

# THE COUNTRYWOMAN

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD

ISSUE 1 - 2021



## Secure ACWW for Future Generations

An appeal to our members

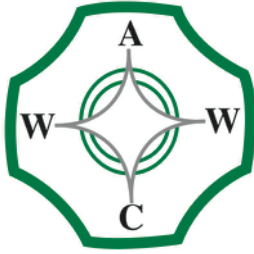
Latest Funded Projects

2019 Annual Report



Charity No. 1174793

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## The Countrywoman Issue 1 - 2021

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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 that we welcome submissions for *The Countrywoman*, particularly from first time contributors or those in areas not recently featured.

Due to ACWW's strategic advocacy policy, articles may be printed in the most appropriate issue, not necessarily the most immediate. We welcome contributions throughout the year.

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

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### MEMBERSHIP

As you are aware, all Society and Individual Memberships were due in January. Please ensure that you are fully paid-up. Just contact Central Office

## 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.



# MY DEAR FRIENDS...

## A message from World President Magdie de Kock



Transition from one year to the next always fills me with a degree of sadness on the one hand and a feeling of excitement on the other. Sadness and disappointment about untapped opportunities, and excitement at the prospect of new opportunities offered.

On my desk in front of me are two diaries. The 2020 Year Planner with dates and pages that have been scratched through as events and appointments have been cancelled and postponed as unpredictable yet inevitable consequences of the Pandemic. As I glance through the pages, I notice numerous online events where I represented ACWW – certainly not as rewarding as a face-to-face attendance, but equally relevant.

Pages in my new 2021 diary are already filled with entries of many invitations to attend interesting events and appointments to fulfil – provided it is allowed by the prescribed Restriction Regulations. However, I am nevertheless prepared and available to seize every opportunity, to keep every appointment in this New Year and to be resilient and eagerly ready to respond when opportunities arise.

“Resilience is one of the most important skills in life. We all face difficulties, challenges and setbacks, but resilience is what determines whether we fight through it and grow, or whether we cave in and let those challenges defeat us”. Lachlan Brown

In my first message in the 2020 issue of *The Countrywoman*, I focussed on hope without realising how relevant this would be in a year when it seems as if all concepts of the meaning of the word were challenged. As the year unfolded, it seemed as if hope was replaced with a feeling of hopelessness as the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic raised fear and uncertainty for millions of people all over the world.

It is therefore appropriate to focus on practising resilience and adapting to the stressful events, as we were tested in uncountable ways the previous year.

*“Resilience is accepting your new reality, even if it's less good than the one you had before. You can fight it, you can do nothing but scream about what you've lost, or you can accept that and try to put together something that's good.”*

*Elisabeth Edwards*

According to other experts on human behaviour, resilience can be learned and I am in the process of managing this ability very well as I have had many opportunities to practise resilience during the previous year!

Research of human development stresses the value of understanding the concept of resilience as these unprecedented changes have had a significant and adverse impact on the general wellbeing of so many people. If ever a time called for understanding the concept of resilience, this is it!

Therefore it is now a good time to learn and practice resilience as the end of the Pandemic has not yet been announced. On the contrary, it now presents additional challenges- there is more social isolation, loss, uncertainty and worry beyond control.

We should focus on what is within our control. Research shows that when resilient people face adversity, they look for the good amid the stress. They engage with the controllable aspects of their lives – like family, personal health and giving back to the community and keeping connected

Board members and Staff remain supportive, connected and involved with the membership. Hopefully members will be motivated by these efforts and will continue to support our beloved organisation – not only financially but also in other ways.

Continued virtual meetings of the Board and staff enable us to mitigate and manage the impact of the Pandemic. The onslaught affected the survival of many organisations similar to ours, but we are grateful to be able to avoid many of the negative impacts – unfortunately, not all...

As transparency and information is critical at this point, I want to mention that Covid-19 has inevitably impacted the finances of ACWW. In an effort to address this reality, we reviewed strategies, made well informed decisions and implemented plans following thorough research. A fundraising appeal – Securing ACWW for Future Generations, will soon be introduced. I hope this initiative will be very well received and supported!

My 2021 diary is already bursting with dates to accommodate Area Conferences and other ACWW related events – those

which were postponed as well as those which were originally planned for 2021. Two conferences are taking place in the first quarter of this year. I am looking forward to attending the very first Area Conference of this Triennium! The Southern African Area Conference is taking place in February in the scenic surroundings of the Midlands of Kwa Zulu-Natal, a province of South Africa. Not being affected by domestic travel restrictions, I will be able to attend the event.

