



# 'CHAMPIONING WOMEN'

**Women's Senior Executive Network Conference**

**One Day Conference  
Friday 25 January 2008  
Stormont Hotel, Belfast**



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It is important for us all to work towards creating a fundamental shift in society's perception of the roles of women and men. As such government has made gender equality—and tackling the causes of gender inequality—one of its priorities. It has said it will strive to ensure the mainstreaming of gender equality into all policy areas and all aspects of service delivery. In committing itself to implement the 'Gender Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland 2006–2016', government has said it is looking forward to positive improvements.

'Championing Women' is an opportunity for women senior managers and others to consider the Gender Equality Strategy, its outworking in policy and service delivery, and how its underpinning principles and objectives can best be realized. As such the conference is an important opportunity for women senior executives—people who clearly have a stake in seeing the strategy's aims being achieved—and who, given their often influential roles within the machinery of government, are in positions where they can make things happen and make a difference.

The conference is being organized by the Chief Executives' Forum in co-operation the Gender, Age and Sexual Orientation Unit in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE), the Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics, Queen's University Belfast (CAWP) and the Women in Local Government Initiative.



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

9.45 **Registration**  
Tea and coffee will be served on arrival

### SESSION 1: GOVERNMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

10.30 **Setting the Scene**  
Welcome and introductory remarks: Roisín McDonough, Chief Executive, Arts Council for Northern Ireland and Chair, Women Chief Executives' Group; Eileen Sung, Gender & Sexual Orientation Branch, OFMDFM

10.45 **Northern Ireland Executive Spokesperson**

11.15 **Bernie Kelly, Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast**

11.40 **Northern Ireland Executive Spokesperson**

12.10 **Questions from the Floor**

12.30 **Lunch**

### SESSION 2: MOVING FORWARD WITH AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE

1.30 **Panel Discussion** with perspectives from:

- Naomi Long MLA, Deputy Chairperson, Committee for the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland Assembly
- Professor Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
- Dr Margaret Ward, Director, Women's Resource & Development Agency
- Dr Yvonne Galligan, Director, Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics, Queen's University Belfast
- Geraldine McGahey, Chief Executive, Larne Borough Council and Women in Local Councils SOLACE Champion

2.30 **Workshop Discussion**

3.30 **Plenary Feedback**

4.00 **Summary and Conclusions**  
Closing remarks from the panel, conclusions and next steps

4.15 **Close**

