

Dear Member:

Through the darkness of what the Guardian's Polly Toynbee calls the "Brexit civil war that will last a generation", two promising beacons shone out from across the pond: 1) The [juxtaposition of two photographs](#) – a shot of Trump flanked by tough white guys contrasting with the image of re-elected speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi surrounded by lawmakers' ethnically diverse children and grandchildren. And: 2) The youngest-ever congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, popular and disruptive, who in response to a clip on Twitter – which, though it intended to mock her by showing her exuberantly dancing as a university student, instead went viral – [did an 11-second dance at the door of her office](#) two days into her new role. Watched over 19 million times, it shows the brand-new congresswoman showing the old guard how pointless it is to try and shame a woman for doing something as joyful as dancing.

And WE could do with some joy in the UK right now, what with Theresa May's deal voted down by 230 MPs, and tonight Parliament voting on Jeremy Corbyn's Motion of No Confidence in the Government – which, if it passes (and it probably won't), will only exacerbate the uncertainty we have all been living with for two years. What will happen next: a People's Vote/2nd referendum? A general election? It's anyone's guess.

But whatever happens, WE as active members of a political party with a radical agenda have a duty to ensure those without a platform, those most affected by even more cuts, and even those who have been lied to by Brexiteers like Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg and argue (sometimes vociferously and angrily) for a disastrous No Deal Brexit, hear our arguments for advancing through Brexit from a feminist, equality-driven stance. If this means we have to engage in difficult, uncomfortable conversations with people who don't agree with us, then so be it. Yes, some of those conversations will be triggering, even rage-inducing, but life at the moment is pretty bleak and in these bleak times it is crucial that WE as a party – as a force for good – stand up as a voice of clarity, reason and solidarity, constantly challenging the narratives that are allowed to fester and grow that contribute to what has led to Brexit, Trump and the inequalities we are all here fighting against.

And in that spirit, please read on (it's a bumper issue this one) for:

- Next branch meeting – save the date
- 7 recent **notable quotes**
- Stand for **WE in 2020!**
- Women demand **Bread and Roses**
- **Entertainment value:** events on the WE Camden radar
- **Education value:** events on the WE Camden radar
- What and who WE're **following, reading, gearing up for** and **watching**

NEXT BRANCH MEETING – Sunday 10 February

Save the date – WE're having our next branch meeting on Sunday 10 February, time and place to be decided, but will most likely be mid-morning.

WE'll be discussing all our plans for 2019 and beyond, and also updating you on our branch campaign challenging the sexual entertainment industry in our locales. And all over cake and tea. It'll be fun and inspiring so pop in your diary now – WE can't wait to meet all of you!

RECENT NOTABLE QUOTES

“The government's ten year plan has also failed to address one of the biggest challenges of all: staff shortages and vacancies. An organisation that relies on a largely female workforce must not only increase wages to at least match inflation, but also allow for flexible working and caring responsibilities; address its gender and ethnicity pay gaps, and end the culture of bullying and harassment reported by too many employees. The government must also reinstate bursaries for nurses and midwives to combat rising vacancies and turnover rates” – [Women's Equality Party response to the NHS 10 year plan](#) (Women's Equality Party, 8/1/19)

“Before 1958, January 6 was the only day of the year when women in Ireland were allowed into pubs. Groups of women would pool together the money they had saved, and go and drink and eat in the pub. Previously, women in Ireland would only set foot in a pub if they were chaperoned by a man. Those who braved the male-dominated domain of the Irish bar were viewed as not respectable” – [Irish women put their feet up for feminist Christmas](#) (France 24, 6/1/19)

“Female employees at TfL earned an average of £22.08 an hour compared with £28.14 earned by male staff, and that 85.8% of men received a bonus, compared with 79.4% of women. Male operational staff, including station workers and Tube drivers, earned an average of £26.36 per hour while women earned £20.31” – [Sadiq Khan's pledge fails to reduce TfL gender pay gap](#) (Times, 4/1/19)

“And isn't it always armpits? And white women? You don't often see campaigns for the rights of whiskers, sideburns, 'taches, and – whisper it – nipple hair. The fact is, not all body hair is deemed equal, or rather, equally disgusting” – [Januhairy is great, but why is it always about women's armpits?](#) (Guardian, 7/12/18)