The South Pacific Area Conference is taking place in March. As this will be the very first Area Conference to be conducted virtually, I will join the Conference on-line.

In my message in January 2020 I wrote: “While hopelessness often paralyses us, makes us complacent, causes us to give up, hopefulness does the opposite- it's the wind beneath our wings to lift us up to reach our goals”.

As I continue to navigate uncharted waters, I stare at the pages of my 2021 Year Planner and I will regard every opportunity to cultivate my resilience. Whilst hopefulness is indeed the wind beneath our wings – it is resilience that will enable us to focus on our goals and to remain true to our pledge to support and connect women worldwide and to be Rural Women in Action in every sense of the word!

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us”. Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Dear Members, thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement – you are certainly helping me to discover “the importance of what lies within us”.

Warmest regards,

*Magdie*

Magdie de Kock  
ACWW World President

# CENTRAL OFFICE NEWS

Tish Collins, Chief Executive Officer

Often, we start January by wishing our loved ones, friends and acquaintances a Happy New Year. With the year just finished I wish you all a Better New Year! We must acknowledge how difficult 2020 was, not just in terms of the global pandemic. There have been floods, droughts and famines, evidence of climate change. There have been wars, continuing conflicts that are affecting rural women in particular and, as I write, a military *coup d'état* in Myanmar. Nearly everyone who reads this will have been affected by one or more of these, or know someone who has. The Board and Central Office have been as supportive as we can and I want to pay tribute to our members for carrying on and getting through these terrible times.

The Acting Treasurer has written an article on how we need to build back our funds after two lean years. Meetings are not taking place in the normal way but still, some societies have managed to send in their membership renewals and much needed donations for Pennies for Friendship – ACWW's enabling fund.

I want to bring your attention to the fact that we have significantly reduced our expenditure by having online meetings but our annual income is not sufficient to cover base costs. While the Covid-19 pandemic has brought this to a head, it is not a new problem, and despite reducing costs in various ways over the last few years our income is insufficient to cover the cost of ACWW functioning. We are calling for your urgent help now. Please see page 15 for more information about The Appeal.

Projects have been remembered and the first instalments have been paid out to the projects capable of going ahead this year. We have also been inundated with brightly coloured jumpers which we will dispatch to children who need them in the target countries as soon as it is practical. Thank you for all you have done and are doing towards friendship and empowering rural women worldwide.

You will read later what has been done on a global scale regarding our advocacy work. ACWW has been busy at UNESCO and ECOSOC and taking opportunities to raise the voice of rural women with United Nations agencies. The establishment of a gender policy council by the new President of the United States of America is a great



step forward in ending discrimination against women and girls.

A final success for 2020 was ACWW's election to the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. This is the first time ACWW has been elected to an official UN Committee, though we were represented on the League of Nations Nutrition Committee - more than 75 years ago! This gives our Association a fantastic opportunity for influence, and to bring the voices of rural women to the table. We are grateful to the other NGOs who voted for ACWW to represent them on the Committee, and look forward to bringing you an update in the next issue of the magazine.

We need to hear from you everything you and your society have been able to do tackling inequalities or making representation, however local or regional. As an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) ACWW values your reports and responses to our questions which help build the picture that we use for representation at the international level. There are similar experiences across the globe, in the developing and more developed nations – climate change, rural transport, access to healthcare, education for girls and women- affect us all. So please don't be shy and think 'they won't be interested in little me' because, 'we are stronger together' is not just a slogan but a reality.

*Tish*

Tish Collins  
ACWW Chief Executive Officer

## EDITOR'S NOTE - SYDNEY SALTER

I can hardly believe that I'm writing to you in 2021! Looking back on 2020 is surreal - it almost feels as if the year didn't actually happen and yet, it was one of the most defining years in a generation. It was a year of exposing shortfalls in healthcare infrastructure globally and reckoning with historical injustices that face the marginalised. The past year should have taught us more about the most vulnerable in our society, and how we are all one virus away from needing the care that we ought to be advocating for on behalf of others. We have learned more about the power of collective action, and how drastic measures are sometimes required when those in power do not listen to the oppressed. We have seen science and fact triumph, with the COVID-19 vaccine being rolled out in record time. It is nice to think that campaigning and awareness raising done by ACWW in the past may have contributed to the speed with which this vaccine was able to be produced.

As with each new year, we have the privilege of being able both to look forward and reflect. This issue of *The Countrywoman* will do just that. We will look back at the 2019 Annual Report, and reflect on that splendid year with the Triennial World Conference, a new Board of Trustees, and new resolutions to act on. We will also look toward the future, with an opportunity to preserve our ACWW for future generations.

