

THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ISSUE 1 - 2017



TURNING RED SQUARE GREEN

ACWW in Russia for the Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity Forum

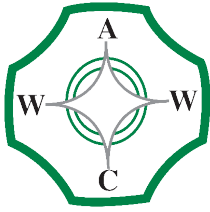
NEW YEAR CHALLENGES

How you can help in the year ahead

TRIENNIAL SUMMARY

Looking back on 2013-2106





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The Countrywoman is the official quarterly magazine of ACWW, and was named by Mrs Alfred Watt MBE, the First President of ACWW in 1933.

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Please note the following deadlines for submitting your articles, updates and photographs to The Countrywoman. We welcome new contributors and those in areas not recently featured- please get in touch with nick@acww.org.uk if you need any help in submitting.

April- June: 1st February 2017

July- September: 1st May 2017

October- December: 1st August 2017

January- March: 1st November 2017

The Editor's decision on acceptance and inclusion is final.

DEAR FRIENDS...

A Message from the World President



Here we are at the beginning of another year and well into this triennium. It is hard to believe that it is six months or so since the successful Triennial Conference which was held at the University of Warwick, Coventry, England in August 2016. Thank you to all members who assisted in any way and I hope you had a rewarding experience.

Since the conference we have had another round of Committee and Executive meetings in October where new members of the committees had the opportunity to take part in fruitful discussions around the work of ACWW. Thank you all for putting your hand up to be involved for this Triennium.

Following the committee meetings, I attended the Rural Women New Zealand National Conference in Wellington New Zealand, accompanied by the South Pacific Area President, Mrs Gail Commens. This was a very interesting and informative conference and a great opportunity for Gail to meet with the members of this organisation and also to meet with the organising committee for the South Pacific Area Conference which is being held in New Plymouth, New Zealand in May, 2017. We then travelled onto Tonga to both catch up with the Aloua Ma'a Tonga and the Kafataha organisations, and also to monitor an ACWW funded project in the area. This project was to supply land-fill to protect the homes from sea water infiltration, and also to provide top soil to enable the women to grow vegetables etc for their families. If they then have an excess of vegetables, these can be sold at market stalls to provide income for the families.

Whilst we were enjoying 35°C temperatures in Tonga, Tish, Nick and Margaret McMillan, the European Area President, attended a conference in Ufa, Russia, representing ACWW, and they experienced -22°C!!

This was a very successful venture and provided much needed contact with the Russian Union of Women, who are ACWW members and also with other women's organisations from Europe and Asia. Hopefully some of these organisations will be able to attend the European Area Conference in Romania in September, 2017. There has also been consultation with UNESCO in Paris (read more next issue!) to develop ACWW's advocacy and reporting work to this agency.

Amongst all this busy-ness, the work in the office has continued as usual with the paperwork for the change of status of ACWW going on in the background. We will of course let you know when things are successfully completed and when we will be working under the new structure. Reflecting some of the staff changes and responsibilities at Central Office, it was decided to change Tish's title from Operations Manager to Chief Executive Officer, more fitting for her role within the organisation.

I have also met with the CWA of Victoria Organising Committee for the next World Conference to be held in Melbourne in April, 2019. They have certainly hit the ground running and I know that the TCC members will be looking forward to hearing all about the plans at their meeting in late February.

Please take note, if you receive a request for information from Central Office, please send what is required as this information is what we base our further work on and also what we put out to the public telling them what we do, and what we want to do.

As we continue to move forward in this "age of technology", please don't let us forget those of us who do not have access to these communications means and make sure we keep in touch with each other. Please ensure that you keep us up to date with your postal address and other contact details.

Christmas and New Year celebrations have been held around the world and my wish is that this year, 2017, we see less unrest and more peace amongst across the world. Women can move mountains and as long as we work together, many things can be achieved. Cheers for now!

Ruth Shanks, A.M.
ACWW World President

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COVER IMAGE

Chief Executive Office Tish Collins, European Area President Margaret McMillan and Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland stand in Moscow's Red Square before meeting with Senator Irina Gekht; a prelude to the Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity Forum in Ufa, Russia. Photo by Ekaterina Belotsvetova

DON'T FORGET - YOUR 2017 MEMBERSHIP IS DUE NOW!
PLEASE CONTACT CENTRAL OFFICE TO PAY NOW IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY

MAKING YOUR MAGAZINE SUSTAINABLE

We deliver The Countrywoman in an envelope rather than a plastic wrapper. This is because we use Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper for both the magazine and its packaging. For every tree used in the production of this issue, three are planted in its place. This is part of ACWW's commitment to a healthier planet, and Sustainable Development Goal 12.





CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Tish Collins, ACWW Chief Executive Officer

Since the last issue I was privileged to attend the 'Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity' conference in Ufa, Russia with European Area President Margaret McMillan and our Media and Communications Manager, Nick Newland. We met up with Senator Irina Gekht, whom the World President and I had had a discussion with at our Warwick Conference, and her assistant Dr Kate Belotsvetova. Margaret and Nick have contributed a report to this magazine. I was also able to participate in the UNESCO International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (ICNGO) in Paris in mid-December. Here I met representatives of other NGO's and have come back enthused about how we can work together in the future.

The new Triennium got off to a great start with the Committees in October full of energy. The message from the Executive is to re-enthuse our existing members, engage new ones. I look forward to the Board's discussions on this when they return to London in March.

In 2017 we will be sending out a survey to all member societies to find the main issues affecting their members locally. We want to be able to record problems and successes and, over the years build up a real picture of life for rural women – what is common, what is unique and how this changes over time. This will inform our advocacy at the United Nations and its various agencies and help us ensure the voice of rural women is being heard. The first survey of this kind will be called the Baseline survey as it will establish the starting point for our change map. We will also be discussing with various partners around the world how to best implement this, and to ensure that it can be carried out efficiently. When at the Conference in Ufa, Nick and I had a meeting with the Women's Union of Bashkortostan, which is one of the Russian Republics.



▲ With Dr Rohani Hashim, Secretary-General of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organisations at UNESCO in Paris

They told us the pressing issues facing their women were problems of access to education, access to medicine and climate change affecting their crop cycles. Both this organisation and the Women's Union of Russia have agreed to send out our survey – translated into local languages – and report back. Once distributed we hope everyone will get involved with the survey.

Staff member, Dr Sam Page has reported to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), that there is a severe incidence of iron deficiency among rural women – this is based on data recorded from ACWW funded projects. Sam was also able to identify low-cost solutions to improve the situation and there will be an article by her in the next issue of the Countrywoman.

Work on the Constitution continues and once approved by the Charity Commission we will let everyone know. The Bye-Laws will then be updated by Ad Hoc Committee Chair Jenny Mitchell of Australia, Alison Burnett of Scotland and me, for approval by the Board.

Since the end of May when our Finance Manager left, I have been carrying out most of his duties whilst considering how to improve efficiency and reporting. In December I implemented the following: Manisha Vora became Finance Administrator, she has handed over Membership matters to Sydney Salter our Office Administrator. Payroll will be outsourced to the firm Wilkins Kennedy for a monthly fee and management accounts, value added tax returns etc will be handled by Wilkins Kennedy. This should make year-end accounting much quicker (and less costly) in preparation for the annual audit. Arrangements will be reviewed over the coming year.

◀ ACWW's delegation to the Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity forum in Ufa, Russia in November 2016. L-R: CEO Tish Collins, European Area President Margaret McMillan and Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland



EDITOR'S NOTE Nick Newland

Happy New Year! It has been a whirlwind few months since I last wrote to you all. I want to start this magazine with a little bit of information about the magazine itself; since the re-launch of The Countrywoman in March 2016, we have been investigating ways to make it more efficient, cheaper to produce and delivered more easily. One of the big challenges is that whilst printing the magazine is very cheap (around 85 pence per copy!), our average postage cost is £5.15- meaning that to send 4 issues per year costs approximately £24.00 for each member; as you can see, this means that £24 of your £25 individual membership fee is taken up by the magazine. This is because international postage is very expensive! With the last issue, we started to use international distributors- so we post, for example, 850 copies to Australia in one go, and then a local Australian company do the local posting for us. This will save money, but there have been some slight delays as the system has been brought into place- meaning that sometimes your magazine has not reached you as quickly as we would have liked it to. Of course, this issue was sent to the printers before Christmas, the festive season delays postage around the world as everyone takes a well-earned break (and sends lots of Christmas cards!).

We are also receiving several copies back at the Office each time, as people have changed their address and not informed us. Please remember that this not only means you won't receive your magazine, but that it also costs ACWW more money. Just send us a quick email with your full name and old address (so we can check we have the right person), and of course the new address to info@acww.org.uk

If you are planning to pay your Membership dues online, please note that the 'handling' or bank charges have already been applied to the totals shown on the website! Visit the Support Us page to find how to pay online. Don't forget that the website password is:

acww2016portal

As ever, my email is nick@acww.org.uk

FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS



Heather Brennan, ACWW Finance Committee Chairman

A new year dawns, and you can be rightly proud of your achievement in 2016- your support of Pennies for Friendship has been wonderfully generous, and our total for the year was a target busting **£258,961**.

However, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. ACWW's future work relies on your kindness and generosity and, as you will see below, we have raised the target for Pennies for Friendship to £220,000 for 2017 as we move into the new Triennium. As money comes in to the office, the picture of the globe will increase in colour.

