

Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
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Joanne Vance
Coordinator
Women into Politics
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5 September 1997

Dear Joanne,

Kellie suggested I contact you regarding an idea that came up at a meeting of the NI Women's Coalition's (NIWC) Forum Team in late August. Having taken the political view that we would remain at least in attendance in the Forum until its expiry date next May, we decided to shift our policy focus, from that of exposing the Forum, and the standard of politics therein for what they were, to seeing how we could use it to hone our own political skills, and also to involve the voices of more women in the process.

We were casting around for ways in which we might facilitate the second of these aims when we considered something that would effectively marry political education and political participation. The basic idea was that the NIWC would offer one of their 'motion-spaces' a month to a women's group, who would be responsible for selecting a topic, constructing the argument, and writing the speech which would be delivered by a NIWC delegate in the presence of the proposers. We had thought that some help could be offered by the NIWC in terms of researching a topic, and assisting with formatting arguments etc., but we know that the NIWC would be unable to deliver this, as it is probably beyond our capacity at this point.

We thought then that some of the women's groups who had completed your course might be interested in this opportunity to practice, in a very real sense, the skills they will have picked up from WIP.

The Forum returns to business next week, and in the plan we envisage, there are 9 slots available until next May. (It may also be the case that Forum business will not allow for some motions to be heard. This is not to suggest though, that the enterprise should not be engaged with.)

This, then, is a rough sketch of what we had in mind. I should be grateful if your management committee would consider it at their earliest possible convenience. You can get me at the above address, or on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I look forward to hearing from you,
Yours sincerely,

Kate

Kate Fearon
NIWC

cc. Monica McWilliams; Pearl Sagar; Jane Wilde