

Self-Publishing and Liberation, The Women's Library, 20th March, 2010.

A selection of workshop responses

Responses to the exercise one:

Isolate what you see as 3-5 most important gaps relating to women's experience/ feminism in contemporary literature

- Women's popular philosophy
- Personal stories – a pluralist history
- Collective histories
- A woman's comment on sport and the Olympics
- Criticism of advertising
- Female speculative/ fantasy fiction
- Humorous feminism – populist
- Women's images – not just text
- Books about women artists – across history
- Contemporary activism
- Books for children – accessible, funny and feminist
- Books written by young women with children
- Books on cohabitation

Responses to exercise two:

Isolate

- A barrier you face to self-publish material (e.g. a lack of skills, money)
- Factors that are standing in your favour to self-publish.
- If there are barriers, what creative steps can you take to overcome them?

Group One

Barriers

- Cost/ Funding
- Lack of Skills
- Layout
- IT/ Technology
- Commitments/ priorities
- Group support/ network
- Encouragement
- Mentor/ buddy system
- Materials

Factors in Favour

- Ownership of my own voice
- Experience
- 'Creative Crone'
- Good Ideas
- Multilingual
- Ongoing action
- Networking and exchange
- Technology/ Research
- Using a Planner

Creative Steps to overcome barriers

- More gatherings and workshops related to self-publishing
- Using resources (people and ideas, and linking the two) and their exchange
- Cut out distractions/ keeping focussed, self-discipline

Group Two

Barriers

- Time
- Lack of people
- Other responsibilities
- Confidence/ disillusion
- Money
- Distribution

Factors in Favour

- Inspiration
- Access
- Creative friends and community
- Role Models

Creative Steps to overcome barriers

- Attending workshops like 'Self-Publishing and Liberation'
- Increased knowledge = increased confidence
- 'Online Library' of examples of self-published work and resources
- Involve friends