Discussions at the recent Communications and Marketing, Finance and Executive Committees looked towards updating our history book as a lot has happened since the last edition in 2004 and ACWW will be celebrating 90 years of existence at the Melbourne Conference in 2019. At the Board meeting in March 2017 we will be considering a major fund-raising proposal for growth and development. The Triennial theme '90 Years of Achievements, Building 90 years of Opportunities' encourages us to learn from the past and look to the future, re-enthusing existing members and welcoming new ones.

Over the last year, ACWW has brought the Food & Agriculture Organisation's attention

to the incidence of iron deficiency among rural women and indicated low-cost, effective solutions. Our sponsored projects have enabled nearly 50,000 people to improve their lives in 2015-16; hundreds of children are now able to go to school, as women-led families have more access to secure income generation or clean water. The project reports in this magazine and on the website, will keep you up-to-date.

Do not ever doubt the impact your support has on women around the world, and ACWW works as hard as possible to make this support reach far and wide. Please continue to give as generously as you can- through your fundraising efforts, Women Walk the World, Society and Individual membership, donations and collections.

In the last issue of The Countrywoman we published suggestions on how to help raise money for ACWW, and in this issue we have printed a special 'How to Support ACWW' section. This will be added to throughout the year, and we hope that you find helpful.

With my very best wishes to all for a peaceful and prosperous 2017!

Heather Brennan
Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING ONLINE BANKING

Account:
Associated Country Women of the World

Account Number:
01244108

Sort Code:
56-00-33

Bank:
NatWest Bank, 57 Victoria Street, London United Kingdom, SW1H 0HP

Branch:
Westminster

Swift Code:
NWB KGB 2L

IBAN:
GB67NWBK56003301244108



LEAVE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE

Bequests are incredibly valuable to the work ACWW does – not just for the women and communities who benefit from projects and the connections made globally through our work now – but to women and communities to come. Bequests enable ACWW to continue to deliver a broad vision of seeing generations of women empowered through the relief of poverty and sickness, the protection and preservation of health and the advancement of education.

You can be assured that your gift will make a genuine difference to our work. To find out more about leaving a bequest please email tish.c@acww.org.uk to receive a Bequest Information Pack.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT ACWW

Options for donating to ACWW - old and new!

We need your help!

By organising and taking part in fundraising events and activities, you play a vital role in keeping ACWW alive. We are completely reliant on public support- without this, we could not deliver our development programmes, give women a voice at the UN and other international levels, or continue facilitating women-to-women empowerment and engagement.

Your help is really important- and it doesn't need to be too ambitious, difficult or challenging. With so many options and ideas, we're sure it will be easy to get your friends, family and local communities involved!

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ACWW?

To find out what we do, how we do it and what impact it has, you can visit our website at www.acww.org.uk, or contact the Central Office and we can send you materials. We have a great range of flyers and leaflets, in various sizes and formats- and we're always happy to send PDFs too!



Women Walk the World for ACWW

Every year in April, ladies from all over the globe come together for a very special event- Women Walk the World. This encourages everyone to get out and spread the word of ACWW's good work, walking in your local area with flyers and information and, of course it, provides a fantastic social activity too. Men, children and even dogs can participate!

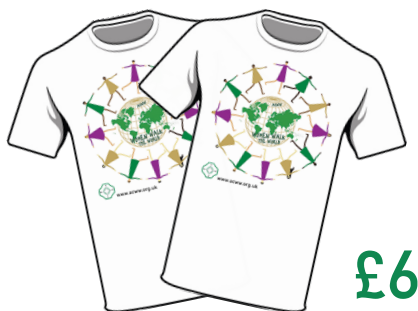
Get your walk sponsored, and don't forget to take photos. Each year we pick the best photo from Women Walk the World and it features on the front cover of the July issue of our quarterly magazine, *The Countrywoman*.

This year we are issuing a special challenge- how far can your group walk? Count the number of steps (why not use one of our Pedometers?), multiply it by the number of people in your group and let us know!

FUNDRAISING TIPS & HINTS

All the ideas here will run more smoothly if you remember the following:

- Make sure you allow enough time to plan and organise your event
- Fix the date and time of your event- and stick to it!
- Tell ACWW Central Office about your event, we can help publicise it
- Do your publicity in advance- don't forget to...
 - put up your posters and flyers
 - tell your friends, family and work colleagues
 - tell your local newspaper and radio station
 - publicise your event on local websites, activity boards etc.
- Make your event as inclusive as possible- open to people of all ages, sexes, religions and as diverse a range of interests as possible
- Remember to thank everyone who has helped and been involved
- Make sure your event is safe and legal
- Look after the money you have raised:
 - appoint someone to count the money
 - arrange to deliver the money to ACWW as soon as possible
 - consider how you send it- you can always contact us for advice
- Most importantly... **HAVE FUN!**



Women Walk the World T-Shirt
(sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)

Raffles

- Small raffles that are part of a bigger event do not need to be licensed. You can sell tickets at the event and have the prizes drawn on the night (as long as there isn't a cash prize!)
- For larger raffles, or if you want to sell tickets in advance to the general public, you may need to check with your local council or licensing board for a permit
- Tickets should not be sold to anyone under the age of 16

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Events & Activities

Simple ideas are often the easiest and most effective. Why not try some of these activities?

- Tea / Coffee mornings
- Sell or auction some homemade preserves, jams, cakes or craft items- always popular!
- Bring and Buy sale at your local church or community hall
- Ask your local school to hold an 'Own Clothes' or 'Non-Uniform' day in support of ACWW
- Ask your local university to nominate ACWW for their Charity Week / Rag Week / Freshers Week
- Mystery Auction- keep the prizes a surprise
- Encourage your friends to become Individual Members of ACWW
- Send us your old jewellery- in 2016 alone we raised **£591.51** by recycling donated jewellery!

If you feel like something a little more adventurous, you could consider...

- Quiz Night (see if your local pub or youth club will host it for you)
- Auction of Promises- everyone pledges to do something positive in the local community, and local businesses can contribute too!
- Fashion Show- see if a local department store, boutique or high-street fashion shop will help
- Organise a raffle and collect a range of fabulous prizes
- Distance events- a sponsored Walk, Swim, Run, communal exercise session, wheelchair laps or race!

Health & Safety

Safety advice will always depend on the kind of activity you are organising, but it is always best to plan ahead. We've made a list of things to consider, but remember that it is not comprehensive, and you are encouraged to seek local advice if you have any concerns. Think about potential risks involved in your event, and how to prevent any problems from arising during your activity.

- **Venue** If you are holding your event in a venue such as a community hall, church or pub, there will be governing health and safety guidelines- make sure you adhere to them! Do not exceed the stated capacity limit, and make sure that there is good access (and that fire escapes are kept clear!). Does the venue have adequate parking, toilet facilities and disabled access? Do you know where the fire extinguishers are kept?
- **First Aid** Do you need a First Aider present, or is a First Aid Box sufficient? Many areas have local guidance for First Aid treatment- in the UK for example, you can contact St John's Ambulance. Make sure that you have a mobile/cell phone with you in case of emergency.
- **Food** At a one-off event, you don't need a licence to sell food but you should follow Food Hygiene guidelines. Label foods that contain allergens such as Nuts, Shellfish, Gluten etc.
- **Money** Make sure that you have a lockable box to secure the money you collect.
- **The Public** Remember that if you are holding any event that may be attended by the public, you are responsible for their safety. It is important that you comply with all rules, regulations and laws in your local area and that everyone has a fun, safe time.

Alcohol and Entertainment

If you are planning to serve alcohol at your event, you may need an alcohol / liquor license.

Contact your local council or board- it can take a couple of weeks to organise, so make sure you leave plenty of time.

Also remember that the age of consent for drinking alcohol varies, so ensure that you are compliant. Please make sure that there are plenty of non-alcoholic drinks.

Keep a record

One of the most wonderful things about group fundraising is the social side- take lots of photographs, and send them to everyone involved in your event or activity. Being able to show your friends the photos that have featured in The Countrywoman or on our website is a great way of showing appreciation for their support.

It's also important to keep a written record of how much money was raised- get someone to help count it, write it down and then contact ACWW Central Office. We can advise on the most sensible way of sending it to us, depending on the amount and the currency.

ACWW Central Office will always be keen to help support your fundraising activities. We have a range of resources that we can send you either as physical copies or in digital form for you to print locally.

Whether it is posters, flyers or stickers, we have them. We even have Women Walk the World T-Shirts, Water Bottles and Pedometers to help with your walking / racing events.

We want you to have fun, and we want to help- please get in touch with Central Office if you need any assistance. Thank you for your support!

Good luck and Happy Fundraising!



NEWSLETTER ADVICE

Magdie de Kock, Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman

Newsletters are a vital and effective tool for marketing and communication in business, society branches and local organisations.

What exactly makes a good newsletter, and why use one in the first place?

Newsletters are a great way to maintain contact with your current members, as well as to attract new ones. They're cost-effective, low maintenance, measurable and can be really beneficial when written, designed and delivered correctly- you need to capture the attention of potential readers, and keep it.

