

MSc in Gender rights and development (post graduate module)

As part of the University of Glasgow's Social Science Faculty's push to build a number of broader ranging post-graduate courses, the Active Learning Centre staff worked with Chris Corrin, Professor of Feminist Studies, to develop this module. The course was wide ranging, analysing current aid delivery, debt and poverty reduction strategies from a gender perspective. Further topics looked at trade and the role of the

World Trade Organisation (WTO) in the continuing poverty of rural women. The course went on to contrast needs- and rights-based approaches to the practice of social development. Here we discussed international conventions, the law and the role custom and religion play in shaping women's lives across the world. The final section looked at civil organisations as agents of change and development.

Government relations with NGOs and civil society

From January to April the Active Learning Centre, with the University of Glasgow, was host to 11 students from 10 different countries. Specially selected and sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Chevening Fellows are all mid-career professionals working in NGOs or the departments of government responsible for civil society relations with government. In Glasgow, the Fellows followed a programme of study which had the dual focus of civil society/government relations and equality and diversity issues. Lecturers were drawn from Glasgow University and the Active Learning Centre and also from the Centre

for Civil Society at the London School of Economics. The programme included visits to the Scottish Parliament, the Charity Commission and a wide range of NGOs working in Scotland. During the latter part of their studies the fellows were all allocated a placement in an NGO or a government department and these provided excellent learning experiences. One participant said during the evaluation: "I am really glad I came on the programme. I've learnt a lot about things I am going to do in my country...it's made me think about how to work in partnership with the town council back home".



Chevening Fellows enjoy a day out

Turkey: women's rights and the campaign against honour killings

The Active Learning Centre staff have acted as consultants to this Foreign and Commonwealth Office funded, British Council managed project. The aim was to mobilise society in the South East of Turkey to fight against killings carried out in the name of family honour. The primary target groups were state officials and key professionals. During the campaign, significant changes were achieved in the development of cooperation between professionals. There was

evidence that they had worked together to protect those at risk and although there is some way to go before this cooperation is institutionalised, there is a willingness to continue to collaborate. A further target was the general public which was exposed to a sustained and successful publicity campaign in the print and broadcast media and on billboards and posters. The campaign achieved small but significant shifts in public opinion in just a few weeks.

People

Anne Brown and Larry Sullivan
Media trainers

Usha Brown
Research fellow, ethnicity, discrimination and poverty

Professor Noreen Burrows
Dean of Faculty of Law and Financial Studies, University of Glasgow

Dr Chris Edwards
Economist, Honorary Fellow, University of East Anglia

Brenda Graham
Administrator and business manager, The Active Learning Centre

Dr Martin Greeley
Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Ann Hamilton
Chief Executive's Office, Glasgow City Council, Zero Tolerance Campaign

Professor Jude Howell
Civil society specialist, Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics

Dr Armine Ishkanian
Anthropologist, civil society specialist, Centre for Civil Society at the London School of Economics

Lynette Jordan
Community development specialist and external examiner to The Active Learning Centre's accredited programme, Department of Continuing and Adult Education, University of Glasgow

Irene Kitson
Member of the Institute of Directors, Employment tribunal member, Justice Edinburgh District Court

Dr Christopher Kyriakides
Sociologist, race specialist, University of Glasgow

Gil Long
Social policy analyst and co-director of The Active Learning Centre

Kate Phillips
Social development specialist & co-director of The Active Learning Centre

Professor Mona Siddiqui
Specialist in Islamic Law, Head of Theology and Religious studies, University of Glasgow

Joseph Simekha
Development specialist in poverty reduction and civil society

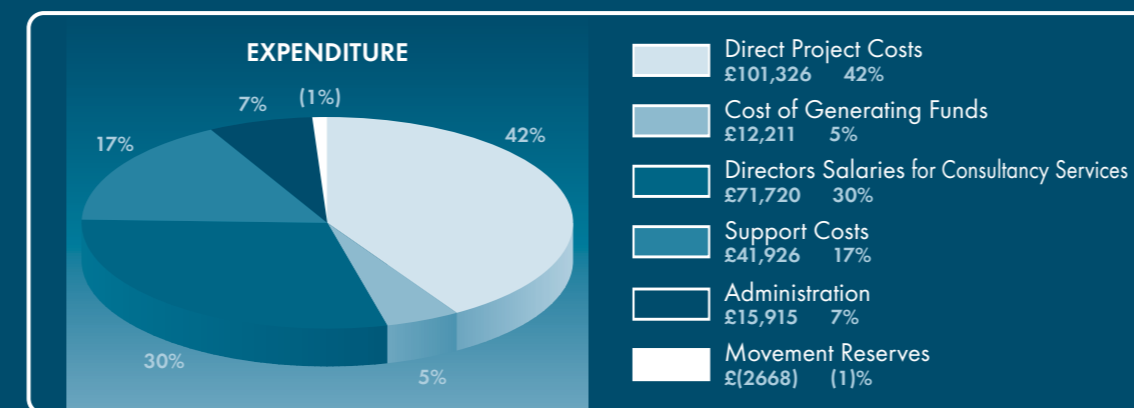
Mark Sinclair
International consultant on non-governmental organisations

Bob Turner
Lecturer in Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow

The Active Learning Centre wishes to acknowledge the work of our partners, especially the valuable volunteer work of all the adult educators we have trained this year and also the support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (funders of the Chevening Programme) and our partnerships with the British Council in developing our work.

