

## **Report from Women's Forum**

Recently we, the Chairs of the Liberation Forums (myself for Women's, Caroline Butterwick for Disabled and Marc Rogers for LGBT and Rochelle on behalf of the BME), have been building a stronger Liberation movement within the university, by working together to create cohesion and understanding for each other's issues. We have been working with the other forums to create workshops and activities together which will happen later this month.

The Women's Forum have been working hard to create a safe and trusting environment within the forum so that those who attend the forum will feel comfortable to express themselves freely. To achieve this we have had weekly meetings where we have debated many issues that affect women.

We have recently been dealing with the blatant disdain that the Student Council has shown the Women's Forum regarding to the previous issue brought to council. This had led to many of our regular members feeling a high a level of distrust towards the council, as they feel like the council sees the Women's Forum as a "collection of crazy women complaining" and that the council doesn't take the Women's Forum seriously. The fallout of this has been a swift drop of our members.

I, the Chair, have been in contact with Ray Elks the Corporate & Community Partnership Manager at Arch (North Staffs) to discuss how we will raise money for the Women's Forum's chosen charity Elizabeth House, the local women's shelter. He raised the topic of also getting the Women's Forum to sponsor Julia House refuge.

I have also been in contact with Kelley Temple, the NUS Women's Officer, regarding NUS Women's Conference 2013 and her coming down to lead a workshop on behalf of the Women's Forum in the activities that Liberation forums will be having later this month.