In looking forward and looking back, we must not forget to look around and see that the work of ACWW continues despite the uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this magazine, we will look at the most recently approved projects, which benefit 21,000 women and children in 7 countries.



media@acww.org.uk

# Your own Home Garden

Contributing to food security from the comfort of your home!

Rural women for centuries have been responsible for home gardens. The start of civilisation and the move away from nomadism was marked by the establishment of agriculture, more than 12,000 years ago. New research suggests that these ancient women shared in the burden of labour-intensive farming tasks, bringing about the world of agriculture we know today. Since then, women have been involved in food production from the processing and safe use and storage of food, right through to administrative work and physical labour on large scale farms. As attention turns to family farming as a path to food security, the role of women is again being highlighted. The last year has proved to many of us what short-term food insecurity looks like, and the Associated Country Women of the World want to help all members and supporters understand how they can take charge of their food security, right from the comfort of their own gardens. It is possible to start a garden on a very small scale with a few suitable plants that will provide nutrients for the family and neighbours.

## How to start a home garden

Learn: Do you know much about gardening, seasonality, and storing your own vegetables? It's good to learn about these things before taking on your own home garden – This is a great time to connect with the rural and farming women around your community. Ask them if they can teach you about farming, which will provide you with a good base of knowledge for your home garden.

## It all starts from the ground

Soil is a key element in starting a productive home garden. Investigate: What kind of soil does your area have? What plants grow naturally in your area? If you can, find resources from indigenous people about how their cultures used the land – part of sustainable agriculture is working with the land, and you might learn about local ingredients you aren't familiar with. Whatever you learn, you'll probably need

a bag of compost and some pots to get started. For this article, we're going to look at starting a container garden, as not everyone has access to plots of land. If you're struggling for inspiration about the sort of things you can grow, why not read some ACWW Project reports? Many of our sustainable agriculture projects focus on home gardens and small-scale food production, growing everything from local tubers to rice to mushrooms!

### Step 1

Choose your plant, choose your pot! Whatever you want to plant, you need to ensure that the container is large enough to accommodate the growing plant. You can re-pot, but it's a good idea to let the plant get established first. Drainage holes are essential, so that the soil does not become waterlogged.



### Step 2

Make sure you've got the right soil! Research the correct soil type and mixture for your plant, or ask around at a garden centre. This also may be a good time to get the advice of your farmer friends!

### Step 3

Make sure you're planting in the right season. Planting and harvesting seasons depend on both what you're planning and the area you live in. Again, this is a good time to seek the advice of an experienced gardener or farmer – maybe even an ACWW sister!

## Home Garden Challenge

### Keep a diary



- Include drawings or photographs and note at the beginning why you are doing this
- Work out what your growing season is
- Note weather conditions in your area e.g. completely dry months, the rainy season, scorching hot months etc, daily high and low temperatures
- Work out your type of soil
- Work out where your water source is and how you can best use it
- Find a container, piece of ground etc. and start to grow
- Share your results
- If you are already growing because of the pandemic, show ACWW your results.
- Why did you grow the plants you did?
- Send any tips you wish you had known before you started!
- If you were not successful, what did you learn from this?

Remember, gardening is good form of exercise and can improve your mental health. Like looking after a baby or child, plants also need fed and watered, 'clothed' when conditions change and thrive on regular routines, but they can't answer back except by failing to grow!



# SPECIAL WORLD CONFERENCE 2021

## An update from the World President

Across the page, you will see a formal notice to all ACWW Member Societies in Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as Individual Members of Category 5. This was posted on the ACWW Website on 12 January 2021 following a meeting of the Board of Trustees, emailed to all Member Societies and Individual Members, and posted as a letter to all Members in the following days.

It is no shock to anyone that after the difficulties and challenges of 2020 and the huge number of events that have had to be rescheduled from 2021 already, that ACWW's Triennial World Conference Committee and Board of Trustees have been having serious discussions to ensure that the 30th Triennial World Conference can be the success it deserves to be, that as many members as possible are able to attend, and that all attendees are as safe and protected as is feasible.

As you will see when you read the Notice opposite, the Board of Trustees met on 12 January 2020 to discuss postponing the 30th Triennial World Conference by one year. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and that because delaying the Conference would mean it fell outside of the Constitutional requirement that such Conferences be held at least every 42 months, there would need to be a Constitutional Amendment.

It is for this reason that the Special World Conference has been called, as Constitutional Amendments must be voted for by the Membership of ACWW and it is critical that your voices are heard.