Thanks are also due to the members of the Board of Management of the Active Learning Centre for their support and advice. Board members are: Chris Edwards, Lynette Jordan, Kathy Maclachlan, Esther Quinn and Bob Turner.

Funding and finances



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the active
learning centre

Annual Review
September 2004 - August 2005

For over ten years the Active Learning Centre has offered research and needs analysis, consultancy and training in key areas of governance including:

- Gender and gender mainstreaming
- Developing strategies to advocate and implement the rights of women and children
- Democracy building, election training and support to elected representatives
- Understanding poverty, anti-poverty strategies and rights-based approaches to poverty reduction
- Building civil organisations and their input into policy making, developing government/non-governmental relations
- Combating corruption

The Active Learning Centre specialises in:

- Participative training methods
- Design and writing of educational materials
- Training trainers to maximise sustainability

This year the Active Learning Centre has provided consultancy services to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the British Council, UNESCO rights and poverty programmes, the UK's Department for International Development, the Scottish Trade Union Council and Interact Pakistan.

Rights, democracy and political skills in Ethiopia

"I never thought my vote would make any difference. I told my family to register... I informed all my relatives. I encouraged our neighbours to vote freely. I was so pleased to take part", commented a participant in one of the 250 workshops that took place in different regions of Ethiopia over a three year period, culminating in the May 2005 elections for federal and regional parliaments. The Active Learning Centre staff have acted as consultants and trainers of trainers in this Foreign and Commonwealth Office sponsored programme. The first phase of the project focused on rights and voter education for women and the second on election skills training for women candidates and monitoring procedures for NGO observers.

The eight political parties and three NGOs that co-operated in the project contributed to an election in which women made their mark: over 85 per cent of Ethiopians registered to vote and 48 per cent of these were women, a much higher proportion than on previous occasions. Some parties and coalitions adopted affirmative action measures and the number of women standing for election to the federal and regional parliaments increased by 178 and 152 per cent respectively. At the evaluation meeting women recounted how the workshops had brought women together, encouraged them to discuss, debate and



"We know a better life is possible" trainer working in Ethiopia

speak out and strengthened their position within the parties. Others spoke about how becoming one of the 193 trainers had given them status and recognition in their communities. In total, 6,608 women took part. The final word on the project came from one of the trainers: *"It's a contribution in the struggle towards freedom, speaking about rights without a gun, as a result we know a better life is possible."*

Training for women parliamentarians in Zanzibar

This course was the final event in a four year involvement by the Active Learning Centre as consultants to a British Council sponsored capacity building programme for women parliamentarians in Tanzania which included visits by UK and Scottish MPs to constituencies in Tanzania and visits by Tanzanian MPs to the UK. The Active Learning Centre worked with Computer Aid to ensure each member of parliament had a working desk top. This final course was intended to prepare MPs of all parties for fighting elections and included all the techniques for listening to the public, building issue-based campaigns, identifying the voters and ensuring their turn-out at the polling stations. The whole programme showed how necessary it is for women MPs to build a political base.



Talking about the issues

Syria and Pakistan: capacity building for NGOs

In Syria the NGO sector is only just emerging. In collaboration with the British Council, the Active Learning Centre designed and delivered a series of three workshops on strategic management, monitoring and evaluation and advocacy and lobbying. Newly formed organisations working on rural development, environmental issues, disability, women's economic development and youth employment were among those that attended.

As consultants to Interact Pakistan, the Active Learning Centre worked with six consortia of NGOs, working in different provinces, who are responsible for the

delivery of HIV/AIDS awareness and other services. Many of these organisations are also relatively newly formed and struggling with issues of strategic direction, the development of boards of governance and the management of newly recruited staff. What is the board responsible for, what does transparency really mean in the context of NGOs and who are they accountable to? These are some of the questions that the participants debated during the four day workshop. The final afternoon was spent in discussion of a set of good governance guidelines, written by the Active Learning Centre, which the consortia and their members are intending to adopt.



Good governance for NGOs

One workplace equal rights: action research

Unions are there to represent all workers and part of their job is to ensure that workplaces treat people fairly. Some groups, however, continue to face discrimination. The Scottish Executive funds the One Workplace Programme as part of their One Scotland Campaign which focuses on the integration of diverse groups into the mainstream of Scottish life. What unions can do to ensure implementation of the law

and best practice in achieving equality is the subject of an action research project which is being conducted by the Active Learning Centre on behalf of the Scottish Trade Union Council (STUC). Union representatives from a number of different unions are carrying out mini research projects in their own workplaces to try to identify barriers and best practice in instituting equalities.



Action research to identify good practice

Poverty workshops



Team work

The Active Learning Centre continues to offer poverty workshops to staff from the Department for International Development (DFID) focusing on the concepts and measurement of poverty, poverty reduction strategies, globalisation and poverty reduction, gender, governance, rights-based approaches to poverty reduction and methods of delivering aid. This year courses have been mounted for DFID's staff in London and East Kilbride and participants from offices in Bangkok, Indonesia and Vietnam met in Hanoi to work together for the three days.

Girls' education and training

The Active Learning Centre has continued to act as the advocacy consultant on this large scale project which aims to offer training to 13,000 girls in three of the poorest provinces in China. In Yunnan, Gansu and Sichuan, where girls frequently drop out of school because of economic and cultural pressures, the aim of the advocacy strategy is to promote the rights of girls to education and equality of opportunity. Members of the All China Women's Federation and project staff are targeting parents, girls, teachers and government officials through lobbying, publicity and a media campaign.



Advocating for girls' rights to education