A well-planned newsletter will also help you:

- Remind your members that you exist!
- Build your brand
- Increase member loyalty
- Raise awareness
- Encourage traffic to your website and also to the website of ACWW

To help get you started, I have put together a few easy steps to crafting your brilliant newsletter, and answer some of the questions I get asked most frequently by members and corporate clients.

1. Be informative

Whilst you want to communicate lots detail and information, you must also focus on achieving your objective. If your email looks like a newsletter, but isn't full of valuable, interesting, educational content, then it isn't really a newsletter.

But what do people consider valuable content? According to the Nielsen Norman Group, more than 40% of users said that each of the following aspects makes for valuable email newsletters:

- Work-related news / actions
- Announcements for organisations
- Events / deadlines / important dates
- Reports
- Blog posts
- Tips, tactics, how-to's, tutorials
- Interesting facts
- Reviews
- Photos
- Contests and contest winners
- Info graphics
- Webinars and / or videos
- Testimonials
- Recipes
- Change of details

2. Be reliable and consistent

Newsletters only work if they are produced and distributed on a consistent basis, and this means that you need to see your newsletter as a long term commitment – be prepared to invest the time and effort into regular updates. In a recent study it was found that 70% of respondents said that they look forward to receiving at least one newsletter per quarter and many said a newsletter had become part of their routine. Very few other promotional efforts can claim that!

3. Have a compelling opening

We all know that first impressions set the tone for any relationship. How you introduce yourself will make the difference between disinterest or engagement. The same goes for your email newsletter's subject line- it must be compelling, interesting, or thought provoking, or the reader won't get past your "hello"!

Avoid generic information in your subject line, such as "Monthly Newsletter" and make sure you take advantage of your second chance, the email title. It is this headline that will ensure people open the document and read it, rather than deleting or ignoring it; just the same as a headline on a printed newsletter. This will have maximum impact if it answers a burning question or suppresses or responds to an emotion. The more personalised and relevant a subject line or headline (and content) is, the more chance you have of the recipient taking notice of your email. Addressing the newsletter to someone's name and not 'Dear Member' always helps. But if you do decide to personalise your emails, ensure you spell names correctly!

4. Some practicalities to consider

Format

Decide what layout and format to use. It's a good idea to establish a simple format and stick with it. As with frequency, consistency is the key – people often expect to see items in the same place each time.

Style

Although images and layout are important, the written content is the biggest factor in whether or not your newsletter is successful. Therefore ensure that the content is well researched and accurate. Apply the basic "six questions rule" to give your newsletter focus by asking: "who, what, where, when, why and how".

The style you pick for your newsletter will depend on the perception you want to create. Some things to take into account include:

- Who are your audience or readers and what do they like?
- What's your brand personality and look?
- What is the niche of your organisation?
- Do you want your newsletter to be informal or serious?
- Would you like it to be more educational and informative?

Branding

It's important that your newsletter is branded, so members will know it's from you. It's essential, for example, that you include your logo and tagline, and you should also ensure that you always stick within your set of style guidelines. You may prefer to create a unique logo and tagline according to your specific area, or you may request to use the ACWW branding provided it has been approved by the C&M Committee. (According to ACWW's Constitution and Bye Laws, all printed material has to be approved since it is the responsibility of the C&M Committee). This should not be a problem at all, because the C&M Committee is all for promoting ACWW and creating awareness of the organisation... and we are friendly, approachable and helpful!

Images and graphics

Use at least one graphic per page. Graphics include photos, artwork, charts, large quotes or even a coloured or shaded box behind an article. Graphics are important for two reasons: First of all, studies have shown that people are more likely to read an article if it contains a graphic such as a photo. That's because graphics, along with headlines are the first things that reader's eyes are drawn to when they turn to a new page. Secondly, graphics within a story are important because they provide much-needed visual breaks from solid blocks of text.



Generating content

How do you fill your newsletter to ensure you meet the needs of your members and ensure they remain interested? Here are a few ideas:

- Refer to your marketing and strategic plans – aim to achieve your objectives
- Ask key members what content they would like to see.
- Look at newsletters *you* receive – what do you like and dislike about them? Draw inspiration from them, without copying!
- What do people want to know – what questions are you most often asked about ACWW?
- Create regular topics – ensure your template has sections in it to cover the same areas each time, such as latest news, diary, top tips, and contact information etc.
- Respond- Allowing members to reply to your email newsletter is crucial, but you must reply!

5. Keep it brief

Guess how long the average person spends reading a newsletter? 51 seconds! Don't let that get you down though. Keeping your content interesting with content blocks, brief blurbs, snapshots, and / or bullet points and including call-to-action buttons will give your readers' eyes a break. Allow your readers just enough info, leaving them eager to visit your website or social media channel for more information. Remember: The point of a newsletter is to build a relationship with your members, to inform and to educate. A golden rule: Write to express, not to impress. If you are printing your newsletters, perhaps go for a double-sided sheet. If you plan to email them, you may want to try to include the copy on one screen to avoid lots of scrolling, or make it no larger than A4.

6. Lastly, check before you send!

A newsletter represents the professionalism of your organisation. You need to make sure it looks impressive, polished and is free of typos and grammatical errors. Proofreading, and revising are the most tedious, mundane parts of putting together a newsletter – but they are absolutely necessary.

Conclusion

According to research based on 270 email newsletters across 6 different countries, readers feel an emotional attachment to their email newsletters. Newsletters feel personal because they arrive in members' inboxes, and members have an ongoing relationship with them. Creating a personal, presentable and effective newsletter takes work, but it also creates a friendship with your members, who are in fact also ACWW's members, that most marketing strategies can't. Maintain and nurture this connection with your supporters and your membership will grow!

#16DAYSOFACTIVISM

From 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. It is promoted using the hashtag: **#16DaysofActivism**

In 2016, the UNiTE campaign strongly emphasized the need for sustainable financing for efforts to end violence against women and girls towards the fulfilment of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. You can see more by visiting the UN Women website at www.unwomen.org

The campaign was supported by many ACWW members, including the UK-based National Federation of Women's Institutes. The NFWI organised a Prose Competition, inviting members to submit a piece of prose of fewer than 50 words, with inspiration drawn from the **#NotInMyName** campaign.

We were delighted to hear that ACWW Agriculture Committee member Therese Casemore had been awarded first prize! Her winning piece, written from a man's perspective, is included below:

*"What is a man?
The average man is more powerful than the average woman.
Because he is male.
He can always beat her.
But I was taught, just because you can, make sure you don't.
Because you are a man.
Violent towards women? Not in my name!"
Therese Casemore, Llandogo WI, Gwent FWI*



Therese is shown above with the other finalists

Congratulations to Therese and all those who took part in this important awareness-raising campaign. As you can see, there are lots of ways to get involved in campaigns like this, and we encourage all ACWW members to look at the UN and UN Women websites for local opportunities and events.



ICNGO AT UNESCO

Tish Collins, ACWW Chief Executive Officer

The International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations is hosted every two years by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and provides NGOs in Consultative Status with UNESCO the opportunity to have input in the NGO Liaison Committee's agenda for the next term. In December 2016 Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins and Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland set off to Paris for the ICNGO, whose theme this year was 'The Challenge of the Digital Revolution for NGOs'.

The impressive headquarters building of UNESCO in Paris was the venue for this year's ICNGO, a short walk from the historic Eiffel Tower. Having travelled by Eurostar train the night before, we arrived at UNESCO in plenty of time for the opening session on Monday morning. Welcomed by Eric Falt, the UNESCO Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information, we were greeted with some startling figures. In 1996, 1% of the world's population had internet access- by 2006 this number had reached 17%, and in 2016, 50% of the population had practical access to the internet. These 3.6 billion users send, on average, 2.5 million emails per second and more than 8,000 'tweets' are sent per second using social media app Twitter. These figures are vast, and support ACWW's increased use of digital interaction in the past year (*if you're interested, ACWW's website gets just over 700,000 visits a month, just from users directed to it via Facebook!*).

His Excellency Mr Darko Tanaskovic, Serbia's Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and Chair of the Committee on NGO Partners on the UNESCO Executive Board pointed out that 'multiculturalism' as an ideal, was permanently endangered by 'dark forces, including the emerging extremist right-wing politics of central Europe and the United States of America, as well as isolationism'. Instead, he said, we must strive for 'multiculturality', the true engagement and interaction of all cultures and backgrounds within our states, organisations and actions. This can be particularly facilitated by the use of digital integration and easy cross-border communications within civil society, NGOs and groups like ACWW's member societies.

Many people are resistant to the 'intrusion' of the internet and digital technology on their everyday lives. There is a fear of new things, along with a very reasonable concern about 10 | www.acww.org.uk



▲ ACWW Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins (right) with Dr Rohani Hashim, Secretary General of the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organisations and ACWW Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland at the International Conference of NGOs, at UNESCO in Paris, December 2016

terms like 'fake news' and 'post-truth', whilst the hysteria that comes with frequent disasters, bad news and tragedies is exacerbated by the 24 hour a day, multi-platform news world we live in. A large amount of time at the Conference was spent discussing the ethics of the digital revolution, and interesting points made by many contributors- including those who questioned the intent and moral perspective of the major media companies like News International, Facebook and Google.

