

SET UP A FEMINIST GROUP

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WHY START A FEMINIST GROUP?

- Organise winning campaigns
- Tackle local issues
- Influence local and national politics
- Support national campaigns
- Friendship and solidarity

EFFECTIVE FEMINIST GROUPS ARE:

ACTIVE & STRATEGIC
FUN! » INCLUSIVE «
INFORMED

Getting Started

1. Set up an email address, Facebook group and Twitter account – so people can share it
2. Organise your first meeting
3. Choose a name for your group!

WRITE YOUR GROUP DETAILS HERE:

GROUP NAME:

TWITTER:

FACEBOOK:

EMAIL:

• RECRUIT • MEMBERS

How you go about recruiting members will depend on whether you are setting up your group in a school, university, workplace or in your local community.

Here are some ways to consider:

- ✓ Ask your friends or fellow students
- ✓ Advertise through feminist media and networks
- ✓ Contact local women's organisations
- ✓ Put up posters
- ✓ Organise an event
- ✓ Send out a press release
- ✓ Book a stall at your student union's Freshers Fair
- ✓ Give a presentation during your school's assembly

Decide how to WORK TOGETHER

How members organise together will be key to the success of your group. Find an organising structure that works for you. Here are some issues to consider:

ROLES

There will be various roles that need filling on an ongoing basis and around one-off actions. There are different ways you can do this:

- A Divide up and allocate tasks as and when they arise.
- B Formalise ongoing roles, such as chair, secretary and treasurer.

DECISION MAKING

For many day-to-day decisions you may find there is unanimous agreement. For some, however, there will be differing opinions and you will need a process for arriving at collective decisions.

There are different ways of achieving this:

- **Voting:** The option receiving the majority of votes is selected.
- **Consensus:** This is a process that aims to find common ground and solutions that everyone finds acceptable. Find out more at www.seedsforchange.org.uk.

Constitution: You may want to adopt a constitution or set of values and beliefs which act as the bedrock of your group's decisions.

RUN EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

Bringing about fundamental social change takes a bit of planning... and meetings are a chance to do just that.

- ? **What:** Meetings can have different functions - such as planning, learning about issues, and taking action. Try to vary your meetings so they're not always the same.
- ? **When:** Try to meet as regularly as possible but be realistic about what you can manage. Pick a regular day and time and then stick to it.
- ? **Where:** Ensure the venue you choose is accessible for disabled members and suitable for what the meeting's function is. Try to find a venue served by good transport links and that is as welcoming and inclusive as possible.

WRITE DOWN THE DATE, TIME & VENUE
OF YOUR FIRST MEETING:

PRE-MEETING PLANNING

Before you meet, decide on:

- ✓ The aims of the meeting
- ✓ The agenda
- ✓ Resources you will need
- ✓ Activities you will run
- ✓ How you will follow up after the meeting

EFFECTIVE MEETINGS ARE:

WELL ORGANISED

ENJOYABLE

OPEN & ACCESSIBLE

PARTICIPATIVE

CHOOSE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

Effective communications in-between meetings will help keep members informed and interested and will also be useful in coordinating meetings and actions.

Pick the methods that suit your group, but choose carefully – everyone needs to be kept in the loop but you don't want to overload people with emails and Facebook messages.

...Enjoy!