

Hosting a Gateway Women Meetup

Last updated 25th June 2020 by Karin Enfield, Operations Director of Gateway Women
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What is a Gateway Women (GW) Meetup?

Gateway Women meetup groups are member-organised and led social meetups for childless not by choice women.

They are free to attend for members but please be aware that behind the scenes Gateway Women incurs costs of around GBP £5K per annum made up of the combined costs from charges Meetup levies us as 'Meetup group owners' and payment to Team Gateway Women, who does all the back office admin (plus all the marketing promotion we do for them). This stuff doesn't happen by accident!

Currently there is no set 'format' for a GW Meetup - but they tend to be social gatherings lasting about 2 hours in a public place such as a cafe or bar. Due to Covid19 regulations and social distancing guidelines, we have moved all our GW Meetup sessions to online versions on various online platforms, such as ZOOM, SKYPE, BLUEJEANS, etc.

We do have potential plans for formalising the meetups and create a more 'support group' type event, but we don't have the administrative structure or finances to do that as yet.

Each GW Meetup has a 'host' which is a GW Meetup Host Group member who organises that meetup. The duties of the host aren't onerous - it basically just means turning up for coffee/drink with a few other women. As the host you are automatically listed as 'attending' each month, but you can appoint someone to step in for you if you are unable to attend a GW Meetup.

It's a good idea to get to know another member who attends and then see if you can co-host with them. Meetups without hosts tend to dwindle and die off.

If no-one else has RSVPed for that month, you do not need to attend as it's extremely unlikely that anyone else will attend.

If you are interested in hosting a GW Meetup, please read below and if you have any questions email us at community@gateway-women.com.

List of current GW Meetup locations

Check to see if there's a GW Meetup Group near to you already - the list of all (current) locations can be found in our [online Community on Mighty Networks](#) or on the [GW Website](#)

If there is a Gateway Women Meetup near you already, you might like to start attending that meetup to get into the swing of things, and even offer to be a co-host for the group. GW Meetups with more than one host do really well, as you can share the responsibilities and one of you is nearly always available to attend and host if the other is out of town.

Joining your GW Meetup Host group

Gateway Women has decided to stop hosting the Meetup pages we had. We used to have 6 different 'country' Meetup groups, but as they are proving to be too costly (£ 3,500.- per year) and not generating enough interest for our GW Meetups we no longer want to use this platform. Especially as we can't access the members information on these pages, which makes it difficult for us to manage and maintain a safe and ID checked members base, which we can do within our own online GW community on Mighty Networks.

A message with a link to join our online GW Community will be shared on all our Meetup Pages which will be closed down by the end of September 2020. For those women who can't afford the monthly membership fees but still wish to join our community, we offer payment holidays, a sponsored membership, reduced membership fees and, if necessary, we can offer free memberships.

Our meetup groups are currently open to those women that are 'still hopeful' as well as those that are moving towards their 'Plan B'. We are also 'childfree' friendly although in reality, very, very few childfree (by choice) women attend GW Meetups once they've joined.

Becoming a 'GW Meetup Host' in our online community

Once your membership to our online community has been set up and you have become a member of the MeetUp Host Sub-group, please send a message to us via karin@gateway-women.com, to let us know that you'd like to set up a local GW Meetup Group.

We will then list your GW Meetup on our overall GW Meetup Page so that members can find you there. You can then create an event in our online community Events calendar to formally announce your GW Meetup, so that women can rsvp to your event there. Which gives you an idea who will join and connect with new members prior to your Meetup.

Choosing the details for your own GW Meetup

You will need to select the day of the week/month, the time and the location (**ONLY ONLINE FOR NOW**). For example - the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11am at [place/online link]. For "live Meetups", please provide the full street address and website for the venue. If you can find a link to a nice photograph of it, you can add this to your event.

In the title of your meetup event, please put the LOCATION first, so that it's easy to identify, followed by the meeting schedule and type of meetup. Members will be scrolling through lists of meetup events to find one close to them so the location as the first part of the sentence is really important!

- "AUS - SYDNEY **ONLINE** : Every 1st Saturday Monthly Coffee/Brunch Meetup"
- "UK - Bristol **ONLINE** : Every 1st Saturday at 11am"
- "BE: Brussels **ONLINE** - Every last Saturday at 1pm - lunchtime coffee/lunch/cake whatever!"
- "USA: CO - Denver/Boulder **ONLINE** every 1st Sunday at 3pm"

It doesn't have to be on a weekend morning - it could be on a weekday evening or any other time. Online sessions can be held at anytime. For "live sessions" we've found that most cities can accommodate a range of meetups around time, so if there's one already in your city on a Saturday morning and you'd like to start one on a Wed eve, that's fine!

You are also free to create 'ad hoc' GW Meetups - one-offs such a visit to a theatre or a hike or some such thing - it doesn't always have to involve food or drink!

Request that your GW Meetup is listed on the GW website

Once your first GW Meetup is up let us know by emailing karin@gateway-women.com and set your event so that it repeats monthly on the same day and we will add it to the listings in the Online Community and on the GW website. Please let us know if you change the day/time so we can update the information. If your meetups are ad hoc but often, we will list it as 'dates/times vary'.

Running your GW Meetup.

GW Meetups can take AGES to get going as the shame that so many of us feel can really keep us from attending, so please don't be discouraged. Alternatively, they can take off from Day 1. Sometimes you might need to move it around to a new location or canvass for opinions about the best day/location until it 'gels'.

Do leave a friendly and welcoming message on your Meetup and share your mobile phone or email address if you feel able to. You could always consider opening a new email address just for this purpose if you are nervous about sharing your 'regular' address.

Respond to anyone who RSVP's to your GW Meetup and really hold their hand until they manage to make it to their first one.

Take along a copy of Jody's book, "Living the Life Unexpected" and put it on the table so that women can easily find your table, or just print out the front cover.

www.gateway-women.com/book

There are also GW badges you can purchase with just the logo on if you prefer to identity yourself in that way

<https://www.zazzle.com/s/nomolove>

If you have another regular guest at your GW Meetup, perhaps ask her to co-host it with you.

Promoting your GW Meetup

Be sure to mention your GW Meetup each month in the Gateway Women private online community events calendar, in order to let members know and also to engage in conversation with them which will encourage them to come.

www.gateway-women.com/community

It might take six months to a year for it to take off, or you might have women coming along from Day 1 - there's no way to tell!

Comments & Suggestions

If you have any ideas about how to make setting up or running a Gateway Women meetup easier, please let us know and we will add them to this information sheet. Please contact us at karin@gateway-women.com

Hugs & thanks,

TEAM GATEWAY WOMEN

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