There was a feeling expressed by some within the body of the Conference that these organisations had a malevolent attitude towards NGOs, and lacked interest in global development- and should thus be resisted. Having discussed his point with me, Nick asked *"given the tone of the event, and the points raised about corporate responsibility and tax payments, was there any interest in inviting major technology or social media companies to this forum or follow up events to discuss more positive, productive interaction and action? If they are brought into the fold, there would be a greater level of trust- at the moment, they are winning and we are not- we would be stronger with them"*.

This was met with interest, and Giacomo Mazzone of the European Broadcasting Union responded that media companies tended to stay clear of engaging lest they have to commit to something- though the chairman of the panel did commit to inviting such companies to the following meetings in the 2016-2018 session.

ACWW made several other important points at the Conference, including Tish's request that the NGO Liaison Committee create an online resource bank, so that NGOs could contribute their working documents (which further the work on the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNESCO agenda) in various languages. This last element is particularly important as Indrajit Banerjee, Director of the Knowledge Societies Division, UNESCO Communication and Information Sector pointed out:

"There are 6,000 recognised languages in the world, and 60-65% will be dead by the year 2100. Only around 400 languages are seen online"

Other important statistics that emerged from the Conference include:

- 32.2 million children with no primary education, of whom 54% are girls
- 23.3 million children with no secondary education, of whom 53% are girls
- Digital access does not indicate digital ability or use; in Scotland, where there is near universal access to the internet, 20% of people have no ability to use it
- c.200 Tweets using #ICNGO to spread word of the conference, with 1500+ re-tweets and people forwarding the message. Of these, 52 Tweets were posted by ACWW- we received official thanks from the UNESCO media team at the end of the Conference for covering the discussion so thoroughly!
- 380 NGOs have status at UNESCO, representing 50 million worldwide. ACWW alone represents more than 9 million women, a significant percentage of this total representation (18%).

The final session of the Conference included the formal adoption of the working paper- the guidelines for all NGOs to work within for the next two years. Three important changes and clarifications came from ACWW's involvement, including the creation of new interaction and dialogue channels for the Committee to work on; and the call for a stronger network of NGOs working together in support of the Committee's agenda but independent of their direction. This was an important forum for ACWW to present our goals and policy, as part of our strategy of engagement on the global stage with decision makers and those able to promote our ideals at the highest levels.

TRIENNIAL SUMMARY 2013-2016

74

Countries with ACWW member societies or individual members

PARTNERSHIP

ACWW maintains consultative status with United Nations Agencies and Organisations



1,836

Individual Members
1,491 in 2013
1,373 in 2014
1,836 in 2015



JUNE 2015

ACWW signs UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Zero Hunger Challenge

412

Member Societies
456 in 2013
394 in 2014
412 in 2015

IMPACT

Directly supported by our Projects programme (typical results from 2014)

12,172

Women beneficiaries

7,941

Child beneficiaries

48,000

Additional family members reached, in 12,021 families

630

Rural women in self-employment projects to boost income and independence

PFF

Pennies for Friendship
£188,975 in 2013
£171,825 in 2014
£192,908 in 2015

434

Women farmers in agriculture projects to increase knowledge and improve yields

7,455

Women, men and children benefiting from water and sanitation projects

ACWW BALANCE SHEETS as at 31 DECEMBER 2013, 2014 & 2015

ALL ASSOCIATED CHARITIES

ACWW

	2015			2014			2013		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Fixed Assets									
Tangible assets	13,901	11,956	10,025	13,901	11,956	10,025	13,901	10,025	
Investments	2,219,731	2,231,571	2,177,521	2,219,731	2,231,571	2,177,521	2,219,731	2,177,521	
	2,233,632	2,243,527	2,187,546	2,233,632	2,243,527	2,187,546	2,233,632	2,187,546	
Current Assets									
Debtors	40,894	46,733	30,252	40,894	46,733	30,252	40,894	30,252	
Cash at bank and in hand	497,834	432,921	470,274	395,538	330,585	367,930	395,538	367,930	
	538,728	479,654	500,526	436,432	377,318	398,182	436,432	398,182	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year	- 98,741	-51,087	-52,696	- 173,650	-123,216	-123,438	- 173,650	-123,438	
Net current assets	439,987	428,567	447,830	262,782	254,102	274,744	262,782	274,744	
Net assets	£2,673,619	£2,672,094	£2,635,376	£2,496,414	£2,497,629	£2,462,290	£2,496,414	£2,462,290	
Funds									
ACWW									
Permanent endowment fund	644,131	660,314	644,374	644,131	660,314	644,374	644,131	644,374	
Restricted funds	466,250	448,577	410,337	466,250	448,577	410,337	466,250	410,337	
Designated funds	161,904	161,875	161,809	161,904	161,875	161,809	161,904	161,809	
Unrestricted funds	1,224,129	1,226,863	1,245,770	1,224,129	1,226,863	1,245,770	1,224,129	1,245,770	
	2,496,414	2,497,629	2,462,290	2,496,414	2,497,629	2,462,290	2,496,414	2,462,290	
Connected Charities									
Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund	74,378	72,489	71,138	-	-	-	-	-	
Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund	33,296	33,296	33,296	-	-	-	-	-	
Nutrition Education Trust Fund	69,531	68,680	68,652	-	-	-	-	-	
	177,205	174,465	173,086	-	-	-	-	-	
	£2,673,619	£2,672,094	£2,635,376	£2,496,414	£2,497,629	£2,462,290	£2,496,414	£2,462,290	
Total Funds									

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Permanent Endowment		Connected Charities		Total 2015		Total 2014 (restated)		Total 2013 (restated)	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income														
Donations, membership, legacies	249,613	181,855	-	-	2,741	434,209					381,370			550,408
Investment income	82,079	-	-	-	-	82,079					71,082			69,679
Charitable activities	4,338	-	-	-	-	4,338					1,283			284
Total income	336,030	181,855	-	-	2,741	520,626					453,735			620,371
Expenditure														
Raising Funds:														
Investment management costs	8,124	-	-	-	-	8,124					7,975			7,493
Charitable activities:														
Project activities	-	295,501	-	-	-	295,501					273,762			281,180
Education	24,615	-	-	-	-	24,615					22,885			23,445
Outreach	47,930	-	-	-	-	47,930					44,564			35,854
Information and research	101,712	-	-	-	-	101,712					94,567			78,246
United Nations representation	37,503	-	-	-	-	37,503					34,867			33,659
Conference	-	-	-	-	-	-					422			57,245
Total expenditure	219,884	295,501	-	-	-	515,385					479,042			509,629
Net income (expenditure)	116,146	- 113,646	-	-	2,741	5,241					- 25,307			110,742
Transfers between funds	- 128,950	128,950	-	-	-	-					-			-
Net income (expenditure) before other gains (losses)	- 12,804	15,304	-	-	2,741	5,241					- 25,307			110,742
Gains (losses) on investment assets	10,098	2,369	- 16,183	-	-	- 3,716					62,025			100,103
Net movement in funds	- 2,706	17,673	- 16,183	-	2,741	1,525					36,718			210,845
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2015	1,388,738	448,577	660,314	174,465	2,672,094						2,635,376			2,424,531
Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2015	1,386,032	466,250	644,131	177,206	2,673,619						2,672,094			2,635,376



TURNING RED SQUARE GREEN

Nick Newland, Media & Communications Manager

ACWW was invited to attend the Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity Forum in Ufa, Russia in November 2016. Our delegation consisted of Chief Executive Office Tish Collins, representing World President Ruth Shanks, our European Area President Margaret McMillan and Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland.

Having left a dreary London early on Sunday morning, our delegation arrived in Moscow to be greeted by a snowy, frosty evening. The next morning we were met by Ekaterina Belotsvetova (a familiar face to those who attended ACWW's Triennial Conference in 2016 as she attended with Senator Irina Gekht). Ekaterina (Kate) works in the International Relations Department of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (the senior legislative body in Russia, akin to the US Senate or UK House of Lords) and had kindly organised our programme in Moscow.

Our first meeting was at Public School No.1234, hosted by the Veteran's Council of the Arbat District. After a tour and question-and-answer session on ACWW's work and Russian education, we travelled a short distance to the headquarters of ACWW member, the Women's Union of Russia. The WUR is incorporates 19,000 women's councils, and 32 regional, city and independent groups who work for empowerment and improved conditions around the Russian Federation. Overall, the WUR represents more than 2 million women. We were welcomed by International Projects Coordinator Helena Bashun (whom we had met at the Triennial Conference) and Deputy Chairperson Galina Gulko who explained that the organisation works to an annual theme – in February 2017 the new theme of youth education would be adopted, with speeches from the Russian Minister of Education.



▲ ACWW's European Area President Margaret McMillan with Chief Executive Office Tish Collins, Galina Gulko and Helena Bashun of the Women's Union of Russia, and Dr Ekaterina Belotsvetova of the International Relations Department Council of the Federation at the Women's Union of Russia office in Moscow



▲ Ringing the bell for ACWW: Tish inside the walls of Moscow's iconic Kremlin Palace

Galina fondly recalled visits from past World President May Kidd and past European Area President Valerie Stevens. In discussion with Margaret McMillan, the Russian ladies agreed that supermarket control of pricing on items such as milk and meat were crippling, and we highlighted the recently passed ACWW resolution on Food Sovereignty. Local schools and businesses closing has a profound impact on rural communities in Russia (and indeed worldwide); as people move towards the cities for greater access to education and healthcare, Russia has seen around 200,000 villages and smaller towns effectively cease to exist in the past few years. Our meeting ended with agreement on renewed energy in our cooperation, and arranging to meet again later in the week.