In a 'normal' world, such a Special World Conference would be convened in person and all Member Societies able to send delegates. Of course, if this were possible, we wouldn't need to delay the Triennial World Conference in the first place! Therefore, and as allowed in the Constitution, it was agreed that digital communications methods would be employed. Of course, going back in ACWW's history there is precedence for this as Members were prevented from attending the 2010 Triennial World Conference because of the erupting Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajökull. When this happened, some delegates were able to participate via online methods and voted by email. In fact, after 2020, many of our members are much happier and more confident using online communications than they have ever been!

Please note that all meetings below will be held via Zoom Webinar, and the meeting codes and passwords are shown. All ACWW Members, and Representatives of Member Societies, are welcome. Please make sure your Member Society has someone participating! The meetings on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday are scheduled to allow as many people to participate as possible. The maximum number of people who can attend each session is 500, so please login promptly to avoid disappointment, or join a later session. The final session of the Special World Conference will be on Friday 23 April, and will announce the results of voting on the Resolution. Please note that full details of voting procedures will be circulated to all Voting Member Societies in due course.

## TIMELINE FOR THE SPECIAL WORLD CONFERENCE

### Friday 19 March

Online Call with the World President to discuss the Resolution

06.30am (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **845 5150 7465** Passcode: **448482**

14.30pm (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **892 6609 1314** Passcode: **691294**

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### Saturday 17 April

Special World Conference convenes for first online meetings

06.30am (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **861 5536 5220** Passcode: **416800**

14.30pm (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **891 3728 5977** Passcode: **550371**

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### Monday 19 April

Special World Conference meetings continue

06.30am (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **847 5298 3227** Passcode: **196729**

14.30pm (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **896 4903 1936** Passcode: **160711**

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### Wednesday 21 April

Special World Conference meetings continue

06.30am (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **834 9258 7428** Passcode: **908983**

14.30pm (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **882 9725 4026** Passcode: **332438**

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### Friday 23 April

Special World Conference Voting Results and Conclusion

06.30am (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **829 3472 8665** Passcode: **412597**

14.30pm (London Time)

Zoom Meeting ID: **884 3898 9887** Passcode: **877645**



RURAL  
WOMEN  
IN ACTION

# NOTICE OF A SPECIAL WORLD CONFERENCE 2021

2020 was an extraordinarily difficult year for everyone globally, and ACWW members around the world tried their best to keep moving forward and overcome the challenges they faced. Though 2021 has started with the announcement of various Covid-19 vaccines being approved, these are a long way from global deployment and we have also seen significant increases in infection rates in many countries. To this end, ACWW's Board of Trustees met on Tuesday 12 January 2021 and passed the following resolution:

“The Board of Trustees calls for a Special World Conference to be convened in line with the Constitution of the Associated Country Women of the World (clause 11.5.2 (a) and (b)), to be held on or about 15 April 2021, with a minimum of 90 days' notice duly given to Voting Member Societies in Categories 1, 2, and 3. This Special World Conference will discuss a resolution postponing the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference beyond the statutory 42 months, given the current global pandemic of Covid-19 and its impacts on all nations and Member Societies. This resolution will be presented to the Conference and to all Member Societies in advance of the opening of the Special World Conference”.

Therefore, a Special World Conference will be convened via digital video conference on Saturday 17 April 2021, lasting for 7 days. During this period, a series of Zoom meetings will be held to allow as many Members as possible to engage with the process. Full details of voting procedures will be circulated to all Voting Member Societies in due course. The Special World Conference will consider a single Resolution, which is presented below.

“In light of the unprecedented uncertainties of 2021, specifically in respect of the global Covid-19 Pandemic, it is resolved to:

- a) Reschedule the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference from May 2022 to May 2023, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In order for this to be enacted, the following Constitutional Amendment is required:

- i) The following section of Clause 11.1.1, “...Triennial World Conferences must be held at intervals of not more than 42 months” be suspended, and the following text be inserted: “...Triennial World Conferences must be held at intervals of not more than 52 months”
- ii) The amendment in i) above be rescinded at the close of the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference”

Whereas all nations and Member Societies have been affected by the current Covid-19 Pandemic, and noting both the disruptions to international travel and inherent risk to the health of our Members, the Board of Trustees recommends to the Special World Conference that the period between Triennial World Conferences be extended from 42 months to 52 months, allowing the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference to take place 1 year later than initially planned, in May 2023. Accordingly, this resolution would also extend the term of service of the current Board of Trustees until the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference. This temporary Constitutional Amendment would cease to hold effect after the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference, whereupon the usual 42 month interval would apply. The 31<sup>st</sup> Triennial World Conference would thus be held in 2026.