“The finding that the alarmingly high rate of depression in British teenage girls is [closely correlated to time spent on social media](#) is extremely concerning. Research drawn from interviews with almost 11,000 14-year-olds found that two in five girls are on social media for at least three hours a day – with half as many

boys engaged to the same extent. More than a third of depressed girls have experienced online harassment. About half of affected girls suffered disrupted sleep, compared with 20% of depressed boys” – [The Guardian view on children and social media: a safeguarding failure by the state](#) (Guardian, 4/1/19)

“The real reason some men are upset with Gillette is because they are finally having to confront their own behaviour as wrong and damaging. Women are told we’re wrong all the time – we’re too fat, too skinny, too hairy, too loud, too opinionated. We are well aware of how society views us and are sold products on the back of our insecurities manufactured by brands; men are sold the idea that they are already the best, this product is the best – they deserve it. Gillette’s so-called ‘attack’ on toxic masculinity flips this falsehood on its head and asks their customers to do better, to be kinder people and to act on other people’s wrongdoings. That’s why men are angry. Because they’re scared” – [Men Are Angry With Gillette’s Suggestion They Become Good People](#) (The Pool, 15/1/19)

“Premenstrual dysphoria. Pelvic floor disorders. Endometriosis. These can be serious health conditions for women, yet many of us are reluctant to discuss them, even with our doctors. In fact, the bulk of my knowledge on these and many other issues that affect women’s reproductive health have been passed along to me through word of mouth like some kind of lore” – [5 Reproductive Health Issues We Should Be Talking About](#) (In Her Words, New York Times, 9/1/19)

STAND FOR WE IN 2020 – Candidate workshop on Tuesday 22 January from 7 to 9pm

After our call-out last week, WE Camden was thrilled to hear from some of you ready to get out there and stand and – as one member said to us – “live my principles”. So if that’s you but you’re not sure what standing will entail, why not come and find out?

WE are holding a candidate information event next Tuesday to discuss and illuminate what standing for the GLA election in May 2020 looks like and what it takes to be a WE candidate. Come along and meet our newly elected Greater London Assembly (GLA) hub co-ordinator Mel along with WE candidates from previous elections, including for the GLA in 2016.

The event will be organised as a series of informal workshops which will help you think about whether you want to be candidate or whether you know someone else who would be great and how to ask them to stand. We’ll discuss what’s exciting about stepping forward to be a candidate or to help with the election campaign, what holds us back, and how we can overcome barriers. The format will be participatory, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions.

Further info on standing for the GLA 2020 can be found here: www.womensequality.org.uk/hac_north_london_gla

The North London workshop will take place at the Elizabeth House Community Centre, 2 Hurlock Street, Islington, London N5 1ED.

Please bring anyone you think would make a great candidate too. We want the process to be as open and wide reaching as possible – and the GLA 2020 elections offer WE the best chance yet to get a woman elected to public office. Come be part of the campaign!

WOMEN DEMAND BREAD AND ROSES – Join the Women’s March London this Saturday 19 January

With Brexit looming and violence against women rising, we need people from all walks of life to come together and demand better from the government. To demand prosperity, not austerity.

To help kick things off, WE Camden will be joining Women’s March London this Saturday for a Bread and Roses rally against austerity. Join us in leading thousands to take to the streets of London holding flowers to symbolise our hunger to thrive and not just survive on bread. We raised our voices through the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements – now we begin the #WeAreChange movement.

In the words of organiser Shola Mos-Shogbamimu: “This year is going to be our year to breakdown the patriarchal boundaries that have held us back!”

Find out more about the event [here](#).

Meet WE activists at 11am by the Langham Hotel on Portland Place to collect a placard. Bring roses and high spirits to urge the government to end austerity now.

ENTERTAINMENT VALUE – events on the WE Camden radar

• WE Hackney Feminist Pub Quiz – On tonight from 7pm to 9pm

Start your January with the Women’s Equality Party Hackney’s feminist pub quiz! Join us at The Prince for an evening of pints and prizes for our first fundraiser of the year. Bring your friends! £5 entry per person in aid of WE Hackney. Get ready to put your feminist knowledge to the test!

