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Kent

ONLINE WORKSHOP: *The Power of Objects: Using Material Culture to Promote and Preserve the Past and Current Activism of Your Organisation*

Saturday 18th May 2024, 10am-12noon

Workshop Facilitator: Donna Gilligan, museum curator and material culture historian, Scéal Heritage Consultancy. <https://scealheritage.com/>

This online workshop is a unique opportunity for members of our AHRC international research network **Women's Grassroots Activism** participating organisations: the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA), the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) and the Soroptimists International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI).

The workshop will focus on **the material culture of the organisations – the objects created and used by the past and present members**. It will explore the objects and heritage associated with female activism, and the ways which these can be **utilised by organisations to raise awareness of their work and encourage new members and collaborations**.

Members will learn more about using and caring for the material culture from their collections, including:

- Learning about what to keep and collect to tell the story of the organisation
- How to promote the work of the organisation through engaging object-based projects
- How to use material culture to create a tangible legacy for the organisation
- Long-term care and storage of your objects
- Examples and case studies of low-cost, high impact material culture projects which promote and celebrate women's history and activism

The workshop will include lots of examples and case studies to guide participants in future work with their objects, as well as identifying other resources for more information and examples. There will also be opportunities to ask questions. The workshop is open only to members of the ICA, NFWI and SIGBI and there will be opportunities for members attending to ask questions specific to their own archives and concerns regarding the material culture of their local organisation. The workshop will be limited to c.100 members attending. This workshop links directly to the aims of our project which is to make more visible the work of these three leading women's organisations, to foreground the legacy of each group in campaigning for gender equality and to help safeguard and sustain future activism and legacy through the preservation and innovative use of local material culture.