



the *active*
learning centre



Annual Review

August 2009 - September 2010

○ Active Learning Centre recent publications

All the publications are available on our website www.activelearningcentre.org



Kate Phillips, *Women, parliaments and poverty reduction in Malawi, 2011.*



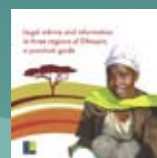
Kate Phillips with assistance from Linda Kabwato and Bertha Sefu, *Women in the Malawi Parliament, 2010.*



Catriona Burness, *In Search of 50 / 50, A Scottish Perspective on Women and Parliament, March 2010.*



Susan Dalgety and Danny Phillips, *Women and Power, The impact of women ministers on post-devolution Scotland (1999-2007), March 2010.*



Gil Long, Tsige Alemayehu, Ruth Soloman, Seife Ayalew, Yidneckachew Ayele and Abdi Nasser, *Legal advice and information in Ethiopia a practical guide, September 2011.*



Evaluation Women's Rights and Advocacy Project December 2008 – March 2011.



Catriona Burness, *Women and Parliaments in the UK, 2010.*



Catriona Burness, *Women and Parliaments in the UK, revised July 2011.*

○ Working for democracy and rights

Since 1993 we have been building democratic participation and supporting human rights through research and education with civil organisations, their members and elected representatives.

Activities this year included; researching the impact of women MPs on social and welfare policy, workshops to strengthen MPs relationships with communities and support for women's role in parliaments. More information about all of our recent activities can be found at www.activelearningcentre.org.



○ Women's role in parliaments

Work with women MPs in Malawi

The Scottish Government supported work with women MPs in Malawi. Educational material developed by the centre 'Tools for Democracy Building' was distributed to all women MPs. An exchange with visiting Scottish MSPs was organised and all 42 women MPs attended weekend workshops about developing dialogue with their communities about Malawi's development programme. MPs then conducted community meetings where women voiced concerns about development priorities.

Research on women's political empowerment and poverty

Our research with MPs in Malawi and Scotland highlighted women's powerless position in household and community, which undermines clean water and agricultural development programmes and affects the spread of HIV. MPs understand these problems but have limited capacity to ensure change. Funds from the British Government's DELPHE programme helped the Centre to record and share these findings at a workshop in Calcutta.

The Centre also published an updating of research by Catriona Burness, reviewing the position of women in the four UK parliaments. This research was funded by Rowntree.

Training for women MPs in Ethiopia

One third of those elected to the Ethiopian Federal Parliament in 2010 were women. With the British Council, Susan Dalgety and Danny Phillips trained 30 women representatives who have carried out gender training for male colleagues, developed a mentoring scheme for new representatives and are now training women in the regional parliaments.



MPs conducted community meetings



Members of Parliament trained as trainers in Ethiopia

○ Rights in poor communities

This year we maintained a number of partnerships in Africa to develop rights campaigns and train volunteers in poor communities.

Legal advice and information in Ethiopia

DFID has funded this collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights in Addis Ababa University which offers legal advice and information to the poorest groups. Law students and activists have been trained as paralegals and have dealt with 1600 cases this year. In addition, radio programmes raise awareness of rights and advertise the availability of advice services.

Rights advice and information in Malawi

A sister project in Malawi, with Malawi Centre for Research and Education on Rights and the British Council, published legal guides and training programmes and in December a training of trainers built the capacity of 60 paralegals who are now working in two advice centres. These centres have dealt with 450 cases since January.

Women's Rights and Advocacy in Malawi

In March the 3 year programme to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to advocate women's rights ended with a detailed evaluation of its work. A variety of methodologies were used; community education meetings, developing radio broadcasts, publishing and distributing written information. An estimated 5,700 people attended community events with music, drama and talks to illustrate specific issues. Benefits included chiefs and community leaders who are much better informed. These Malawi programmes were funded by the Scottish Government.



Practising interviewing skills: training for paralegals in Malawi

○ Partnership with local government

The partnership with local government in Iran

This year we resumed exchanges with local government in Iran to strengthen public participation in the renovation of cities. Consultants from Scotland held a number of workshops in Iran exploring public participation in development. These were attended by planning officials, community workers, consultants and students. Sessions in Iran were followed up with a visit to Scotland by a delegation from Tehran, led by the city's head of planning. The programme in Scotland included visits to Glasgow City Council, Clydebank Rebuilt and East End renewal programmes, as well as workshops and lectures at the University of Glasgow.



Workshops in Iran

○ The Active Learning Centre

Company status

The Active Learning Centre is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Scotland (registration number 147783). The Active Learning Centre is a recognised Scottish Charity, (charity reference number SC022963). The Board of Directors is drawn from members of the Active Learning Centre.

Board of Directors

Board members give their time and expertise to the Centre during the year:

Kathy Mc Neil

A literacy specialist, previously with the Department of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE), University of Glasgow.

Mike Dailly

Principal solicitor at Govan Law Centre, a free community legal service.

Bob Hay

Currently with the Students Representative Council of Glasgow University.

Dr Geraldine Mc Donald

Researched the oil industry in Angola and the environmental impact of gold mining.

Susan Dalgety

A journalist with lots of political experience gathered in Scotland and overseas.

Esther Quinn

Retired trade union official, currently working on a record of women's activism in unions.

Lynette Jordan

Teacher and researcher of Community Development Practice, in the School of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE).

Brenda Graham

Former financial and office manager at the Active Learning Centre.

Helen Martin

Lecturer, with expertise in capacity building with volunteers and activists.

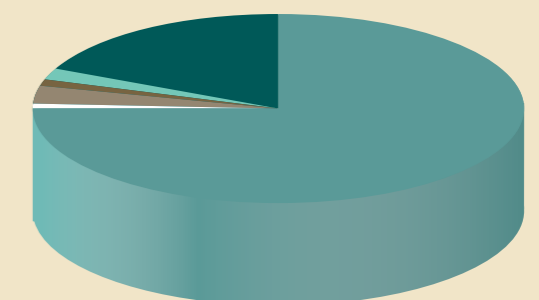
Danny Phillips

Former political advisor to the Scottish Government with expertise in child poverty, homelessness and rights advice.

○ Partners and Funding

The Active Learning Centre acknowledges the support of its funders: the Department for International Development, the Scottish Government and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

We are aware that our work depends on a number of partnerships overseas, the British Council in Ethiopia and Malawi; the Malawi Centre for Research and Education on Rights and the volunteer members of the Rights Advice Centres team; the Office of the Ombudsman, Malawi; the Centre for Human Rights Addis Ababa University, the Women's Caucus and their staff in the Malawi Parliament, the planning department in Tehran City Council and the community liaison staff and volunteers in the Oudlajan community office in Tehran.



● Direct Project Costs	£389014	(111%)
● Cost of Generating Funds	£7395	(2%)
● Directors Salaries for Consultancy Services	£22185	(6%)
● Support Costs	£7825	(2%)
● Administration	£10046	(3%)
● Movement Reserves	-£86892	(-24%)