For details go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/519423818580460/>

Tickets £5 each. On at The Prince Stoke Newington, 59 Kynaston Road, London N16 0EB

• **Heather and Harry** – *On tonight at 9pm*

Stumble Trip Theatre is a Lecoq-trained female-led company specialising in clown and physical theatre. The Stumble Trippers are huge, open, silly performers attempting to combat the constraints of femininity and all that it dictates in terms of how women should behave. They don't apologise for their bodies, voices, sexualities and idiosyncrasies. They combine mime, song, dance and rap to present a universe which eccentrically emulates and quietly questions modern day society. Heather and Harry invites people into a world of horny heavenly creatures, gangster-rapper gods and the sad, mad, bad inhabitants of London to rediscover everyday pleasure and pain with innocent eyes.

For details go to [heather-and-harry](#)

Tickets £12; £10 concessions. On at The Camden People's Theatre, 58-60 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PY

• **She Grrrows: Feminist Arts Night & Open Mic** – *On 1 February from 7pm to 10pm*

Join 3 great women...

- Katrina Quinn, a performer since 2006 – who has moved house more than 20 times. Her work has a strong sense of rhythm, energy, passion and sensitivity. She writes about belonging, spirituality and connection; runs the Pier Poets Open Mic in Brighton, and her debut show, Individual Medley, was at the Edinburgh Fringe.
- Lucy Burke, a Manchester-born writer and spoken word artist – who is a playwright and a regular on the performance poetry scene. She has appeared at Stand Up and Slam, Arcola SLAM Minutes and The Cauldron. At the Soho Theatre Writer's Lab she developed a new play, Things That Fall, about isolation, grief and Harry Potter.
- Lina Ashour, from Egypt – who has recently started doing spoken word poetry in both English and Arabic. Examples of her work can be found on Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/arabits>

For information go to [she-grrrows-feminist-arts-night-open-mic-tickets](#)

Tickets £5. On at The Poetry Café, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2H 9BX

• **V-Day Camden presents The Vagina Monologues – a Camden fundraiser for Solace Women’s Aid – On 8 and 9 February at 7.30pm**

The Vagina Monologues, written by Eve Ensler and premiering in 1996, was called by the New York Times “probably the most important piece of political theatre of the last decade”. Two years later Ensler and others launched V-Day, a global non-profit movement raising over \$100 million for groups working to end violence against women and girls. VM has since been performed every year in many languages all over the world.

Last year two colleagues formed V-Day Camden and put on two sell-out VM shows, raising £2,500 for [Solace Women’s Aid](#) – an organisation which provides support to 5,000 survivors of domestic abuse in London each year.

With new cast members, they are set to do it again. After paying for the venue and covering costs, they’ll put money raised towards Solace Women’s Aid in Camden, donating 10% to organisations that support women in prisons, jails and detention centres, and formerly incarcerated women, in line with V-Day’s annual spotlight theme. Even if you cannot attend, any donations (visit gofundme.com/help-up-put-on-a-fundraiser-for-women) will make a huge difference.

To book, visit crowndale-rd/theatro-technis

Tickets £11. On at Theatro Technis, 26 Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TT

• **Dark Night of the Soul – The Feminine Response to the Faustian Myth – On until 1 February**

Throughout history there has been little exploration or discovery of what the Faustian myth means for the woman, the female or the feminine. *Dark Night of the Soul* is a festival of new writing, with five new short plays written in response to the Faustian bargain by an ensemble of women writers that includes Lily Bevan, Athena Stevens, Lisa Hammond and Rachael Spence, Katie Hims and Amanda Wilkin.

