnelly

Julie Hall

Elspet Macintosh

Tanveer Parnez

Giri Polubothu

### Chair's Report

The 3 year funding package announced at the beginning of 2012 has given the SWC the opportunity to forward plan and develop activities.

Our reputation continues to grow. The events organised this year have seen over 50% of new women attending. Direct engagement is still the preferred method of consultation with women.

The use of social media and the launch of a new website ensures that the organisation continues to work with as many women as possible.

By working together and developing networks, the SWC will continue to ensure that women are heard by key decision makers.

## SWC ACTIVITIES 2012

### **Roadshows**

The SWC roadshow programme engaged with women in Glenrothes, Anstruther, Aberdeen, Peterhead, Dumfries, Stranraer, Islay, Motherwell and Paisley.

Women attending the events were asked about the changes to the welfare benefits system and how these impact on individuals and their families. The provision of local services and support available for women requiring access to justice were also discussed. A question around the forthcoming Independence Referendum focussed on whether women have enough information to make an informed decision on polling day.

### **International Women's Day**

The theme for 2012 was Education and Lifelong Learning. Although formal education is important, it is often the informal networking, mentoring, and support which have an impact on women's ability to participate in all aspects of social, economic and community life. The event discussed and explored these issues.

In addition to the women attending from throughout Scotland, around 30 young women from local schools participated in the day.

### **Women and Their Vote Conference**

This interactive and informative event focussed on the Local Government elections.

Attendees listened to a number of speakers and contributed to a lively question and answer session.

Mock ballot papers and polling booths were used to encourage women to vote as well as information being available on the STV (Single Transferable Vote) system.

### **Conference Against Human Trafficking**

A highly successful conference was held in Glasgow. A knowledgeable panel of speakers and lively discussions led to engaging and informative question and answer sessions.

Delegates were keen to learn more about the subject and to raise awareness amongst their networks.

*"Would love there to be more events!"*

*"The environment/people were very relaxed and welcoming."*

*"A very enjoyable and interesting day. I liked the discussions which highlighted what is happening within our community."*

*"Really enjoyed diverse options from the group – I'll be back!"*

*"Informative forum. Good and encouraging debate."*

*"Very useful and interesting discussion."*

### **SWC GIGS**

The previous Satellite groups have been rebranded as Geographical Information Groups (GIGs).

Women come together in different geographical areas of Scotland in order to provide the SWC with information to respond to consultations. The groups are also asked to attend SWC events and to use their local networks to cascade information.

## CEDAW

The SWC provides secretariat to a group of women's organisations in Scotland who have come together to work on a response to the UK Government's report on its obligations under the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women.

The Scottish CEDAW Shadow Report Forum seeks to involve and represent the diverse voices and experiences of women in Scotland.

*"Not enough young women are being encouraged to take up 'non traditional' roles."*

*"There are limited opportunities for training in Modern Apprenticeships in many areas of the country. Apprenticeships are also gender specific, with young men entering fields such as construction, joinery, engineering etc and young women taking up careers in areas such as childcare and hairdressing."*

## CSW 2012

A report reflecting the views of women living and working in rural Scotland was produced in early 2012.

This report was prepared in response to the Commission on the Status of Women Priority Theme for 2012

*"The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges"*

It also informed the UK Government, as representatives at CSW, of the issues affecting women in Scotland.

*"More needs to be done to encourage girls into non-traditional careers – we expect renewables to become an important employment sector, but girls at the local secondary school are not taking up technical subjects in order to gain a share of the opportunities being created."*

## Briefing Papers

- The Budget (Scotland) Bill
- Your Scotland, Your Referendum
- Commission on Women Offenders
- Scottish Parliament Welfare Reform Committee
- Low Pay Commission
- Welfare Reform Act Guide

Women and Employment Summit

- Childcare
- Multiple Barriers to Employment
- Occupational Segregation
- Workforce Issues

*"As the population ages, women are sandwiched between looking after elderly parents and grandchildren."*

*"The culture across many of our communities streams women into low paid, low skilled jobs with limited opportunities for training and development."*

Copies of reports from all SWC events, consultation responses and briefing papers are available to download from [www.scottishwomensconvention.org](http://www.scottishwomensconvention.org)

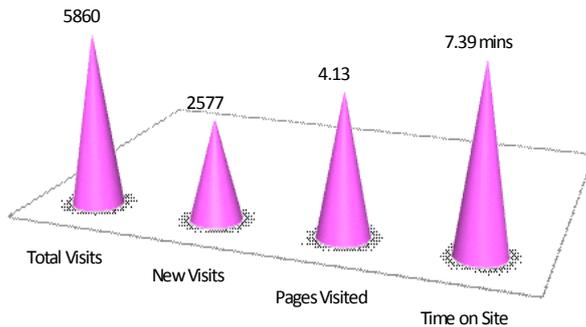
## SWC Website & Social Media

Visits to the SWC website have doubled in the past year.