Note that the Board elected in April 2019 will continue to hold office until the end of the 30<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference. (clause 15.6.2 'A Trustee shall hold office until the next Triennial General Meeting, where she shall retire unless she ceases to be a Trustee at an earlier date under clause 18'.)

For more information, visit  
[www.acww.org.uk/swc2021.html](http://www.acww.org.uk/swc2021.html)

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# ACWW Finances

Alison Burnett, Deputy President and Acting Treasurer

Can I start by wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2021? Who would have thought in January 2020 that we would be hit by a pandemic which would affect every country in the world, and affect us all personally in so many different ways? The pandemic has brought new meanings to words like Zoom, Teams and 'you are muted'. Meetings held electronically using Zoom and Teams have allowed ACWW to continue its work, although 'office' locations have changed due to lockdown restrictions.

Board, Executive and Committee meetings have been held, even more than normal, with huge savings in personal time, travel and accommodation. This has been a positive point in all this chaos. An interesting development from the lockdown was that more and more social meetings were held on Zoom. In the UK, Derbyshire Federation of WIs held a pantomime on Zoom which was attended by some of the ACWW Executive Committee members from different parts of the world! Zoom meetings allow us to get together with people from all over the world without the expense of bringing them to your country, another positive thing that has come out of the pandemic.

On the negative side- as you will know, the main income for ACWW comes from its members collecting at their meetings, running fundraising events and sending the money to ACWW Pennies for Friendship Fund which allows our work to continue. There has long been a concern that we rely very heavily on fund raising events for the main income and, even before the pandemic, we have been looking at how we can restructure our finances to produce a more sustainable income, including support from external sources and not just from our members. During the coming months we will be continuing this process. Restrictions on people meeting or running events during the last year have drastically reduced the amounts of money coming into the Pennies for Friendship Fund.

This is likely to continue, giving ACWW a serious cash flow problem. We do have investments which are providing us with critical income at this time. I would prefer not to sell these investments to cover our cash flow problem as we will lose the income which they are providing. All individual members and member societies, in all categories, will be receiving an email or letter explaining the cash flow problem and outlining a possible solution. I do hope you will be able to support this solution.



Don't forget that all membership renewals are due in January, and that members who have not paid by 31 March will be lapsed.

To pay online, simply visit our website and follow the 'Support Us' link. These rates are shown below:

Category 1 Societies	£110
Category 2 Societies	£69
Category 3 Societies	£55
Category 4 Societies	£37
Category 5 Individual	£26 (£68/3 yrs)

## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS USING BANK TRANSFER

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

If you are sending a bank transfer, please use your name or membership number as a reference. Please don't send cash in the post!

Don't forget you can  
pay online! Visit  
[www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk)





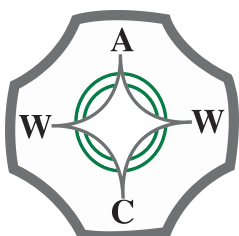


# Amplify

Can your voice be heard at the UN?

ACWW exists to amplify the voices of Rural Women everywhere.

When we speak at the UN,  
it's your voice that is being heard.



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

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# Recently Funded Projects

Projects approved at the September 2020 Projects committee meeting

Education  
and Capacity  
Building

## **1077: New Lives through Financial Literacy** **Children Watch - Tamil Nadu, India**

100 beneficiaries, Irula tribal women, recently released from bonded labour (a type of modern slavery where people work directly for their debtor to pay off debt)

The participants of this project previously worked as bonded labourers in brick kilns, rice mills, stone quarries and charcoal production. As such, these women have not had the opportunity in their adult life to gain education or alternative employment. This project will establish adult education centres in five villages to provide basic education; reading, writing and arithmetic alongside basic financial literacy. The main aim of the financial literacy programme is to help the beneficiaries begin saving. The beneficiaries will also be given training to grow small crops to increase their nutritional wellbeing.

## **1081: Access to Digital and Communications Technology** **UWWK Umoja wa wawezeshaji KIOO - Kigoma, Tanzania**

200 beneficiaries, young women and girls.

This project aims to give young women and girls access to digital communications and technology education through the creation of an Enterprise Hub. The Hub will be used by girls in primary and secondary education as an after school and weekend activity centre. The participants will have access to formal training and apprenticeship opportunities and the provision of small start-up kits to enable the participants to begin earning income.

