

04/03/2013

PRESS RELEASE

Are women 'Getting a Fair Share' at work?

Childcare in Northern Ireland costs nearly half (44%) the average income, compared to 33% in GB and 12% across the EU.

Around half of all parents and two-thirds of mothers say that this has influenced the hours that they work.



This issue, along with other factors that impact on women's economic independence, is due to be discussed at the '[Getting A Fair Share](#)' conference, organised by the Equality Commission on March 6, 2013 at Riddel Hall, Belfast.

Chief Commissioner Michael Wardlow said: "We have decided to hold this major discussion in the week that marks International Women's Day. We are conscious that gender inequality still exists. Nearly one in three complaints to us relate to discrimination against women. The time is right to ask the question: 'Are Women Getting A Fair Share?' and we mean a fair share in terms of jobs, career choice, life opportunities. These are all important areas that impact on women's economic independence."

The Conference sees the release of details of a new study from the Commission: '[Childcare: Maximising the Economic Participation of Women](#)'.

Mr Wardlow added: "We will never realise the full and equal participation of women in our economy unless we ensure that adequate and affordable childcare, flexible work arrangements and paid parental leave are available to all".

Also speaking at the event will be Tracy Meharg, Executive Director of InvestNI, who will reflect on the challenges and opportunities facing women in business and female entrepreneurs; Bronagh Hinds, Senior Associate with DemocraShe, who will examine women's position in the economy and the impact of the recession; Adrienne Peltz, President of the National Union of Students and Union of Students in Ireland, who will talk about the issues facing women in further and higher education and Lynn Carvill, of the Women's Research and Development Agency, who will highlight some key concerns about the impact the Government's welfare reform proposals may have on women's economic autonomy.

This discussion will be the first of a series around Northern Ireland over the coming months; it will inform our Shadow Report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in Northern Ireland as well as our ongoing work with policy-makers and Government. This will include our contribution to the Northern Ireland Executive's mid-term review of its Gender Equality Strategy. To join in the discussion go to www.equalityni.org or use **#herfairshare** on Twitter.

'Getting a fair share?' - [Conference Programme](#)

'Getting a fair share?' - [webpage](#)>