

## **Wales research award scheme to showcase at United Nations in New York**

How women in Wales are represented in public life is the focus of a panel at the United Nations in New York this March.

*Women's Representation in Wales: How gendered is my valley?* will draw together robust data, analysis and evidence from post-graduate research in Wales to bring fresh perspectives to women's representation in Wales and what success various sectors have had at introducing greater diversity into their senior decision making.

The panel which will focus on the experiences of disabled women, women in Welsh sport leadership and elected women in Welsh local government will hear from three awardees of a Welsh annual research award scheme for women researchers held in memory of a Vale of Glamorgan teacher who campaigned for women's rights across the world.

The Audrey Jones Awards for Research by Women will be showcased at a civil society panel held in parallel with the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women which is being held online this year because of Covid-19.

The Audrey Jones Awards are co-ordinated by Wales Assembly of Women, an independent campaigning non-government organisation (NGO) accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Chair of Wales Assembly of Women Dr Eleri Evans said the organisation was delighted its proposal for a panel focusing on the representation of women in Wales, which will take place on Thursday 28 March at 8.30pm, had been accepted.

She said: 'The priority theme for this year's CSW is women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life and our panel is absolutely on topic.'

'It is 25 years since the landmark global United Nations agreement aimed at ending gender inequality – the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action – was signed. And yet a recent report by the UK Government committee on women and equalities found UK Government support policies during the pandemic repeatedly skewed towards men. This is not good enough.'

'In Wales we have a chance to do things differently and indeed the country caused waves worldwide in 2003 as the first legislature to achieve 50:50 gender balance with equal members of men and women. But although Wales broke this significant barrier, women are still under-represented in public life and business, paid less than men and more likely than men to be working below their qualifications level.'

'That is why we need to keep our focus on the representation of women in public life and to that end I am delighted we will be joined by Welsh Government Minister for Equalities Jane Hutt MS – few women have done more to push for the advancement of women's rights in Wales. Jane was also a good friend of Audrey Jones, whose memory the awards are in.'

Co-ordinator of the Audrey Jones Awards Dr Jane Salisbury said: ‘Audrey fought tirelessly for women’s rights and equality. I think she would be so heartened by the platform we have created in her name to share robust and evidence-based research. It is only in learning about the lived experience of women that we can share good practice, shine a light on areas where inequality persists and contribute to making a difference in the lives of women and girls.’

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.

*Women’s Representation in Wales: How gendered is my valley?* includes:

- “*What do you know? You’re a woman!*” –*Gendered Experiences, Institutions, and Representation: Being a Female Local Councillor in Welsh Local Government* by Leah Hibbs a final year PhD student at Cardiff University funded by the ESRC to research women's political representation and the experiences of female local councillors in Welsh Local Government
- *A critical examination of women leaders’ experiences of gender (in)equality in Welsh sport leadership* by Philippa Davies an ESRC-funded WISERD (Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data) PhD student at Cardiff University
- *The Representation of Disabled Women in Public Life in Wales: Progress, Challenges and Shortcomings* by Ruth Nortey a doctoral student at Cardiff University Business School who is jointly funded by Disability Wales and the ESRC. Ruth will be sharing important data from her MSc which has informed PhD research project proposal.

For security purposes, everyone has to register on the virtual event platform to watch the panel. It is a free and very quick process. Please register [here](#) or search online for NGO-CSW65 Forum registration.