## **1084: Improving School Completion Rates in Kayunga** **CINTA Foundation Uganda (CFU) - Kayunga District, Uganda**

100 beneficiaries, primary school children in grade 6 and 7.

This project aims to increase access to education and completion rates among primary school aged girls. The project aims to achieve this goal through a number of factors; participants will be provided with scholastic materials, improved teaching methods will be promoted alongside better assessment techniques, reducing absenteeism through the provision of nutritious meals and continuous monitoring of the projects impact on the wellbeing and attendance of the participants.

## **1069: Tailoring Skills and Mental Health Support** **Sarajini Naidu Rural Welfare and Educational Trust - Tamil Nadu, India**

50 beneficiaries, adolescents and transgender women.

Transgender women face particular adversity in their search for financial security, wellbeing and safety. This project aims to increase the wellbeing of transgender women and disadvantaged adolescents through practical skill development to enable the project participants to find employment in the tailoring industry and improve their mental health through yoga and meditation.

### 1070: Calves, Rice, and Training for Success

#### Success Trust - Tamil Nadu, India

40 beneficiaries, female farmers.

This project aims to promote indigenous rice cultivation to increase yield and crop resilience in 5 villages in Tamil Nadu, Southern India and a 'value added' to their farming endeavours. The project will also include the distribution of cow calves to the project participants alongside rice hulling machinery in order to increase the value of the crop when sold by the beneficiaries.

### 1072: Rearing Small Livestock for Big Opportunities

#### WEEDS Women's Education and Employment Development Society - Tamil Nadu, India

105 beneficiaries from female headed households.

With the aim of promoting economic empowerment among the participants of this project, WEEDS will provide women with livestock training using rabbit and chicken rearing as the focus of the training. The participants will then be provided with financial assistance to start their livestock rearing. 30 of participants will also be given training in cultivation of herbs as an additional income source.

### 1082: Developing Skills in Agribusiness

#### Tingathe Development Forum - Nkhotakota, Malawi

50 beneficiaries, rural women.

The goal of the project is to empower women living in poverty in vulnerable situations in hard to reach rural areas with income generation skills in order to become financially independent and less vulnerable. The project will train the participants in value added techniques to produce flour from the cassava crops and sell the products in a competitive market. They will also provide training on savings and loan awareness.

### 1089: Goats for Empowerment

#### Pallisa Children's Concern Project - Budaka District, Uganda

100 beneficiaries, women and girls from female headed households

This project will use goat rearing as a tool for income generation for women who are the primary or sole earner for their households. The participants will be trained in animal husbandry and production methods. Following their training, they will be included in a revolving livestock scheme which will enable the participants to earn through selling dairy products and breeding of goats, and benefit other women as the project progresses.

21,000  
beneficiaries

£82,000  
total distributed  
in grants

7  
countries

## Sustainable Water, Sanitation & Energy

### 1071: Safe Water for Tribal Communities

#### Society for Women Education and Economic Thrust - Tamil Nadu, India

1,600 beneficiaries, community members from Irula and Aadhiayan tribal villages Dalit communities.

This project aims to provide safe drinking water systems within these communities with particular attention paid to ensuring access for women and girl children. SWEET will also ensure that project participants attend sanitation and hygiene awareness events, and that community members are trained in the maintenance of the borewells, improving longevity and value for money.

### 1074: Latrines and Home Gardening

#### WAND Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development Foundation - Mindanao, Philippines

700 beneficiaries, rural women and their families.

This project aims to provide safe water and sanitation to women and their families in water and sanitation-deficient barrios severely affected by the El Nino phenomenon. WAND will establish latrines for 55 households alongside training and supplies for home gardening with the female project participants to improve nutrition.

### 1076: Safe Water for Safer Communities

#### Community Uplift and Welfare Development - Nebbi District, Uganda

2,900 beneficiaries, from five villages.

This project will construct spring wells in five villages across Erussi and Ndhew communities. Community members will receive training on water, sanitation and hygiene as well as guidance on financing routine maintenance of the wells. This will be achieved through water-user committees and the establishment of a Local Water User Saving Scheme (LWUSS). This project is particularly focused on creating feelings of ownership of the spring wells to ensure the longevity of access to water for the communities.

### 1088: Mabye Village Water Project

#### KWAO Kagera Woman and Aids Organisation - Kagera, Tanzania

4,280 beneficiaries, community members from Mabye village, Missenyi District.

The project will construct a village borewell providing access to safe water for over 4,000 community members. KWAO will ensure that the environment around the borewell is considered through the planting of trees to provide shade and make use of overflow water. A project management committee will be established to maintain the pump and oversee the user contributions to the maintenance fund.

