25th July 2016

**Townswomen’s Guilds joins the fight against pension inequality**

TG is encouraging its members to become involved with the work of WASPI - Women Against State Pension Inequality. Speaking today for the first time on the issue, TG’s National Treasurer, Penny Ryan said: “TG supports the equalisation of pension ages for men and women, however, the way in which changes have been implemented has been detrimental to women born in the 1950s.”

“TG is concerned that the lack of notice given to women about changes resulting from the 1995 Pensions Act has negatively impacted on their ability to make adequate alternative provision for retirement. The raising of the retirement age by the 2011 Act to sixty-six has created further problems, which were compounded by late notification of the changes by the Department of Work and Pensions. A woman born on 30th April 1953, who expected to retire with a state pension on 30th April 2013, will have received notification in January 2012 that her state pension would be delayed until 6th July 2016. That is unfair and unacceptable.”

“We know that the changes have created financial hardship for many women, depleting savings and leading to the loss of homes in a number of cases, marring what should have been a worry-free retirement.“

“The Trustees believe that this is a matter of social equity rather than party politics and are therefore urging our members, including those who are not directly affected, to contact their local WASPI group to find out more and to contribute to the actions planned to raise awareness of this unfairness.“

With roots in the Suffragist movement, Townswomen’s Guilds has been campaigning on behalf of women for nearly 90 years. With 700 Guilds and 24,000 members, it is the second largest women’s organisations in the UK.

-ends-

More information about Townswomen’s Guilds can be found at
www.the-tg.com, or by calling 0121 326 0400