On Tuesday we met with Senator Irina Gekht, Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation Committee for Agrarian and Food Policy and Environmental Management for dinner. This meal was an opportunity to discuss ACWW's priorities in a more relaxed fashion, and allowed us to find out more about the forthcoming programme being implemented by the Council of the Federation to contact, monitor and support rural communities and in particular the women within them. Mrs Gekht would also be travelling to Ufa the following morning.

Wednesday morning included a very moving tour of the Victory Park Museum of World War II – which included a visit to the Hall of Tears, where 2.6 million chains hang from the ceiling, each holding a crystal tear, representing

ten Soviet citizens who lost their lives during the conflict. Official delegations are often taken to this important monument and museum, and it was clear how much the impact of the Second World War remained.

In the afternoon, we departed for a two hour flight to Ufa, the capital city of the Republic of Bashkortostan. Upon landing, we were greeted by Maryana and Olesya – volunteers who would be acting as our interpreters and assistants for the duration of the Conference. An additional 2 hour time difference ensured a late night, and so straight to bed! The next morning we were joined by interpreter Alina, and we set off for the conference.

ACWW was invited to attend the Women's Dialogue: Infinite Charity forum by the Council of the Federation, and our delegation was among just twenty international delegates, joined by 50 representatives from the Federal Council, and 350 representatives of charity and civic organisations from 55 regions of Russia and the Independent Republics. The forum was organised by the Council of the Federation and the Government of the Republic of Bashkortostan as a stepping-stone meeting towards the 2nd Eurasian Women's Forum in 2018. The intent was to focus on development of charitable activities in Russia, exchange best practices and develop international cooperation mechanisms.

The forum began with an opening ceremony, hosted by the Forum Chairperson, Mrs Galina Karelova, Deputy Chair of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. She was clear in her intent that the forum "*solve understanding in the humanitarian field*", and bring Russian donors closer to those in need. Mrs Karelova presented official statistics on the state of charitable support in Russia; there are currently 7,000 charities, with 15,000 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and 2.5 million registered volunteers. The intention is to use events such as the Forum to bring additional governmental support to the fore, whilst also formalising legislative support and protection for charitable activities in Russia.

The second speaker was Mr Rustem Khamitov, President of the Republic of Bashkortostan, who welcomed us to Ufa and highlighted the Republic's long history of giving and charitable support. The international guests were formally welcomed, and invited to introduce themselves. ACWW Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins presented the greetings of World President Mrs Ruth Shanks AM to the Forum,

and introduced ACWW's aims and focus for the next three years – as well as the hope to further develop connections with women's organisations within the Russian Federation.

Mrs Li Xiaoxing, Director of the Europe Division of the International Department of the All-China Women's Federation of the People's Republic of China took the floor to remark *'we live in an epoch of globalisation – with opportunities and problems. We must be dedicated to fighting gender inequality in all forms'*. The ceremony closed with an address from Her Excellency Mrs Banzragch Delgermaa, Ambassador of Mongolia to the Russian Federation. Ambassador Delgermaa noted that *"the role of women in Mongolian society is hard to overestimate – in education, in healthcare, in family lives; Women currently make up 17% of state government, and we continue to work hard to develop the women's agenda and genuine equality."*

The next session was a 'Private Meeting' with Galina Karelova and the international delegations, held in a traditional Bashkiri Yurt. A circular hut, the lack of corners is said to promote better communication as people sit in a ring sharing friendship and constructive dialogue. This meeting included an exchange of gifts. Tish and Margaret received beautiful scarves, whilst I was presented with a presentation box of local Bashkiri honey. In exchange Margaret presented Mrs Karelova with souvenirs from Northern Ireland, as well as greetings from the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, and Tish an English tea set- with the explanation of ACWW's tradition of sitting with friends and colleagues on October 15, Rural Women's Day, and taking a moment to discuss the situation of rural women sharing refreshment.

Over the next two days, the Forum held a series of themed sessions, each exploring different facets of women's life and status in Russia. The sessions allowed us to learn more about the needs of women across Russia and the Independent Republics, and how we might potentially be able to work with a broad range of organisations in the future.

The final morning saw the majority of the international delegates, including European Area President Margaret McMillan, take a tour of schools for students with disabilities and special educational needs in Moscow. Whilst this was happening, Tish and myself attended an example of the practical element of the Forum- a social media training session run by Olga Vlasova, explaining to local charity and NGO workers how the use of Facebook can benefit their fundraising and promotional efforts. This was a well-run and smooth session, and very beneficial to the attendees; thank you to Olga for letting us sit in!

After the social media session, we met with the delegation from the Women's Union of the Republic of Bashkortostan; we spent a productive 90 minutes with these ladies, agreeing practical methods for future engagement and support, including providing translated versions of ACWW documents so that they can be distributed in Russian to their members. It was a crucial opportunity to hear more about the needs of these rural women; the impact of movement from the country to the city, poor education, lack of healthcare, and climate change.

Our final afternoon in Ufa saw us meet up with Margaret McMillan once again, to attend the closing plenary session of the Forum; the final resolution of planned action and

development towards the 2018 Eurasian Women's Forum is yet to be completed, but there was a strong current of participation and cooperation presented in this session; we have already had productive contact with organisations and women's groups from across Russia since the Forum ended. The final line of the Forum came from Mrs Karelova; a pledge from the Russian government to fund and support women's groups and charities to a greater extent, whilst promoting more impact from society and individual donors- as well as to adopt ACWW's Tea Time concept!



▲ ▼ Tish Collins and Nick Newland meet with the representatives of the Women's Union of Bashkortostan in Ufa, with interpreters Alina Abdullina and Zaripova Olesya



We returned to Moscow on Saturday morning, to be greeted by Helena Bashun of the Women's Union of Russia. This follow-up meeting was a chance for informal discussion accompanied by a tour of Moscow, then lunch and more focussed conversation about the impact of urban development and the neglect of rural communities. Our last day was a chance to catch our breath and, eleven days after we left, return to London- having experienced -8°C in Moscow, and -22°C in Ufa, it was quite nice to get back to a balmy high of 4°C in London!

We are very grateful to have had this opportunity to meet with representatives of the Russian Federation, including of course Bashkortostan, as well as Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China, Germany, the United States of America and Mongolia. Our sincerest thanks go to all our hosts, friends, colleagues and supporters in Russia, in particular Helena Bashun, Irina Gekht, and of course Dr Ekaterina Belotsvetova for their warm welcome and kindness. We look forward to future discussions and collaboration with Russian organisations.



▲ International delegates outside the ceremonial Yurt in Ufa; ACWW's representatives are joined by those from China, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Mongolia; centre in grey and white is Mrs Galina Karelova, Deputy Chair of the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

► European Area President Margaret McMillan with Dr Ekaterina Belotsvetova in Moscow





COMMITTEE FOCUS

Kerry Maw-Smith, ACWW United Nations Committee Chairman

The UN Committee in the 2016-2019 Triennium: Our plans and intentions



COMMITTEE FOCUS

Name: Kerry Maw-Smith

Country: New Zealand

Role: Chairman, UN Committee

Term: 2016-2019

Previous Role: Member of UN Committee, 2010-2016

Member Since: 2009

Kia ora koutou katoa. Greetings to you all. It was a great honour for me to be elected to Chair the UN Committee for this next triennium. The Board has appointed a Committee of enthusiastic and knowledgeable women to lead advocacy on behalf of ACWW. The Committee is:

Kerry Maw-Smith (*New Zealand*) – Chairman
Suzanne Garrett (*Australia*) – Deputy Chairman
Susan Jonas (*Wales*)
Chris Treweek (*England*)
Pat Twiss (*Australia*)
Christine Reaburn (*Canada*)

and of course, we are given tremendous support by Dr Sam Page and other staff in the London office.

In October, we held our first Committee meeting and began planning our activities for the triennium. We have set a few priorities and aim to work collaboratively with other ACWW Committees and like-minded organisations to ensure we have the greatest impact with our advocacy on your behalf.

ACWW has become a member of UN Women and we encourage member societies and members to join and participate with their

local branches. We believe this will help us to be well-informed and open other doors for our voice to be heard.

ACWW is very fortunate to have excellent communication tools such as website, E-Newsletter, Facebook and Twitter. We will be making use of these as much as possible to communicate and share activities with you.

Advocacy

Much of our advocacy will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which have been adopted by the UN through to 2030. A particular focus will be on **SDG 5: Gender Equality** as this underpins many of the issues which most affect our members and communities. We will aim to ensure Governments are held to account for performance against the UN agreed indicators for each SDG.

We will be continuing work on CEDAW (*Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women*). Our focus will be on Article 14 of the Convention which relates to rural women. There are a few countries who have yet to ratify CEDAW and we are keen to encourage them to do so.

In addition, we also hope to support you in your efforts to lobby for the implementation of ACWW Resolutions in your home countries. The Committee will be looking at how we can support you to advocate on sustainable energy, vaccination against eradicable diseases, civil society and gender, immigrant border children and refugees. Dr Sam Page will be contacting the member societies who put forward resolutions for their expectations around implementation. From that information, we hope to put together a resource kit of ideas, sample letters etc which will help you to lobby at local level. We aim to make that available on the ACWW website.

