**Salford CVS Annual Conference**

**30th October 2024**

**Salford Community Stadium**

Afternoon workshop: **Climate Equality Diversity and Inclusion**

Number of attendees: **25**

Facilitator: **Ella Bulbeck**

Panel members: **Judy Ling Wong- Black Environment Network, Kalie Weninger -Womenkind Worldwide, Dr Emma Geen – Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership**

Panel speaker notes: **Bethan Kelly**

Focus: “How Environmental actions can lead to social justice”

**Judy Ling Wong - Black Environment Network**

Judy, the honorary president of the Black Environment Network, discussed the network's founding in 1987 to integrate ethnic minorities into the environmental sector. She emphasised the importance of co-creating projects that address social, cultural, and economic dimensions, such as planting trees in urban areas to improve air quality and lower temperatures.

**Outline**

* The organisation aims to integrate ethnic minorities into the mainstream environmental movement through collaboration and expertise sharing.
* Emphasis on facilitating access to environmental sites for ethnic minorities living in urban, deprived areas to foster a connection with nature.
* Successful projects co-created with the environmental sector and community groups, addressing immediate needs and making a significant impact on participants' lives.

**Principles of Inclusive Environmental Projects**

Judy highlighted the importance of integrating social, cultural, and economic dimensions into environmental projects to ensure inclusivity.

Gave example of planting trees in urban areas to improve air quality and temperature, rather than just in rural settings.

Highlighted the need for expert advice from environmental organisations to design effective projects.

Judy also raised the spiritual and economic benefits of connecting with nature, including the need to increase job opportunities in the green economy.

**Making Inclusive Policy Visible**

Judy stressed the importance of making green jobs policy visible and connecting with communities to unlock benefits and contributions.

Advocates for representation, engagement, and provision in policy-making to ensure ethnic minorities' voices are heard.

Emphasised the need for welcoming environments and providing the necessary information for effective community involvement.

Highlighted the role of large organisations in transforming environments and the importance of inclusive policy at all levels.

**Kalie Weninger- WomenKind Worldwide**

Kalie from WomenKind Worldwide, introduces WomenKind Worldwide, a women's rights organisation based in London, focusing on feminist partnerships and climate justice. She highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, particularly in the Global South, and the need for inclusive policy and funding. Emma stressed the importance of disability inclusion in climate action, advocating for accessible public transport and removing barriers. The discussion underscored the need for bottom-up and top-down approaches to create inclusive and effective environmental initiatives.

**WomenKind Worldwide's Work on Climate Justice:**

* The organisation works in six focus countries: Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Nepal, and Afghanistan, supporting women's rights organisations and feminist movements.
* Emphasises the intersection of women's rights and climate justice, highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women.
* Provides examples of emergency response grants and project support for women-led climate justice advocacy, including safe shelter placement and legal support for women affected by land seizures.

**Calls to action:**

Support women-led climate organisations and activists, and mainstream gender in climate programming.

Ensure that women, especially those from the Global South and minority ethnic backgrounds, are represented in decision-making and consulted on climate policies and initiatives.

Provide long-term, flexible funding to women's rights organisations working on climate justice.

**Dr Emma Geen – Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership**

Further to the morning Keynote, Emma wanted to focus on the running and facilitation of Climate action panels and focus groups for marginalised communities across Bristol in line with the ethos “Nothing about us without us”.

The panels and focus groups ensure a range of intersectional voices that are representative, ensuring not giving voice to just one small subsection of disability in the room/ at the table.

**Main areas of focus for us all to consider:**

* Remove existing barriers, currently blocking Disabled People to access society.
* Not to shame or punish when Disabled People are not able to make the most environmental choice e.g. single use plastic medical equipment.
* Enable and create space
* Ensure climate change language does not exclude or “lock people out”. Plain and simple English needed.

**Q and A**

**Q: Janice from Salford Loaves and Fishes**

**“How to engage with Service Users with multiple challenges”**

Kalie: Make space to discuss what they want, their experiences and their priorities.

Emma: Look to connect with their values and look at where they might be thriving.

Judy: Ensure we mix in enjoyment with contribution, provide access to beautiful places, so they can see the enjoyment and beauty of nature.

Workshops targeting families: ask what can we do for you?

**Q: How do Womenkind choose Countries to work with.**

Kalie: Look at funding, what areas are under resourced, look at depth of impact not breadth. Not always where there is the most need but where can do the best with the resources WomenKind can have.

**Q: Jack at Mustard Tree**

**“How do you balance fear and hope around Climate Change”**

Emma: Ensure spaces are welcome to everyone.

Kalie: Hope draws to action and can drive progress; however, fear is justified as there is a need for climate anxiety but recognise that can be overwhelming.

Judy: Not to shy away from a combination of both, not only survive but thrive. Use storytelling, bring together experts in climate and leaders in the community.

Follow up question…

**“How to convince activists to talk about hope”**

Bring them into wider conversations to hear differing viewpoints.

Ethos of striving for all to do better not perfection.

Review climate actions.