

Women and Monday 24th January



Event Report

Introduction

What is regeneration and why is it relevant to women today?

Regeneration has been around as a concept for over 20 years but over that time it has changed emphasis...In the early 1990's the focus was on physical regeneration such as housing, today there is a recognition that regeneration needs to be people centred, and to involve people from the local community¹

This event brought women's organisations and local women together to look at:

- examples of how women can practically get involved in regeneration
- how regeneration infrastructure fits together
- agreeing key issues for women in regeneration
- putting forward action to make sure women have a stronger voice

Workshops

During the day we ran three workshops below is a brief summary of each.

Women and Funding: Darlene Corry, Women's Resource Centre

For most women's organisations funding is a key issue. This workshop gave an overview of how issues are impacting on the women's voluntary and community sector in relation to funding. It also looked at practical skills in where to go for funding and where to go to get help to fundraise along with some practical tips on fundraising.

1. Gender and the reality of regeneration: a tale of two cities, Oxfam Conference Report, N van der Gaag

Community Safety Workshop: Catherine Robertson and Aziza Kapadia, Making Safer Places Workshop

This workshop looked at design and safety in the local community. It looked at practical examples of safety audits that had been carried out by women in their communities as part of the Making Safer Places Project and discussed some of the issues these audits might bring up for other stakeholders in the area.

Mapping Regeneration Bodies: Rupa Sarkar, Urban Forum

This workshop explained the relevant national and regional government departments that deliver the government's regeneration strategy. It also explained what the government departments' remits were and how they fitted together. The participants then tried to see if they could fit the departments together themselves!



Final Session

In the final session we looked at two key questions. Below are some of the responses to these questions:

1) What are the key issues for women in Regeneration?

- Women cannot afford/ allowed to work
- Need to recognise different women's backgrounds Institutional discrimination/ human rights abuses
- Women's Health: gyno/ mental health / s + r health
- Violence
- Poverty
- Employment: women need a break!

- Housing
- Childcare / mothering
- Safe Travel
- Joined up, holistic services
- Women having access to information/ services
- Language issues
- Women need to know their rights

2) How can women have a stronger voice?

- More money and acknowledgement for women's groups
- More women leadership in community
- More women consultants that can help other women
- Provide networks and briefings
- Equal pay and opportunities
- Lobby for more women councillors
- Educating people
- Research into women's needs
- More women supported (money for groups to join LSPs etc) to get involved in community events and activities
- Networking for women's groups in local area



About WNVP Project

Women's Neighbourhood Volunteering Project was a three-year project funded by the Home Office to improve women's volunteering opportunities particularly in regeneration activities in Tower Hamlets, Newham and Haringey. The project ended in March 2005. If you would like any further information please contact Wendy Davis on Tel: 0207 490 5210 or email: wdavis@wds.org.uk.