Advocacy is more effective when it is backed by real statistical evidence to support the human stories. There may be occasions when the UN Committee asks members to gather information that is hard for us to obtain and we hope you will help us when that happens.

UN Representatives

We are fortunate to have a team of wonderful volunteers supporting us on the ground in UN centres such as New York, Geneva, Vienna,

Bangkok, and Rome. With increasing workloads in Geneva and New York we are actively looking for additional representatives. If you are interested in finding out about this work or know of someone who may be able to help us, please could you contact the Committee via the London office.

UN International Observances

Of interest are the UN International Decades/ Years/ Days as they often provide us with opportunities to focus our activities and messages. Currently we are in the Decades for Action on Nutrition, Sustainable Energy for All, and Eradication of Poverty. 2017 will be the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. This may be a difficult theme for ACWW but we can promote key messages around sustainable use of resources and eco-tourism, and we encourage you to work on these within your own communities.

International Days coming up in the next few months include February 6 (Zero Tolerance of FGM), February 20 (Social Justice), March 8 (International Women's Day), March 22 (World Water Day). I'm sure many of you will wish to have a strong voice on these issues, so please contact the UN Committee via the London office if you need our assistance.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

This key event on the UN Committee calendar will be held in New York from March 13-24. The priority theme for 2017 is "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". Much of our work is of course about women's empowerment, the issues women face with work, and the way society, inequity, culture, legislation, economic development etc impacts on them and their families. CSW is a very important forum for ACWW to attend. ACWW will be represented by Ruth Shanks (World President), Henrietta Schoeman (Secretary, at her own expense) and myself. We will travel to New York following the March Committee meetings and attend many of the side and parallel events, networking, gathering information, and sharing your concerns.

I hope this column has given you an insight into the plans the UN Committee has for this Triennium and I look forward to reporting back to you on our activities in the next issue.

Heoi anō tāku mō nāiane! - That is all for now!

CRAFT ACROSS BORDERS



Janétje van der Merwe, Mapula Embroidery Project

In December 2016, ACWW Area President for Southern Africa, Mrs Maybel Moyo, forwarded us a report from Janétje van der Merwe, on behalf of the Mapula Embroidery Project in South Africa. The report explained how the Project (a long-term ACWW member) is helping another society in Rwanda. The group in Rwanda are not an ACWW project, but this report illustrates the generosity and goodwill of ACWW members worldwide. Over to Janet...

"In 2013 the wife of the Rwandan High Commissioner to South Africa, Mrs Netty Butera, approached members of Soroptimist International Pretoria after a visit to the Mapula Embroidery Project in the Winterveld. Her vision was to start a similar project in Kibeho in Rwanda to assist the most vulnerable women by teaching skills to them; enabling them to generate a small income as has been the case with the women from the Mapula Embroidery Project over the past 24 years."

The report continued by describing the background on Kibeho, in the southern region of Rwanda. *"It is believed that the Virgin Mary appeared to three young female teenagers in the remote area of Kibeho in 1981. In 1982, those who saw the visions reported gruesome sights, including rivers of blood and decapitated heads, which are regarded as a foreshowing of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi people. The Roman Catholic Church officially recognised the apparitions in 2001 after scrutinising the results of two commissions; Since then, every year, thousands of pilgrims have flocked to the Kibeho Holy Land."*

Women who live in Kibeho, are most vulnerable and are the poorest of the poor. They live from subsistence farming (food gardens) and generate a small income by begging during pilgrimages to Kibeho. The income from the sale of the embroidery project will help them to generate an additional income and discourage the indignity of begging. By doing this, it will improve their self-esteem, empower them and create a small income for their daily living and educate their children.

A lot of thought since 2013 has gone into the development of this project. Funding was received through Tonny Filedt Kokt (Soroptimist International Europe- African representative) in January 2015 from SI



Schevingen (R55,000) and SI Ede (R13,000), both from the Netherlands which meant that the training of the women could commence.

In July 2015, Janétje van der Merwe and two skilled women from the Mapula Embroidery Project (Rossinah Maepa and Dorah Hlongwane) flew to Kigali then by car to Kibeho for 10 days, training the 12 women. The idea is to initially train the first 12 women and teach them apart from embroidery, to use a sewing machine and make marketable products. Once they are trained they will be expected to train other women who would want to join the project. A sewing machine, two steam irons, embroidery cotton and fabric was taken from South Africa to start off with. For the sustainability and progress of the project after the training phase, Netty Butera will be the contact between the project

◀ Dorah Hlongwane and Rossina Maepa from the Mapula Embroidery Club, at the airport on their way to Rwanda to train women to embroider.

▼ Examples of the finished product!

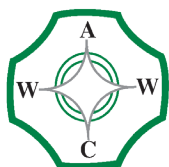


coordinator, Martha and the parish priest who will also be involved until the women can run the project themselves.

PHASE 2: A follow up visit to Kibeho in November 2015 was made by Netty Butera, Janétje van der Merwe and Helene Potgieter, and we were extremely encouraged by the progress that was made."

We are very grateful to Janétje for preparing the report, and to Maybel for forwarding it to us. We wish all those involved in the Holy Land Kibeho Embroidery Project the very best, and send greetings to our members in the Mapula Embroidery Project. **The Editor.**





AREA FOCUS

Gail Commens, Area President - South Pacific



AREA FOCUS

Name: Mrs Gail Commens

Country: Australia

Role: Area President, South Pacific

Term: 2016- 2019

Member Since: 2001

Other leadership roles:

I have been a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of New South Wales (NSW) for 46 years, and am now an honorary life member. I have held all positions in my Branch and most in our Group. Was on the NSW State Executive for 4 years, then 3 years as Vice President, 3 years as State International Officer and NSW delegate to 5 CWA of Australia conferences.

As a member of ACWW for 15 years I have attended five Area Conferences and 3 World Conferences and it was these conferences, most as a delegate, that gave me a true passion for International work world-wide.

Since my election in August as the South Pacific Area President I have been on a very hectic ride in a very short time- partly because, instead of coming home when the World Conference finished, I elected to travel to Spain and Morocco for a month's holiday.

I see my role as building bridges between those of us who have and those who have not. ACWW's South Pacific Area is made up of Australia, New Zealand and a number of smaller Island Nations. Some I have visited in the past and some I look forward to visiting in the next three years.

In November I attended the Rural Women New Zealand's National Conference in Wellington, and was unfortunately on the 18th floor of our hotel when the earthquake happened. I DO NOT want to experience something like that ever again!

During that visit I also met with the New Zealand committee working to organise the ACWW South Pacific Area conference in New Plymouth, New Zealand from 30th April to 3rd May 2017. Find out more by visiting: www.spaconference2017.org

From New Zealand I travelled with the World President, Mrs Shanks, to Tonga to monitor a project there. It was wonderful to observe how the community benefits from generous donations. Present funding is providing land fill and top soil to homes where sea water is invading. Many families have no drinking water or toilets. Further funding will be needed to supply poly tanks for clean water. We met with 2 Societies and I was able to see first-hand what these women and their communities need.

Meeting with the head of the Red Cross and the Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Internal Affairs, was also very rewarding enabling me to know first-hand who I can call on for assistance in Tonga during my term.

While there we also attended the Nakelo Montessori Preschool graduation ceremony where 23 gorgeous little four and five year olds graduated, complete with gowns and mortars. This preschool could also benefit from further funding.

I have been a member of the Country Women's Association (CWA) of New South Wales (NSW) for 46 years, and am now an honorary life member. I have held all positions in my Branch and most in our Group. Was on the NSW State Executive for 4 years, then 3 years as Vice President, 3 years as State International Officer and NSW delegate to 5 CWA of Australia conferences.

From age 18 I held positions in the Rural Youth Organisation and worked 10 years as a Stock & Station Agent then, 15 years later, 10 years at Charles Sturt University. For many years I organised farm hosting for overseas visitors in the Junee Shire.

My husband Peter and I farm fat lambs and grow crops and hay in Southern NSW, Australia. We have a daughter and son and 5 grandchildren. I am a licenced Lay Reader with the Anglican Church and am very involved with 2 museums, one of which I started 22 years ago where we welcome over 25,000 visitors a year, the Show Society and the tourist information centre in my home town, Junee. I am also on a planning committee looking at building a retirement village.

Gail Commens

ACWW South Pacific Area President

Email: southpac@acww.org.uk

▼ [The CWA New South Wales delegation at the 28th Triennial Conference in Warwick, UK, 2016: Annette Turner, Ruth Cargill, Joy Granger, Gail Commens, World President Ruth Shanks AM, and Lyn Braico](#)



AREA FOCUS



Dotsie Gordon, Area President - Caribbean, Central & South America



AREA FOCUS

Name: Mrs Dotsie Gordon

Country: Jamaica

Role: Area President, Caribbean, Central & South America

Term: 2013- 2019

Member Since: 2001

Other leadership roles:

My background as a native of a small rural farming community and my training in the 4H clubs and Home Economics encourage my interest in the sustainable development of our homes and communities, which is of course a focus for ACWW also. I grew up with a sense of "giving back" and am pleased to be continuing to represent my area for ACWW in this Triennium.