Written for the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse – and performed in tandem with *Macbeth* and *Doctor Faustus*, Shakespeare’s and Marlowe’s interpretations of the Faustian myth – *Dark Night of the Soul* brings together a chorus of female voices at the crossroads, asking the question: *What would you sell your soul for?*

For details go to dark-night-of-the-soul

Tickets £5 to £30. On at Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare’s Globe, 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London SE1 9DT

EDUCATION VALUE – events on the WE Camden radar

- **When Women Gather** – an exhibition of photos by Grace Gelder – *On until 31 January*

Completing the phrase “When women gather...”, this photography exhibition of work by Grace Gelder draws on different definitions of gathering. These photographs come from an archive, amassed over 11 years, of work on personal and professional projects that depict female-identified people in small and large groups. Also includes solo portraits.

For details go to [when-women-gather-an-exhibition-of-photographs-by-grace-gelder](#)

Free. On at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL

- **Be a Better Cultural Ally** – *On 17 January from 7.15pm to 9pm*

Join a new discussion group for the purpose of educating and equipping people with the ability to recognise concealed individual and institutional xenophobia. To take a proactive approach and overpower such discrimination. [Read more here...](#)

On at the Feminist Library, 5 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7XW

- **A Feminist's Guide to Dinosaurs** – *On 18 January from 11am to 4pm*

Join The Big Art Herstory Project at the Natural History Museum for a guided tour of the Natural History Museum that focuses on themes such as the trailblazing women barred from the Geological Society, the lack of diversity in geoscience, the first known black geologist Marguerite Thomas Williams, Mary Ann Woodhouse Mantell (a competitor for the first discoverer of the first dinosaur), the work of scientific rebel Lynn Margulis and more. Expect fossils, stunning ancient rock formations, ancient Hominins and DINOSAURS – and to see the collection in a totally new light!

This is a London Drawing Group/BigArtHerstoryProject honorary class, with a morning tour led by Emma Jude, a Fellow of the Geological Society, who is working on a project restoring the infrastructure and engineering of the Rumaila oilfield in Iraq. She recently completed a project on lost landscapes through the lens of museums and how visitors interact with collections.

The afternoon drawing session will be led by resident Feminist Drawing Tutor Luisa-Maria MacCormack, with exercises concentrating on drawing from the textures, layers, fossils and leaps of imagination found in the museum.

For details go to [feminists-guide-to-dinosaurs-tickets](#)

Tickets £32. On at Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD

• **Why every feminist needs to embrace intersectionality** – *On 21 January at 6.30pm*

The Southwark branch of the Women's Equality Party is extremely excited to host Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, lawyer and political & women's rights activist. Shola will discuss the importance of intersectional feminism, highlighting the challenges and positives in the relationship between feminism, race and gender.

Book here at [why-every-feminist-needs-to-embrace-intersectionality](#)

Tickets £5.83. On at Manor of Walworth, 140 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JL

• **What's the future of women's health?** – *On 21 January from 7pm*

How can we break the taboo surrounding women's health? How can we design products based on what women need? What are we likely to see in the next five years? Come attend the launch of [Adia](#) – their mission is to change the approach to women's reproductive health to one that is proactive, personalised and holistic. It's a free panel discussion with [Tania Boler](#) (founder of Elvie), [Dr Jessica Farren](#) (obstetrician and gynaecologist at Imperial College), [Dr Linda Farahani](#) (fertility specialist at Imperial College), [Gabby Edlin](#) (founder of [Bloody Good Period](#)) and [Angela Chadwick](#) (author of *XX: How Far Would You Go For A Child Of Your Own?*). There will be free food, drinks and a goodie bag from Freda (organic period supplies), Wild Nutrition and more!

For details go to [whats-the-future-of-womens-health-tickets](#)

Free but ticketed. Includes goodie bag. On at Huckletree Shoreditch, 18 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1AH

• **Stories of Women – feminist life drawing with Diana** – *On 22 January from 7pm to 9pm*

At this event Diana will share her story. During the first half she will pose while talking about some of her experiences as a life model. She will discuss how women are perceived as they age, her extensive involvement in the peace and women's liberation movements, and why it's so important to see older people as they really are. During the second half there is time for discussion and also the chance to try posing yourself. [Read more here...](#)

To book, go to [stories-of-women-feminist-life-drawing-with-diana-tickets](#)

Tickets £11. On at the Feminist Library, 5 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7XW

WHO WE'RE FOLLOWING...