## Income Generation & Livelihood

### 1075: Life Skills for Young Mothers

#### Community Initiatives for Rural Development - Meru County, Kenya

520 beneficiaries, young and adolescent mothers.

This project aims to improve the livelihood potential of young mothers through skill training in tailoring, hairdressing and beadwork. Alongside setting up small businesses, the project participants will form support groups and receive counselling to improve their mental health and self-esteem. The young mothers will also receive education in reproductive and sexual health and rights and be encouraged them to start using family planning methods. The project hopes to increase young mothers' self-confidence and help them gain economic independence.

### **1080: Improving Life through Goat Farming**

#### **Rural Organization for Social Education and Development - Tamil Nadu, India**

30 beneficiaries, members of Dalit scavenging communities.

This project aims to provide Dalit women with alternative sources of income to give women a path away from manual scavenging and other informal and dangerous forms of employment. The project will promote the establishment of a Sustainable Livestock Livelihood Collective Initiative in order to organise the beneficiaries into groups to rear goats and fodder.

### **1085: Practical Business Skills for Women living with HIV/AIDS**

#### **Efforts Integrated Development Foundation - Kampala, Uganda**

50 beneficiaries, young women living with HIV/AIDS.

This project aims to provide 50 women with self-employment opportunities and a sustainable source of income through the production of reusable menstrual pads. The project participants will be equipped with business and financial literacy skills including record keeping, marketing, saving and product pricing. The participants will also attend health awareness sessions to improve their access to health education and sexual and reproductive rights.

### **1087: Piglets for Prosperity**

#### **Kitabu Integrate Development Association - Kasese, Uganda**

52 beneficiaries, women from female headed households.

This project aims to increase income at the household level for female headed households in rural Kasese, improving the livelihoods of marginalised women. The project will establish a revolving piggery fund and savings scheme which over time will allow 52 women to generate income through pig rearing.

### **1090: Tailored to Economic Empowerment**

#### **Paramedical Educational Trust - Tamil Nadu, India**

60 beneficiaries, women and girls

This project will provide vocational training for women and girls in tailoring and dress making. The participants will also be provided with entrepreneurship training and encouraged to start a small savings scheme. The project will promote female education through literacy programmes to benefit the participants.



**Nutrition,  
Good Health  
& Wellbeing**

### **1078: Aquaculture for Nutrition**

#### **Green Global Promotion Organization - Musoma District, Tanzania**

30 beneficiaries, rural women farmers and their children.

This project uses aquaculture farming practices to increase income opportunities among the project beneficiaries. The aim of using aquaculture practices is to enhance the utilisation of land and water to increase the range of nutritional produce available, increase the income generating capacity of the farmers and to diversify their source of income outside of vegetable and poultry production.

### **1079: Health as a Right and Responsibility**

#### **Kasese District Women with Disabilities - Kasese, Uganda**

200 beneficiaries, women and girls living with disabilities.

Often excluded from society and community healthcare interventions, women and girls living with disabilities miss out on vital information around health, hygiene and sanitation. This project aims to provide the participants with information on menstrual health, personal hygiene and common health issues and how to prevent and treat these health problems. The project will also conduct tailoring workshops and provide the beneficiaries with materials to make reusable sanitary pads. KADIWOD firmly believe that health care is not only everyone's right but also everyone's responsibility.

### **1073: Midwifery Skills for Community Health Workers**

#### **MamaCare, Ghana - Volta Region, Ghana**

15 beneficiaries, community health workers.

This project aims to improve the quality of care for mothers and children at the primary health care level by training community health workers, many of whom are already working in midwifery roles, in midwifery, infant nutrition and common local illnesses such as malaria and diarrhoea.

### **1083: Improving Rural Girl's Menstrual Sanitation and Hygiene**

#### **Youth with a Focus Teso - Soroti, Uganda**

600 beneficiaries, including schoolgirls, school drop-outs and community stakeholders.

This project aims to ensure that all school aged girls are not prevented from completing their education through lack of access to menstrual pads, relevant and reliable information and skills in proper menstrual health and hygiene management. Beneficiaries will be provided with reusable menstrual pads, taught to make their own and encouraged to attend peer-to-peer counselling and reproductive health information at health clubs.

### **1086: Pad Production and Menstrual Health Awareness**

#### **Institute of Research and Development for the Rural Poor Trust - Tamil Nadu, India**

20 beneficiaries, rural tribal women.

