

2020 WAW conference, *'Women Breaking Barriers.'*

Press release: Awards challenge 'stubborn and persistent' gender inequality - Welsh Government Minister

Annual research awards held in memory of a Vale of Glamorgan teacher who campaigned for women's rights across the world have been praised by a Welsh Government Minister for providing an opportunity to challenge 'stubborn and persistent' gender inequality.

Welsh Government Minister for Equalities Jane Hutt MS said it was great to have been involved with the Audrey Jones Memorial Awards for Research by Women, co-ordinated by Wales Assembly of Women, an independent campaigning NGO, since their introduction in 2016.

She said: 'I say this every year, but Audrey fought tirelessly for women's rights and equality. She would be so heartened by the work of the latest Award recipients and the platform that Wales Assembly of Women has provided to give these awards in her memory.'

'The different perspectives we hear through the presentation of the awardees, demonstrate that gender inequality remains a stubborn and persistent issue around the globe. I hope the awardees will continue their important work in research, it is crucial in building an evidence-based approach to government in Wales.'

'It is in learning about the lived experience of women that we can share good practice, shine a light on areas where inequality persists and needs to be challenged and contribute to making a difference in the lives of women and girls.'

Jane Hutt MS, who congratulated all three awardees at the Wales Assembly of Women mini conference and AGM held over Zoom at the weekend, said she was determined to bring evidence-based research to the forefront of Welsh Government's work.

Audrey Jones, who represented Wales on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and contributed to UN consultations and debates on women's rights across the world, died in 2015 aged 84. Up until she retired in 1990, she was deputy head of St Cyres Comprehensive school in Penarth, where she had taught since 1960.

Co-ordinator of the Audrey Jones Memorial Awards Dr Jane Salisbury said: 'Audrey was always very concerned that too much academic work remained on a library shelf or was only disseminated within a faculty or research group. All three of the presentations we received from our awardees were excellent and were something I know Audrey would have enjoyed listening to.'

The 2020 Audrey Jones Memorial Awards were presented to Dr Hannah Scott who looked at social identity in women diagnosed with early-stage dementia; Leah Hibbs who looked at female representation in local government and Philippa Davies who examined gender inequality in Welsh sport leadership.

Wales Assembly of Women is an independent campaigning NGO accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Its representatives have attended every major UN world conference for women since 1985.

It campaigns for women's rights in Wales and the World. Membership is open to all women in Wales and to women with connections to Wales. It is funded by the membership and charity grants and receives no public money.

Press release: Women's rights group marks key anniversary

A women's rights group in Wales is marking the 25th anniversary of a landmark global agreement designed to mainstream gender equality throughout the world at its annual conference in Cardiff.

The 2020 Wales Assembly of Women conference will hear from and about women in Wales who, 25 years on from the signing of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights, have fought their own battles against inequality.

Speakers include Gaynor Legall the first black woman elected as a councillor in Wales and Leonora Thomson part of the team behind the Monumental Welsh Women project that is looking to erect statues in honour of Welsh women.

Wales Assembly of Women chair Dr Eleri Evans said: 'A quarter of a century on from Beijing, there are increasing fears, particularly in the light of Brexit, that women's rights are being undermined by growing conservative movements that seek to roll back hard-won rights.'

'Globally, one in three women will still experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetime. Women are still paid less than men for the same work and continue to bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work. That is why it is important to share stories and why this year we are looking forward to hearing how some women in Wales have fought to overcome inequalities.'

An independent campaigning non-governmental organisation for women, Wales Assembly of Women is accredited to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It runs the Audrey Jones Memorial Awards for Research by Women – which will be presented in the afternoon of conference – to provide a platform for women post graduate students to disseminate research.

The awards are in memory of Audrey Jones, who represented Wales on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and contributed to UN consultations and debates on women's rights across the world – including Beijing. Audrey died in 2014 aged 84. Up until she retired in 1990, she was deputy head of St Cyres Comprehensive school in Penarth, where she had taught since 1960.

Wales Assembly of Women 2020 Conference: *Beijing +25: Women Breaking Barriers* will be held at Insole Court, Llandaff, Cardiff on Saturday 21 March 2020.

**WALES ASSEMBLY
OF WOMEN
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



**Beijing+25: Women Breaking
Barriers**

Has gender equality improved for women in
Wales in the last 25 years? Join the debate.

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LLANDAFF CF5 2LN

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 20

*Wales Assembly of Women is an independent campaigning
organisation. It runs the annual Audrey Jones Award for
research by women.*