

## **AGM Report on FAN 2012**

### **Feminist Archive North**

#### **Trustees' Report for AGM October 13<sup>th</sup> 2012**

##### **Activities**

The main activity during the year in Leeds was continuing to preserve and catalogue material donated to the Feminist Archive North (FAN). Over the year this work was undertaken by 18 volunteers who were trained to undertake cataloguing tasks from the basic preservation of material to entries on the database. The cataloguing of Homeworkers World Wide is complete. The cataloguing of the Jalna Hanmer donation is continuing. Change collection, a UK based organisation, which produced reports on women's status in most countries throughout the world.

The Vera Media Collection is being catalogued: this includes a substantial amount of material from this Leeds-based feminist media production and training organisation.

We received a major donation from Bradford and Ilkley College Women's Studies and work has begun preserving and cataloguing this.

##### **Newsletter**

A group of volunteers are working on 2012 newsletter.

##### **My Learning Journey**

We are currently working on the next My Learning Journey-Web Resource: Feminist Activism and the Fight for Equal Pay.

##### **Leeds Women's Anti Apartheid Group Collection**

This group, whose collection is housed in FAN, was a major part of anti-apartheid activism in Leeds. In summer 2011 Leeds City Council held an exhibition in the City Museum commemorating the struggle and work in Leeds which led the council to twin with Durban, and Nelson Mandela receiving the freedom of the city. Colourful material from Leeds Women Against Apartheid formed a large part of the exhibition. FAN volunteers who were also part of Leeds Women Against Apartheid took part in a project with 6 schools. A DVD has been produced.

By the mid 1980s when South African State oppression and township violence was escalating, a group of women in Leeds, experienced in feminist organising set up a women's group. It was affiliated to Anti Apartheid and rapidly became a very effecting campaigning force with a focus on women and children. Links were made between Leeds women's groups and the Women's League in Pretoria. Funds were raised for them as well as publicising the struggle.

FAN's contribution to the exhibition and project is ensuring that feminist and women's activism is not "hidden from history".

### **Presentation at ARLIS Conference**

The Feminist Archive North was invited to give a 20-minute presentation followed by questions at the ARLIS UK and Ireland conference held at the University of Leeds in July 2011, as part of its Images of Activism session. ARLIS UK & Ireland is the Art Libraries Society, the professional organisation for people involved in providing library and information services and documenting resources in the visual arts. Their 2011 conference title was Weaving New Futures: Collaboration and Reinvention in the Digital Age. Trustee Al Garthwaite presented an extract from one of the films held by FAN, Yorkshire Women of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and showed pictures of some of FAN's diverse posters, t-shirts and badges, while describing their origins and analysing and contextualising their message. She also displayed 1990's khatwa (embroidered textiles) from Homeworkers Worldwide's donation to FAN, a 1970's t-shirt with the slogan No! To Male Violence, and a framed poster promoting attendance at Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp in 1982. The presentation was well received by the 75 approx. art librarians present, 80% of whom were women, and provoked 15-minutes of questions and discussion. This was an excellent opportunity to promote the Feminist Archive to a very relevant audience.

### **International Women's Day**

An exhibition on feminist activism (newsletters, posters, t-shirts and badges) was held on International Women's Day March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012, at Leeds University.

### **Use of the Archive**

The archive continues to be well used. Some researchers request material which FAN vols dig out and the researchers then access via Special Collections. Some briefer enquiries FAN vols look up and answer. We have devised a form to record these requests and their purpose.

### **Fundraising**

Individual volunteers agreed to fund raise for FAN and Standing Orders from supporters provided the source of funds for the purchase of archiving materials this year.