

21 August 1997

Dear

Jane,

I write in relation to four things:

1. British Council/ NIWC international conference
2. NIWC constitutional position
3. Edward de Bono web site
4. Role of Spokespersons

1. British Council/NIWC International Conference.

Monica and I met with the British Council in July, who had approached us with view to our being the director of an international conference on the general theme of women and democracy. The deal is that we would be responsible for the title, content, speakers etc., and that they would take on the administration and marketing (in 109 countries). The likely date is late 1998, or spring of 1999. What is of immediate relevance is that we have to get back to them with a rough outline of content in early September 1997. I feel that it would be valuable to look at the different types of women's responses to political exclusion—direct interventionist coalitions, indirect interventionist coalitions, lobby groups, community groups etc.—but I think it would be useful if we could get together to brainstorm around this. Our next 'monthly meeting' is due on August 30, and I am suggesting that we take an hour after that (i.e approx 2.30 -3.30) to do so.

2. NIWC Constitutional position

I think it is time we fixed a framework for this, that we produced at least an agreed discussion document. It seems to me that the *sine qua non* of a settlement is a greener Northern Ireland within a reconceptualised UK. It's my sense that we need to test this with our members, and then put flesh on it. I'd like to propose a working group on this, to report by end September 1997, with view to debating it end October this year.

3. Edward de Bono web site

As a political party at the talks we can go directly to the 'inner ring' of the de Bono discussion page on Northern Ireland. It is important that we visit regularly, and contribute. We have to apply for access, though, and that can only be verified by our delegates at the talks—I think.

4. Role of Spokespersons

This has been flagged up a few times now, and we still haven't fixed people with portfolios. Can we think of briefs—security, welfare, education, economy, health etc—and possible people to go with them for Aug 30 also? Who wants to be spokesperson without portfolio?

Comments, suggestions etc. all welcome. Please let me know if you can make the time **2.30 on August 30** wherever the general meeting is. I'm on [REDACTED] during the day, and at [REDACTED] in the evenings. Hope to see you all soon,

Regards,

Kate

Kate Fearon