Dream Hampton (@dreamhampton on Twitter), the executive producer of a six-part documentary series *Surviving R Kelly*, which recently broadcast on Lifetime to huge ratings and has been deemed the continuation of black girls' and women's' #MeToo movement.

In the documentary, many who knew him – including numerous women who claimed they were abused by Mr Kelly as teenagers – gave wrenching accounts of their experiences. And yet for decades, R Kelly has enjoyed astronomical fame despite consistent and disturbing claims that he has sexually, mentally and physically abused teenage girls. As Dream said: “R Kelly has been preying on young and vulnerable women – black women mostly – and he has built an ecosystem around his predation”

Read more here about [the decades of sexual abuse allegations detailed in the documentary](#)

WHAT WE'RE READING...

This article about a woman in China who [can't hear men's voices](#) due to a rare but temporary hearing condition – her doctor explained that the woman, Ms Chen, was able to hear her speaking, but when a young male patient walked in, she couldn't hear him at all. That's one way of escaping being mansplained to!

WHAT WE'RE GEARING UP FOR...

International Women's Day 10K – with the Fawcett Society and Virtual Racing UK

In this virtual race, you can choose to run, walk, cycle or swim the 10km and can even split the distance up into stages. As long as you send in proof you've completed the challenge, an International Women's Day 10K medal will be posted to you. Virtual Racing UK will be donating 20% of all registration fees to Fawcett.

Register here: [international-womens-day-10k](#)

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING...

A WE Camden member writes: I just found this and thought it was a great story of what really makes a difference to women's lives

[The magic washing machine \(TED talk by Hans Rosling\)](#)

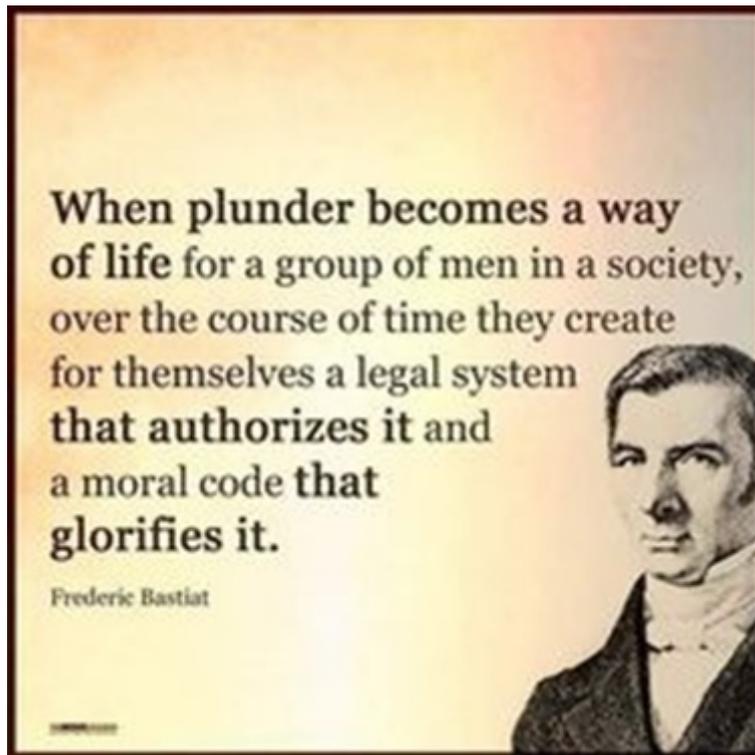
Wishing you a happy, feminist week

Emma & Leah

WE Camden branch co-leaders

- **Email** Please do not reply to branch emails. Instead please always contact us at camden@womensequality.org.uk
- **WhatsApp** Join our [WE are Camden](#) group
- **Facebook** Like our Facebook page by clicking here: www.facebook.com/wepcamden/
- **Twitter** Follow us on Twitter here: [@WEPCamden](https://twitter.com/WEPCamden)

The WE Camden branch also encompasses Brent, Kilburn, Hampstead, Westminster and Holborn – so if you live in any of these locations and have any local news or issues you'd like to highlight, absolutely get in touch



Women's Equality Camden
<http://www.womensequality.org.uk/>

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