



## Office for the Advancement of Women Meeting with Barli Institute founders in London

A RECENT MEETING was organised by the Office for the Advancement of Women (OAW) at the Greater London Authority in conjunction with the Gender Advisor to the Mayor. The event was a presentation by Jimmy and Janak McGulligan, founders of the Barli Development Institute for Rural Women, in India which was most successful.

There were only about 25 present but the presentation was very good with slides showing the sustainable development work, training, buildings, farm, solar oven, textiles and so on of the Institute – truly inspiring.

Women from the London School of Economics, Women's League for International Peace and Freedom, Mothers Union and the Women's Resource Centre were impressed and commented on the high degree of best practice evinced by the project.

Although the meeting was not well attended due to the very short notice (only a week), it was successful in the calibre of women present, the fact that the GLA supported the event by giving us a room and massive refreshments and the request of those present to be further involved in OAW work and events.

Janak, Jimmy and the Director of the OAW had been invited to meet with Baroness Uddin at the House of Lords who had wanted to attend the meeting but was unable to as she had to be in the Lords for a debate.

Baroness Uddin was most hospitable and instead of the expected brief meeting, she welcomed the whole group and the meeting went on for more than an hour.

Apart from a lengthy tour of the House and introductions to other parliamentarians, discussions took place regarding the Barli Institute, autism, raising awareness of mental illness, mentoring of young people from ethnic minorities and potential co-operations.

For copies of the paper presented please contact:  
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