

# Equality, Inclusion and Action in Adult Education

WEA Conference 2011

**Friday 28th October**  
**East Midlands Conference Centre**  
**University of Nottingham**

A one day conference on the role of adult education in building a bigger and better society.

Speakers include:

- David Hughes, NIACE Chief Executive
- Dame Pauline Green, President of the International Co-operative Alliance
- Richard Wilkinson, co-author of 'The Spirit Level'

A choice of sixteen workshop sessions, including:

- Tom Wilson, Director of unionlearn
- Henry Tam, writer and policy expert in democratic engagement
- Peter Bradley former MP, and Chief Executive of Speakers' Corner Trust
- WEA workshops on running educational projects for equality, inclusion and community involvement.

**Plus a conference address from John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning.**

Supported by:



**WEA**



LearningforLife



## Speakers

### **Dame Pauline Green,**

President of the International Co-operative Alliance; former MEP and

leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party and of the Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists, and former Chief Executive of Co-operatives UK



### **Richard Wilkinson,**

co-author of *The Spirit Level* and Professor Emeritus of social epidemiology at the University of Nottingham



**David Hughes,** the new Chief Executive of NIACE

**Henry Tam,** writer on political and public policy issues, visiting professor at Birkbeck, London University, associate of the Faculty of Education, Cambridge University

**Alastair Clark,** Programme Manager, NIACE

**Titus Alexander,** Head of Policy and Research at the Novas Scarman Group and Convenor of Democracy Matters

**Peter Bradley** Chief Executive of the Speakers' Corner Trust

Further session leaders will include Gary Copitch of People's Voice Media, Cheryl Turner of NIACE and Derek Tatton of the Raymond Williams Foundation

Experienced WEA adult educators will also be involved, including Mel Lenehan, Jol Miskin, Ian Standish, Mary Moss, Harjinder Kang, Andria Birch and others

# Equality, Inclusion and Action in Adult Education

28 October, 9.00am – 4.00pm

**East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham**

A day to explore the role of adult education in the development of a bigger and better society. The conference will include keynote addresses from specialists in the fields of adult education, community cohesion, social justice, equality and cooperation.

Delegates can choose from sixteen participative workshops ranging from Speakers' Corner Trust who are helping individuals to find a voice, to People's Voice Media offering tips on using social media as a tool for democratic engagement and community empowerment.

Published authors outline contemporary thinking on matters of equality and education, and the day includes examples of outstanding practice from the WEA and partner organisations.

The conference is arranged around the following themes:

- **Social action and campaigning**

Explore how adult learning can move beyond the development of skills to encompass a wider social purpose and explore how it can inspire and help people become active citizens.

- **Inclusion and diversity**

Understand successful approaches to engage learners from all communities and backgrounds to ensure that the needs and interests of potentially excluded groups can be met.

- **Volunteering**

Find out about successful recent practice of developing volunteers in adult education - including digital activists who help people get online and 'learning champions' approaches where volunteers inspire others to get back into education.

- **Partnership and cooperation**

Discover the enormous added value successful partnerships bring to adult learning, from small community based partners to large national organisations such as the Co-op.

*Speakers and workshops are subject to change.*

### Conference contact:

**Maria Chica, Conference Secretary**

**WEA, 4 Luke Street,  
London EC2A 4XW**

**020 7426 3486**

**[mchica@wea.org.uk](mailto:mchica@wea.org.uk)**

# Programme



- 09.00** **Conference and morning workshop registration.**  
Tea and coffee available.
- 10.00** **Welcome from the WEA and the Co-op:** Richard Bolsin WEA  
General Secretary and Pauline Green: International Co-operative Alliance
- Richard Wilkinson, Professor Emeritus of Social Epidemiology,  
University of Nottingham and co-author of The Spirit Level
- 11.00** **Workshops Session A:** choice of four sessions.
- 11.45** **Workshops Session B:** choice of four sessions. Tea and coffee available.
- 12.30** **Lunch.** Afternoon workshop registration.
- 13.30** **Workshops Session C:** choice of four sessions.
- 14.15** **Workshops Session D:** choice of four sessions. Tea and coffee available.
- 15.00** **Keynote address:** David Hughes, Chief Executive of NIACE
- Panel:** 'Equality, Inclusion and Action in Adult Education'
- Video address:** John Hayes MP: Minister for Further Education,  
Skills and Lifelong Learning
- Closing comments
- 15.45** **Close of conference**

## Travelling to East Midlands Conference Centre

### By Car

Easy access from the M1. East Midlands Conference Centre is located in the University of Nottingham Park Campus. The closest entrance is the West Entrance on the A6464 Woodside Road. Other entrances to the University park are situated off Beeston Road, Clifton Boulevard and Derby Road. The Conference Centre is well signposted once you are on campus. The University of Nottingham operates a pay and display car parking scheme. Conference delegates will be issued a complimentary parking voucher from the Conference Centre on arrival or departure. A map is available on the venue website at: [www.nottinghamconferences.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamconferences.co.uk)

### By Train

The nearest mainline station is Nottingham station. The Conference Centre is a 15 minute taxi ride from the station. The Conference Centre is not easy walking distance from the station.