New Facebook and Twitter accounts have been developed with this mechanism now being used to highlight SWC events. This activity has resulted in an increase in the SWC network.

The SWC has seen an increase of 25% in those signing up to the mailing list.

### SWC Website Stats



## Other Activities

The SWC news bulletin is distributed monthly to the mailing list and other interested parties.

The SWC has been invited to speak at a number of external events including STUC Highland and Islands Conference and Soroptimist International meetings.

Holding stalls and networking activities at STUC Equality Conferences and the Women's Employment Summit has raised the profile of the organisation.

In June, the SWC launched a 'Young Woman's Achievement' award. Nominations can be made through the website. Closing date **31 March 2013**.

## Consultation Responses

- Commission on Rural Education – Call for Evidence
- Mental Health: Strategy for Scotland 2011-2015
- Rail 2014 – A Consultation
- Everywoman Safe Everywhere
- Welfare Reform Committee Call for Evidence
- Consultation on Housing Support for Homeless Households
- Affordable Rented Housing
- Your Scotland, Your Referendum
- Scottish Passported Benefits: changes required as a result of the introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment
- Charter of Patient's Rights and Responsibilities
- Consultation on a Strategy for the Private Rented Sector
- Making Justice Work for Victims and Witnesses
- The Future of Right to Buy in Scotland: A Consultation
- Commission on Childcare: Call for Evidence
- A Scotland for Children: Consultation on the Children and Young People Bill

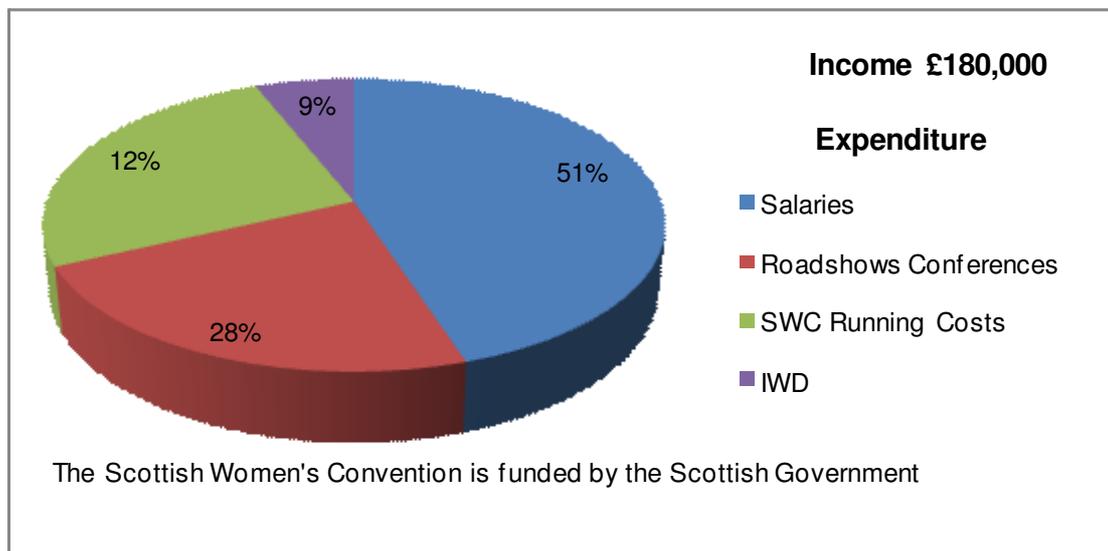


## SWC Young Women

The SWC Young Women's Group consists of a core group of young women who volunteer to attend meetings. Discussions take place around educational, employment and social issues which affect young women in Scotland today.

With the support of the SWC, the Group has planned an event which will cover a wide range of topics including unemployment, rights at work, skills for work, the sexualisation of young women, body confidence and voting. The Group aims to encourage young women to be aware of their skills and potential when entering further education or employment.

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS APRIL 2011 - MARCH 2012



### Thank You!

The SWC would like to extend our thanks to:

- Wylie and Bisset Chartered Accountants.
- Thompsons Solicitors, UNITE the Union, Unison, Thomas Tunnock Ltd, House of Fraser, Glasgow, Jenners, Edinburgh, Walkers Shortbread, Sainsburys
- Sean Feeny and the team at Hampden Advertising for quick, quality printing.
- Last but not least all of our volunteers who have handed out bags, facilitated tables, taken coats, taken notes and generally supported the work of the SWC over the last year.

**Your contribution is always greatly appreciated.**

### SWC Contact Details

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