▲ Dotsie Gordon, Area President for Caribbean, Central & South America gives her report to the 28th Triennial Conference in Warwick, UK.

Mrs Gordon was re-elected for a second term as Area President in August 2016.

First of all let me express my thanks to the members who nominated me to serve in this position at the Area Conference held in Grenada subsequent to my participation in the St. Lucia Conference.

Group membership within this area comprise the Jamaica Federation of Women, Trinidad and Tobago Federated Women's Institutes, Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana Federation of Women's Institutes, Grenada Homemakers Association, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Federated Women's Institutes and Dominican Republic (ODEMIHF). We also have individual members in Chile, Brazil, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

I have interacted regularly with members of the group since meeting participants at the St. Lucia Conference and the Area Conference in Jamaica, June 2015 and UNESCO/ACWW/JFW sponsored conference in November 2015. I will continue to ensure open dialogue with members during the new Triennium.

Previously my interaction with ACWW came through my position as Chairman of the Jamaica Federation of Women (1995 – 2000) and as an advocate for continued membership of the JFW with ACWW. My passion for the Jamaica Federation of Women of which my mother was a rural branch member extends to the ACWW. I was also in contact with Mrs. Marg Harris, former International Coordinator for Canadian Women's Institutes under whom the Caribbean was assigned.

I became an individual member of ACWW in 2001 and have enjoyed reading *The Countrywoman*. I have encouraged others to become members to experience the fellowship in ACWW and they have confirmed that they look forward to each issue of *The Countrywoman* – a very good publication that will always be of interest as long as one's eyes permit.

I have held roles in other organizations such as Big Sisters of Jamaica – President, Council of Voluntary Social Services – Treasurer, Chair, Lead Group on Business Studies in the development of HEART Trust/NTA, Jamaica Professional Secretaries Association – Honorary Member, Administrative Management Society, Human Resource Management Association of Jamaica, Staff Pension Fund of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica – Chairman/Trustee, Jamaica Employers Federation – Trustee/

Council Member, Human Resource Professionals Association of Canada, Carron Hall Past Students Association, University of Technology Jamaica Alumni and Leicester University Alumni, Institute of Personnel and Development-UK.

I wish to use this medium to thank Mrs. Margaret Browne and Miss Rose Rajbansee for their support and assistance in keeping in touch with members because of the challenges with distance and accessibility.

My focus at this time as I look back on past activities and look to the future is on the development of ACWW in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Very best wishes for continued success.

Dotsie M. Gordon (CHRP)



▲ Jamaica Federation of Women Executive at their final meeting for 2016, which was followed by Christmas Luncheon on Saturday, December 10 in the Lady Huggins Hall of JFW

▼ Members of the Birch Grove Home Makers Association. The young lad at the front of table is the son of one of the members- he loves making the crafts with his mother. The bottom photo is a close-up of the crafts



PROJECTS UPDATES

Progress Reports and Case Studies from the Projects Team

PROGRESS REPORT: TANZANIA Goodness Organisation Improving household income and nutrition of HIV/AIDS affected families

Project 996: The Goodness Organization project team held meetings to introduce the project to community leaders and discuss the most effective way of implementing the project. Communities were assessed and selected to benefit from the project so as to benefit the most deprived in the project area. As a result of this exercise, 30 HIV/AIDS-affected families were identified to be beneficiaries, as well as 3 Community Resource Volunteers (CRVs).

Goat rearing and horticulture training (2 days) was conducted. Most of the major training was facilitated by Zainabu Majubwa who is an employee of the Agricultural and Livestock, Irrigation and Cooperative Department. The training included:

Compost fertilizer making: Materials needed, importance of using compost fertilizer, how to keep compost for good nutrients, amount and ratio of compost used in home gardening or main field for different crops.

Home gardening: Type of crops, seedbed preparation, factors to consider before garden cultivation, type of seedbeds, nutrients available in different crops in the garden, how to use fertilizer in nursery preparation, pest and disease control and finding solutions to local home gardening problems.

Goat keeping: Types of goat, breeding and inbreeding, breed selection, feeding, pasture management, pest and disease control, good housing, good husbandry and proper handling of goat kids. The training methodology used was group discussions, demonstrations, use of visual aids, site visits and plenary session presentations and workshops. A training manual was distributed to each of the project staff, CRVs and beneficiaries. 33 goats were procured and distributed to the beneficiaries. The village leaders helped to transport the goats from the market. The beneficiaries are engaging themselves in goat husbandry activities to improve their living standards. The whole community has become involved, with local well-wishes offering assistance when necessary. The beneficiary families are now able to grow and sell vegetables from their gardens, using only natural fertilizer, and they have increased their incomes and no longer have to beg in order to survive.



▲ A project beneficiary preparing fertiliser from local materials for gardening and main field farming

MONITORING REPORT: INDIA ATSWA Trust Support for Sustainable Livelihood through Distribution of Milch Animals (Cows) to Landless Poor Dalit Women

Project 991: Projects Committee Member Hazel Armstrong visited several ACWW Projects in October and November 2016. She attended ATSWA's office, which is part of their disability programme with classrooms to teach stitching, computer skills, retail (a mock-up shop) and 'integration'. It was clean, spacious and well set out.

She found that the purchase of 20 milk cows for landless Dalit women had been completed and that the beneficiaries have increased income and better health than before. So far 20 calves have been born, nine female and eleven male. They will remain with the mother until they are 18 months old. The females will be kept for part of the revolving loans process and the males will be reared on until they are 30 months then sold for meat, half of the proceeds being kept by the woman concerned, and half being used by the Trust to offer a cow to a new beneficiary.

The women are working in four groups of five. They take it in turns to take the cows out to the field and 'tent' them there so the other four can work at home and in the village looking after the children. The project coordinator from ATSWA is making weekly visits to check the health of the animals and answer any queries from the beneficiaries.

One challenge is that it has been a very dry year and the expected monsoon was late. There is a borehole close to the grazing fields but it is unreliable.



Case Study

Sivagami (35 years old, married with two boys and a girl)

She is currently getting 5 litres per day from her cow, and has a net monthly income of 5,000 Rs.

She stated that it was so good to have fresh milk that at first she drank too much and put on 10 Kg in weight! Her children have also put on weight and have much better health and attend school regularly. Hazel sampled Sivagami's fresh milk (flavoured with green chilli, pepper and curry leaf) which was delicious! She is a group leader. She collects dung and has started a small kitchen garden, which she hopes to expand when she can get the ground cleared.

Case Study

Padma (40 years old, married with two girls and two boys)

Padma's cow is giving 6 litres of milk a day, giving a monthly income of 4,500 Rs (net of expenses on cattle feed). She also cares for her disabled older sister, and all her family are enjoying fresh milk each day.

Case Study

Meena (27 years old, married with two boys and a girl)

Meena's cow gives 7 litres per day and she has a net income of 5,000 Rs per month. Her family relationships have improved, family members have better health and children are able to go to school regularly.

MONITORING REPORT: INDIA Centre for the Development of Rural Women Apiary and Warren for the Economic Self-Reliance of Malayali (Tribal) Women

Project 1014: Hazel reports that CDRW has an office in their tailoring/teaching centre and that this is a smart, well-kept building, but that the beneficiaries are located in very remote hill villages, some of which are difficult to reach. CDRW had spoken to tribal families to find out what projects might be suitable for them, after some of the daughters had come to their tailoring school for training.

She visited some of the beekeeping and rabbit-raising beneficiaries and found that the women seemed confident in their work. The beekeeping women had been issued with good quality 'bee boxes' of an excellent design, and are being well supported by CDRW to sell their honey.

Hazel viewed the wire mesh cages which had been provided for the rabbits. She saw 3 day-old rabbits with their mother in a good nest with plenty of food. Likewise, Hazel found that these beneficiaries are well supported by CDRW. A middle man regularly takes some of the rabbits (live) to Chennai, where there is a ready market for rabbit meat.

There did not seem to be any problems or challenges with this project, apart from the extreme terrain, reports Hazel. All the women who are benefiting from these projects have a higher income and standard of living, as well as more dignity, than when they were working as daily agricultural labourers, which is the only option for many women in rural areas of India.



Case Study

Vedichi (55 years old, widowed with two boys)

Vedichi started with 10 rabbits, she has bred and sold 40 and currently has 8 young adults (some in kit). She earns 2,000 Rs per month and puts 500 Rs in the post office bank. The rabbits are fed waste vegetable matter and grass. She can now work from home and has an improved diet as she and her sons eat the occasional rabbit. Formerly they trapped wild rabbits in the forest but she says these are tastier and have softer flesh. She said she was very grateful for the help from both CDRW and ACWW and it has made a big improvement to her family situation.

