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- Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation



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Contact your Diocesan Link



# Together we can make a difference

## Recent Publications

- **A Guide to the Annulment Process** ("worth its weight in gold" Canon Law Society) £2.50
- **Europe: A Catholic Women's Guide**  
20p each, 6 for £1.00
- **May My Husband - (a Christian from another faith) receive Holy Communion with me? - How?**  
(third re-print) - 20p each, 10 for £1.50
- **Strangers or Friends?** Women speaking to women of other faiths - 5p each, 100 for £5.00  
(For all the above order direct from NBCW Development Officer)
- **Violence to Women** - a series of leaflets on different forms of violence to women produced with the Women's Co-ordinating Committee of Churches Together in England.  
(Order direct from CTE, 27 Tavistock Square, London, WCH 9HH, tel: 0207 529 8141)
- **Healing Priesthood** - women's voices world wide.  
Ed. Angela Perkins and Verena Wright.  
(Darton, Longman and Todd ISBN0-232-52506-4 £9.95)



# The National Board of Catholic Women



## What is the National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW)?

- A forum, founded in 1939, in which Catholic women of England and Wales come together to share their views and concerns at diocesan and national level.
- A consultative body to the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC).

## What does it do?

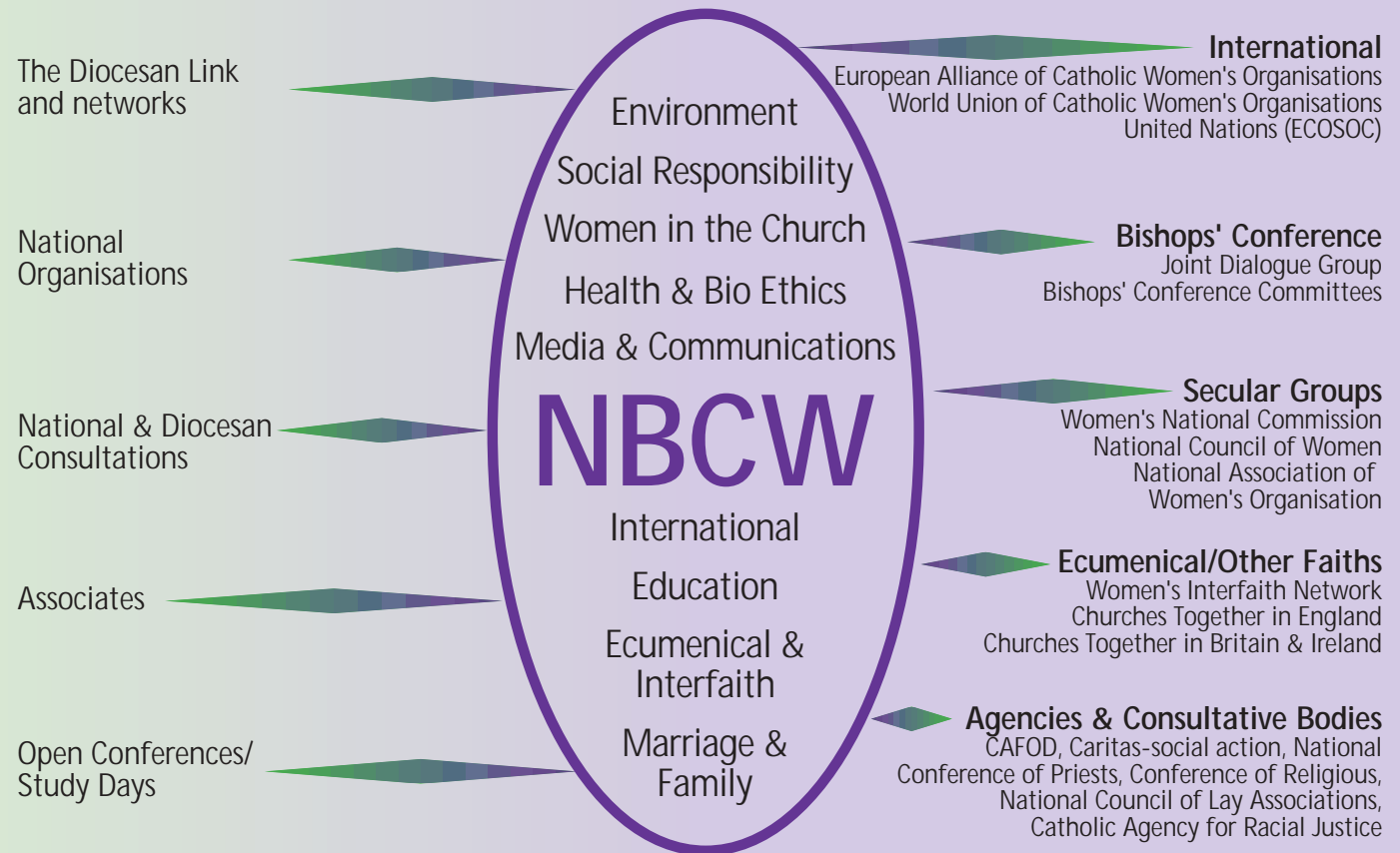
- Works nationally and internationally to challenge discrimination and promote a woman's right to gender justice.
- Actively promotes the presence, participation and responsibilities of Catholic women in the Church and society.
- Represents the views and concerns of Catholic women to the Bishops' Conference and to the government.
- Works ecumenically, with women of other faiths and with secular groups.

## How does the NBCW listen to the views and concerns of Catholic women?

- The Diocesan Link, appointed by the bishop in consultation with women of the diocese, and usually working with a core group, provides opportunities for all women in the diocese to come together and share their faith, views and concerns. The Diocesan Link is a key person, enabling the NBCW to hear the local voice and disseminating national information back to the diocese and women in the parishes.
- National organisations, with their particular interests and networks, bring an invaluable contribution to the work of the NBCW.
- Representatives from national Catholic organisations, Diocesan Links, agencies and other consultative bodies, meet together three times a year.
- The AGM/Study day and the biennial Conference weekend are open to all Catholic women.
- The Standing Committees are open to women with experience relevant to current topics. 'Email correspondents' can also help broaden the consultation process.

### The Committees

*Respond to government consultations on behalf of NBCW.  
Attend conferences and liaise with other women's organisations.  
Prepare reports and publications.*



## How to get connected

- Contact your diocesan link and connect to the diocesan networking. (see back and [www.nbcw.org](http://www.nbcw.org))
- Join one of the national organisations.
- Come to the Study Day/AGM and/or biennial weekend conference.
- Become an 'email correspondent' of a committee.
- Become an Associate (£7.50 pa for all Board papers).
- Check out the website [www.nbcw.org](http://www.nbcw.org).



In 1939 Cardinal Hinsley asked the Catholic Women's League, Union of Catholic Mothers and Catholic Girls Association to work together to co-ordinate their war effort. This became the National Board of Catholic Women. In 1989 a Golden Jubilee Review highlighted the need to widen the networks to all Catholic women, not only those in organisations. Cardinal Hume wrote, "I would like to congratulate the NBCW on their recent review which has brought about such changes in its structures as to make it truly representative of Catholic women in England and Wales, including those women who do not belong to any organisation or association. The Bishops' Conference needs to hear from women about the concerns and views of women in the Church on topics which seem to women to be most crucial or fundamental".