### By Bus

There are buses running from Nottingham town centre to each of the main University campus entrances. Please note it is a large campus and it is not advisable to attempt to bus unless you have allowed plenty of time, and are fit and able to walk the distance from the bus stop to the venue.



# Equality, Inclusion and Action in Adult Education morning workshops include:

## Tackling race inequality through adult education

**Ian Standish:** TRIF Project Manager for the WEA

Introducing a two-year WEA project across England, funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government, to deliver adult learning with a focus on tackling race inequality. The project used active citizenship education to remove barriers to participation for Black and Minority Ethnic communities. Come and meet those involved in running the project and hear about the positive impacts, first-hand from the learners.

## New Models of volunteering in adult learning: Community Learning Champions

**Helen Plant:** Senior Project Officer NIACE

The WEA has played a crucial part in the national Community Learning Champions (CLC) programme. CLCs are people who want to share their excitement about learning with friends, neighbours, colleagues and across their communities. Since 2009 over 2,000 CLCs have reached 100,000 people in local communities. This workshop explains the CLC programme, learns from the experiences of local CLCs, and asks 'What is the role is for CLCs?'

## Eurolink 2011: Live international online digital workshop

**Alastair Clarke:** NIACE Programme Manager,  
**Andria Birch:** WEA Project Manager for DAIN.

DAIN is the Digital Activist Inclusion Network based in the UK - named as an example of good practice in the European Year of Volunteering 2011. DAIN trains and supports unemployed volunteers to help others to start using the internet. Building on the success of Eurolink 2010, join the workshop for Eurolink 2011 at the conference, featuring a live digital link-up between Nottingham and Belgium, where volunteers working in digital inclusion will share experiences and overcome barriers of distance using the internet.

## Giving a voice to communities through social media: The work of People's Voice Media

**Gary Copitch:** Chief Executive People's Voice Media

This session will explore the work of Peoples Voice Media, a not for profit community development organisation working across the UK using social media to develop dialogue and community cohesion, and to help communities to have a voice. Their innovative Community Reporters programme gives people skills to use social media to have a voice.

*Speakers and workshops are subject to change.*

## From Toad Lane to a Global Movement

**Gillian Lonergan:** Head of Heritage and Resources, Co-operative College and **Mervyn Wilson:** Principal, Co-operative College

In 1844 twenty-eight working people in Rochdale established a co-operative that laid down the guiding principles leading not only to the success of their venture, but to the development of a global co-operative movement that now encompasses a billion members. Why did their self-help enterprise succeed - and what are the lessons for today?

## Making Workplace Learning Relevant to Employers

**WEA Scotland**

At the heart of WEA Scotland's success with workplace learning and employability programmes is an effective three-way 'negotiation' between learners, employers and WEA organisers to develop course aims and content that ensure the interests of all parties are met. Courses support the development of transferable core skills, which employers say they value most, whilst developing learners' understanding in a range of educational subjects. Discuss with workshop presenters how this approach works for learners and employers in public and private sectors, and beyond.

## Community research for better health

**Iram Naz:** Project Manager WEA West Midlands

Join the WEA West Midlands team for an interactive workshop giving an overview of a decade of health development education in the region. Sharing findings from the latest Big Lottery Funded health education project with its successful focus of action research and 'bottom-up' approaches. This model promotes inclusion, diversity and action in the improvement of health and wellbeing for individuals and also the communities to which they belong.

## Social action and campaigning for gender equality

This session will hear from leading equality campaigners in the UK. Social action and campaigning on gender equality issues is on the rise. Hear about the focus of these campaigns and how women are working together to face these challenges.

**Sign up to workshops on the day!**  
See more workshops overleaf...



# Equality, Inclusion and Action in Adult Education afternoon workshops include:

## Women's Education in the WEA: Learning from the past, looking to the future

**Cheryl Turner:** Programme Director NIACE and **Mel Lenehan:** Regional Education Manager WEA East Midlands

Is there still a place for a women's education strand in the WEA? What might it look like? This workshop will debate these questions drawing on the extensive history and experience within the WEA and gender equality action currently in the UK.

