

**Project Title**

Feminist Leadership (Governance) Training Project

**Exchange Fellow**

Shirley Otto

Specialist in governance in charities

Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCE+W) and Rape Crisis Scotland

**Academic collaborator**

Sarah Morton and Lynn Jamieson

Centre for Research on Families and Relationships

**Duration of project**

May 2012 – August 2013 (extended – see below)

Collaboration between CRFR, RCE+W, Rape Crisis Scotland and Shirley Otto to explore and enhance the leadership of boards of organisations (primarily charities) working to eliminate sexual violence in the UK. The Exchange will provide support for the Exchange Fellow and a sound academic basis for the project.

The project aims to (i) identify the essential features of leadership based on feminist values – and how these might determine governance in charities (ii) understand the significance, for governance practice, of working associated with sexual violence, (iii) devise and pilot the training with RCE+W and (iv) assess and write up the project for practitioners and academics.

It is intended to make a unique contribution to governance in charities – by linking the work of charity boards and feminist values – and to assist in strengthening the effectiveness of organisations working with women and girls who have experienced sexual violence.

Update January 2014

Shirley Otto became an Exchange Fellow in June 2012 to initiate and develop the Feminist Governance Project. The Project based at CRFR is sponsored by Rape Crisis Scotland and Rape Crisis England & Wales. Support for Shirley Otto is provided by Sarah Morton. In the 18 months since June 2012, Shirley Otto researched attitudes and approaches to feminist governance interviewing key practitioners and academics and groups of trustees of rape crisis centres. As a consequence of this work the Project has;

- Devised a model to describe feminist governance
- Published a CRFR Briefing (70)
- Held a CRFR Seminar for practitioners, policy makers and academics based on the findings of the research
- Published an article in the 3rdiMag

Further work is planned for 2014 to (i) develop the model (ii) make the findings available to practitioners, policy makers and academics (e.g., presentations at conferences and writing journal articles) and (iii) research and develop training tools for embedding good governance practice in services supporting survivors of rape crisis and domestic violence.

Shirley Otto will remain as an Exchange Fellow based at CRFR from 2014-2015.