

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

**Joint ECE/INSTRAW/UNSD Work
Session on Gender Statistics**
(Geneva, 20-22 April 1998)

Working Paper No. 6

**UK PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION
AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION CONCERNING GENDER STATISTICS**

Paper submitted by the Office for National Statistics

Policy statement on gender statistics

1. In response to the Platform for Action, the UK's Government Statistical Service (GSS) agreed a statistical policy on the collection and dissemination of statistics disaggregated by gender:

“The GSS aims always to collect and make available, for example in publications, statistics disaggregated by gender, except where considerations of practicality or cost outweigh the identified need. All GSS publications contain the name and contact details of a person who can explain which, if any, of the statistics are available by gender and how they can be obtained.”

2. The present Government established a Women's Unit which is based in the Department of Social Security. There are two Ministers for Women - Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, is the Minister for Women in Cabinet and Joan Ruddock is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Women. The Woman's Unit will be taking forward monitoring the implementation of the GSS policy on gender related statistics.

Partnership with the Equal Opportunities Commission

3. The Office for National Statistics and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) have formed a partnership to take forward developments in gender statistics. The first two projects are:

4. A Brief Guide to Gender Statistics: *A Brief Guide to Gender Statistics*¹ will be published in March. This discusses the main data sources of gender statistics by broad topic area, gives brief descriptions of the main sources that are available and provides a subject index. It covers both official government sources and non-government sources and details are provided at Annex A..

5. Social Focus on Women and Men: There are plans to publish during 1998 a book drawing together gender disaggregated statistics on a wide range of topics to paint a statistical picture of women and men in the UK. This will be part of the GSS "Social Focus" series and a successor to both *Social Focus on Women*² and *Women and Men in Britain*³.

Time Use Survey

6. The Platform for Action included a commitment to measuring unremunerated work. In addition, the lack of up-to-date national time use data was one of the gaps identified in a major consultation exercise on United Kingdom (UK) official statistics in 1993/94. As a result, the UK included a small-scale time use instrument within its 1995 Omnibus Survey and has subsequently carried out a pilot time use survey, using Eurostat methodology adapted to government needs. The first UK household satellite accounts were published in October 1997 and a full-scale time use survey is now planned. Full details are available in the UK paper on unpaid work, submitted at this Work Session.

Gender Statistics Users Group

7. The Statistics Users Council and the Equal Opportunities Commission recently set up a working group to develop proposals for a Gender Statistics Users' Group. A wide range of non-government users, supported by government departments, are organising a one-day conference on 31st March, to launch a Gender Statistics User Group. Details are at Annex B. An oral update will be given at the meeting, and a report will be available in due course.

*Social Statistics Policy and Development Branch
Social and Regional Division
February 1998*

¹ Office for National Statistics and Equal Opportunities Commission, *A Brief Guide to Gender Statistics* (London: Office for National Statistics, 1998 ISBN: 1 85774 263 X)

² CHURCH, J and SUMMERFIELD, C (Ed.s) *Social Focus on Women* (London: HMSO, 1995, ISBN 0 11 620 713 2)

³ Equal Opportunities Commission *Women and Men in Britain 1995: Lifecycle of Inequality* (Manchester: Equal Opportunities Commission, 1995, ISBN 1 870358 45 7))