Case Study

Jaya (47 years old, deserted by her husband, two boys and one girl)

This lady was a labourer, working in the fields as well as caring for her profoundly disabled daughter. She is earning more than before and making savings. She started with 10 rabbits, she has sold 50 and currently has 7. She has now eaten rabbit and found it very tasty and better than the wild forest rabbits. She is very happy to work from home and feels safer and has a better family life

Case Study

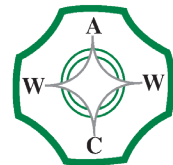
Sennamma (48 years old, deserted by her husband, two boys and one girl)

She started with 10 rabbits, sold 50 rabbits, and currently has 8. She earns a higher income than before and regularly puts savings in the post office bank. She has a better life and she can look after her home and family. She had never eaten rabbit before but has tried it and found it very tasty

Case Study

Vasantha (46 years old, married - husband has 'gone away to Chennai'. Two boys, one girl)

This lady has 5 bee boxes, each of which has given 4 litres of honey in total over the season, and her current income is higher than what she used to earn. There is a central honey extractor nearby which she can use and the honey is then filtered to remove impurities before being sold to someone who comes up the mountain to collect it. 'The honey is extremely dark and has a wonderful flavour', says Hazel.



We hear from Members and Member Societies around the world



INTERNATIONAL DAY Robin Vickers, Taranak Area Rural Women New Zealand

The Taranak Area of RWNZ held their International Day last Friday. The Country for study was Modern England (Post World War Two). Some sixty members attended the day and were able to hear RWNZ New Zealand's National International Officer Marie Appleton from Auckland present her report on the ACWW Triennial World Conference held at Warwick University in England.

World President Ruth Shanks from Australia addressed the conference and said "just do the best you can, no-one can do more than that." One of the resolutions that was endorsed was that members urge their Governments to take action to stop the increasing worldwide sexual abuse of women and children in the refugee camps and shelters.

Our day saw members participate in the competitions of the day. The parade was well supported and the 'Dress for a Garden Party' title was taken by Joan Nolly of the Skinner Rd Branch. The court titled 'High Tea for Two' was won by the Midhirst Branch who once again won the Emily Cook trophy for the most points in the competitions. Other competitions were for knitting, making the English flag, creating a red English rose and baking a sponge cake.

Pennies for Friendship were collected and the proceeds go forward to help women in third world countries with the setting up of safe drinking water systems, develop a business, creating a garden, and learning more hand crafts.

Top photo: Place getters Rosemary and Mary from Toko Branch third, Midhirst Branch members Margaret, Viv and Lorna 2nd and Joan Nolly First standing behind the Midhirst Branch Winning entry in the court section.



DEEDS NOT WORDS Tracey Girdler-Rogers, Buckinghamshire FWI

The Oku Counselling and Computer Literacy Centre for Community Development in Cameroon (ACWW Project No.992) has received a recent donation of £662, raised by Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes in the UK. The group organised a "Deeds Not Words" trip into London on November 14th 2016. Tracey reports "Our Blue badge Guide was Maureen Corcoran who led us through London following in the steps of the Suffragettes, we even passed your front door! [ACWW Central Office] I am in the middle surrounded by ladies from WI's in the North of Buckinghamshire. A fabulous day was had by all supporting ACWW." Thank you to all the ladies involved!



VINTAGE JEWELLERY Annemarie McDonald, Southern Ontario Support

Southern Ontario Support (SOS) is a Category IVa Society Member of ACWW, and is located in the province of Ontario, Canada. The SOS ladies recently held a Vintage Jewellery Sale in support of Pennies for Friendship. So much unwanted jewellery was donated by SOS and WI members that there wasn't enough suitcase space available to take it all to the 2016 Triennial Conference in England! Thus the jewellery was sorted and only lightweight items made the trip overseas with five SOS members. But what to do with the many remaining items? It was decided to offer the 'vintage' jewellery to members attending the Guelph Area WI Convention on 5 October 2016 and the Southern Area WI Convention on 20 October 2016 for whatever free-will donation they wished to make. The women greatly enjoyed the experience and the total amount raised was \$223.10 (CAD). Brava! *Left to Right: Mien Donkers, Marthe McDonald, Eleanor Berry*

EUROPEAN AREA CONFERENCE UPDATE ACWW Area President Margaret McMillan

A quick reminder that the ACWW European Area Conference will be held in Tirgu Mures in Romania, 4-8 September 2017. I will send out another Area President's Newsletter in January, along with Registration Forms which should also be available on the ACWW website.

If you are intending to attend, contact me at europa@acww.org.uk to check out the best flight options.

As we will be seeking to support Romanian charities as part of our contribution to the local community, we are asking delegates to bring toiletries, associated bags, baby clothes and small items for children with them to donate. Please also bring scarves, gloves and wraps that can be sold on the Pennies for Friendship table in support of ACWW.

We are keen to include entertainment in many languages, so it's time to start preparing your music, dances and sketches! We very much look forward to welcoming you to Romania.

PERWARI KONGRES ACWW Area President Maria Abdul Karim

Indonesia's PERWARI held their Kongres XXIV in Jakarta, Indonesia 6-8 December 2016. The photo below shows ACWW Area President for South East Asia and the Far East Maria Abdul Karim with PERWARI leaders and representatives of the State Ministry for Women.



TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY NEWS

We want to know what you do in support of ACWW and we'd love to see pictures. Please include some basic information so we can make sure we get the article right:

- Date of the event / conference / meeting
- Where was it?
- Roughly how many people attended?
- How much money was raised for ACWW?

Send Society News to nick@acww.org.uk

PASSPORT PARTY Patricia Weitzman International Director for Illinois Association for Home and Community Education

The cultures of the Baltic States in Europe and Minnesota in the USA were celebrated in 2016 at a dual international event in Illinois. Minnesota was selected to study with the Baltic States because of similarities in climate, terrain, etc., as well as immigration to Minnesota from the Baltic States area.



Each year the Perry County Association for Home and Community Education hosts a 'Passport Party' for 4H youth, their families and HCE members. Educational displays are created separately by the youth and HCE members. The displays are judged, information on a foreign country and one of the USA states presented, homemade ethnic food shared and a great evening had by all 95 attendees. The display winners have their group's name engraved on a 'traveling' trophy. Perry County HCE member Darlene Vanderjack gave a very informed presentation about the Baltic States.



Perry County is just one of 74 county member societies in the Illinois Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE) that promotes international understanding and local, national and international community wellbeing. It consistently supports ACWW in its efforts. In year 2016 IAHCE sent over US\$10,000 to ACWW collected at unit, county, area and state meetings, and of course at public events and special events like International Days and Women Walk the World. The Zero Hunger Challenge and one of its goals to Reduce Waste will be a focus item at the March 2017 Annual Conference for IAHCE.

Thank you to all in Illinois who do so much to support ACWW's work

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE UPDATE Margaret Yetman, Agriculture Committee Chairman

The Agriculture Committee is ACWW's youngest committee, formed in recognition of the strong links between agriculture and women. Our focus includes:

- Fostering positive cooperation with other NGOs with mutual interests in agriculture, sustainable food production and food security.
- Studying ways of empowering women in agriculture to improve their living conditions
- Promoting women's active participation in agricultural decision making.
- Compiling relevant available information on women in agriculture.

ACWW has consultative status with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This means that ACWW is one of many NGOs offering expert advice to ECOSOC, one of six principal organs of the United Nations. The Committee engages with the FAO in a number of ways, including attending conferences, submitting information, and partnering on campaigns such as 'Save Food'. Because of our status, our UN Representative in Rome can attend FAO conferences and events as an Observer; contribute to written and oral statements at these events; and network and lobby, via the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs, in Rome.

The Committee has promoted campaigns aimed at ACWW members, such as 'Grow Locally, Benefit Globally', to encourage vegetable gardening; cultivating black eyed peas (known as cowpeas in Africa) and providing recipes; reducing the use of plastic bags, and competitions to promote re-usable bags.

ACWW World President Ruth Shanks signed the Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC) pledge on 10 June 2015. When signing the Challenge, Mrs Shanks stated: "this reinforces our commitment to the elimination of hunger around the world". ZHC pledge forms were distributed at the 28th Triennial Conference in August 2016 to increase awareness and participation.

The Committee will continue to connect with the International Federation for Home Economics and International Alliance of Women; work with other ACWW Committees on the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted at the 28th Triennial Conference, Food Security and marking UN International Special Days.

I wish to express thanks for your confidence in re-electing me as Deputy President/Agriculture Committee Chairman. It is with a great deal of commitment and enthusiasm that I go forward in this triennium to do my best in my role to help women and their families worldwide through the work of ACWW. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity.



Associated Country Women of the World

ACWW CONNECTS AND SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

APPLICATION / RENEWAL OF INDIVIDUAL (Category IVb) MEMBERSHIP IN ACWW

- An individual interested in the work and activities of ACWW
- She may attend Triennial Conferences, Council and Area Conferences, space permitting.
- She does not have a vote, but may speak with the permission of the Chairman.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS:

Mrs/Miss/Ms Surname: First Name:

Address:

Postal / Zip Code: Country:

Telephone: Email:

ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER OR RENEWAL Membership Application Date:

Individual Membership Fees:

(Renewable from 1st January of each calendar year, please refer to your Individual Membership Card)

1 year membership £25.00

3 years' membership £65.00

Includes a copy of The Countrywoman magazine each quarter, and an Annual Report

If paying by cheque (which should be made payable to ACWW), please send your fee and application form to: ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB

To pay by Credit or Debit card, please complete the following:

Credit / Debit card number: Start Date:

Expiry Date: Verification Number:

Please note: There is a 3.8% charge levied by the bank for payment by Credit Cards, and 0.99 pence for payment by Visa Debit card. Your card details will be deleted immediately after payment has been taken.

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