

## **TRIBUTE TO GRACE WEDEKIND – CONFERENCE 2015**

**Grace Wedekind brought great honour to NCW through her long service to us here in GB and in her International work. Whenever she walked to the podium anywhere in the world we were proud of her and proud to belong to the organisation she represented.**

**She had been Chair of ICWGB for the past 15 yrs, Chairing her last meeting only a week before her death. She served ICW itself in many capacities, 6yrs as Status of Women Co-ordinator, 3 as Adviser on Human Rights and then rose to be President of ECICW for 4 years and Board Member of ICW for 3. She was also a Board Member of the European Women's Lobby for 2 yrs. When she applied for this position in 2007 she wrote in her CV.....**

**“Since 1980 Grace has worked in GB on national, European and International action for improvements in the lives of women and children, status of women, gender and equality issues’ removal of all discrimination affecting women and girls (CEDAW), women in decision making, human rights of women and girls, trafficking in women, violence against women, child labour and exploitation, forced marriage, womens health, pensions, disability issues, race relations, transport and road safety, food safety, sustainable development, consumers in Europe, UN Commission on Status of Women, World Conference Against Racism”.**

**Her work continued until the very end of her life. In June I put her Resolution on Equal Pay to the ICW General Meeting in Turkey where it was passed unanimously and she was planning to put a Resolution to this Conference pursuing her goal of gender equality in Parliament.**

**We were fortunate indeed to have benefitted from Grace's great gifts for the past 30yrs. Her work now continues in this session and in tomorrow's session when we discuss our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. Let us do our best to follow her great example and continue on the path she trod so ably and so long.**

**MONICA TOLMAN**

**VP ECICW**