## The Future of International work in the WEA

**Peter Templeton:** WEA Director of Membership, Marketing and Volunteering, **Cliff Allum:** Chief Executive of Skillshare, **Mike Chungu:** WEA Zambia and **Dave Spooner:** WIEGO

From its earliest days the WEA sought to encourage independent adult education organisations in other countries. Is it time for the WEA in England and Scotland to re-engage with adult education and international development in other parts of the world? What can we learn from the issues facing communities in developing countries? Should we build partnerships with other UK voluntary organisations? This workshop will look forward and seek out ideas from people within the WEA and others interested in this issue.

## Learning to Make a Difference: Social purpose in the 21st Century

**Titus Alexander:** Head of Campaigning **Novas Scarman** and **Jol Miskin:** WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region

What are the issues people face in communities? What support is available and what's missing? How can the WEA, alongside partner organisations, support communities to engage politically and help create a more tolerable society? A workshop to challenge thinking, create discussion and hear some stories.

## The Idea of Democracy

**Peter Bradley:** Director of the Speakers' Corner Trust and former MP

Peter Bradley believes that the rehabilitation of ideas and the promotion of public debate play a central role in revitalising our democracy and building the 'good' society. Join him as he argues that association between citizens and the free exchange of ideas, information and opinions, with each other, with policy makers and decision takers, is key to building trust and participation in governance, and strengthening the mutual respect and common purpose which underpins vibrant, cohesive communities.

## Social Action, Citizenship and Young People

**Debs McMahon,** Membership Development Manager, Woodcraft Folk

Join the Woodcraft Folk in exploring how they support young people to think critically, develop social awareness and become active citizens. Showcasing some tried and tested methods that support 18-25 year olds to explore social issues and engage in their communities through informal and peer education. The workshop will also discuss the challenges to engage with this target group.

## Beyond Inclusion and Diversity

**Greg Coyne:** WEA Education Director for Quality and lead Director for North East and the North West

A chaired panel sub-titled 'Taking the WEA back to its roots by re-engaging with the struggle for equality', offers a debate featuring some of the main speakers from the conference on the role of adult education and the WEA in the promotion and struggle for inclusion and diversity in society.

## Reciprocity Lost: The Origins, Breakdown and Renewal of the Reciprocal Society

**Henry Tam:** Visiting Professor Birkbeck, University of London and Associate of Faculty of Education, Cambridge University

Building on ideas set out in his book, *Against Power Inequalities*, Henry Tam will explore the basis of reciprocal behaviour; the conditions that undermine the tendency to treat others as one would like to be treated oneself; and the options, including through adult education, which can be pursued to reinforce mutual cooperation. The book is available as a free download from the Equality Trust website: [www.equalitytrust.org.uk](http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk).

## Going Round in Circles: Informal adult education approaches

**Derek Tatton:** Raymond Williams Foundation

Interest and participation in less formal adult learning opportunities is growing at a phenomenal rate. Derek Tatton will discuss the growth in philosophy in pubs, sci-bars and café philosophique where 'big ideas' are discussed and debated at free or little cost. The session will ask why this is happening and how can we can link to and build on these opportunities.

**Sign up to workshops on the day!**  
See more workshops overleaf...

# Booking form

## Your details

Title:  Mr  Mrs  Miss  Ms  Other:

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job title (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Organisation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional requirements

- I will be using a wheelchair  I will require a signer  
 I will require a hearing loop  I will be bringing a guide dog  
 Any other requirements including dietary requirements (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

## Booking and payment

**Booking and paying online:** If you would prefer to book and pay online by Visa or Mastercard, you can do so for the same prices as below at the following address: [www.weaconference11.eventbrite.com](http://www.weaconference11.eventbrite.com)

Please tick below the Conference package you wish to book:

- Friday conference at Individual or WEA/Co-op member rate ..... £65  
 Friday conference at voluntary sector organisation delegate rate ..... £75  
 Friday conference at private sector/other organisation delegate rate ..... £125

*All conference packages include refreshments and lunch.*

### Payment by cheque

- I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to Workers' Educational Association.  
 Please send me a receipt.

### Pre-payment invoice

- Please invoice my employer for £ \_\_\_\_\_ in advance of the conference.

Invoice address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

- My organisation has authorised my attendance.

*Please note: Fees are required to be paid in advance of conference.*

**Closing date for registrations requiring a pre-payment invoice is 14th October.**  
**Closing date for registrations paying online or by cheque is 20th October.**

### Please tear off this page and return to:



Maria Chica, Conference Secretary, Workers' Educational Association,  
4 Luke Street, London, EC2A 4XW.

Tel: 020 7426 3486

Email: [mchica@wea.org.uk](mailto:mchica@wea.org.uk)

Cancellations: Refunds on bookings received, less £20 registration fee, will be given on written request up to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

*Please retain the remaining pages for reference.*

Data Protection: The information you provide will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will only be used by the WEA to supply the services which you have requested.

Photography and images by WEA East Midlands, Tim Arnold, David Pittaway, Oakfield Day Centre.