This project aims to provide livelihood opportunities to women through the manufacturing of menstrual pads. The production of pads will provide the beneficiaries with a regular source of income, benefitting themselves and their families. The project will promote menstrual health management alongside sustainable environmental practices through the production of reusable pads.

### **1091: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Education for Adolescent Girls**

#### **Society for Women's Education and Awareness Development - Tamil Nadu, India**

950 beneficiaries, adolescent girls.

The aim of this project is to provide sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education for adolescent girls to give them the tools to make informed choices with better access to SRHR services. The project will also involve school teachers, Parent Teacher Association, School Management Committees and leaders of Community Based Organisations to ensure the success of the programme.

# Secure ACWW for Future Generations

## A call to support our work

Many of you will have already received a letter about the ACWW appeal to secure ACWW for future generations. The last year has taken its toll on the financial security of ACWW. Since Dorothy Drage conceived of the Pennies for Friendship idea (originally called the million members fund) We are fully reliant on our membership to continue doing our vital work. ACWW does not receive any government funding, nor do we rely on grants or funding partnerships with bigger organisations. In many ways this is a good thing- it means that we have the freedom to pursue only the interests of our members, and only in the ways that we know from more than 90 years of experience will benefit them. We aren't constrained by funding agreements or government priorities, and in fact, we are able to hold governments, companies, and even international bodies to account without any fear, because we know that our membership are the only invested stakeholders.

The appeal is simple. We are asking all who are able to pledge at least £50 (though more is, of course, welcome!) to Pennies for Friendship, which is the enabling fund of ACWW. This amount should be on top of normal giving. When you make your appeal, your name will be added to the pledges list on the website. When you fulfil your pledge, your name will be transferred to the list of Distinguished Donors. This short-term appeal will end on ACWW Day, 29th April 2021. Please share this with your networks, members of member societies, and anyone who realises the importance of preserving this great Rural Sisterhood. Visit [www.acww.org.uk/appeal2021.html](http://www.acww.org.uk/appeal2021.html) for more information and to register your pledge



[Home](#) [About ACWW](#) [Membership](#) [Advocacy & Policy](#) [Projects](#) [Conferences](#) [Support ACWW](#) [Contact](#)

## *ACWW Distinguished Donors 2021 Secure ACWW for Future Generations Appeal*

*Those named below have completed a pledge of at least  
£50 for ACWW Pennies for Friendship*

Jane Doe - £100


Josephine Bloggs - Carry On WI - £150

Susan Notmyname - Example WAU - £750

Your Name Could Be Here - Need Your Help CWA - £100



# MAY



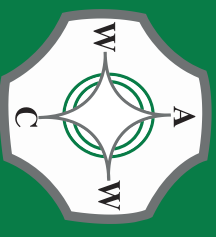
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 International Day of Families	16
17	18	19	20 World Bee Day 	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 International Day of UN Peacekeepers	30
31						




# JUN

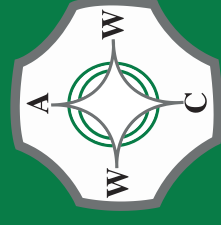
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5 World Environment Day 	6
7	8 World Oceans Day 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	20 World Refugee Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Remember, you can always find up to date resources of a variety of ACWW resolutions and UN observances on our website!

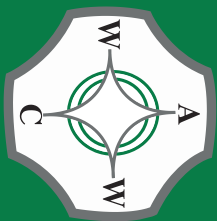


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	 <b>HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</b>			16	17	18 Nelson Mandela Day
19	13	14	15	23	24	25
26	20	21	22	30 World Day against Trafficking in Persons International Day of Friendship	31	
	27	28	29			

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the part of the UN that is responsible for examining progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. They do this through evaluating different countries each year, giving the country the chance to present a self-evaluation, called the Voluntary National Review or VNR, and then calling on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in that country to give their own review. Because the voices of NGOs are silenced in some countries, or because there are no organisations that represent Rural Women, ACWW steps in to ensure that the voices of Rural Women are heard, and that governments giving inaccurate reports on the state of rural communities are challenged.



# AUGUST



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 International Day of the World's Indigenous People	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# (Still!) Time for a Competition

It has been a long time since ACWW has produced and sold a Tea Towel that is not associated with a Triennial World Conference. The Communications and Marketing Committee want to change that, and they want your help! Following the success of the recent banner for the anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the C&M Committee want to harness the exceptional creativity of ACWW members to design a tea towel.

The theme for your design should be *Rural Women in Action*. This tagline is meant to communicate that ACWW is made up of women who are learning, growing, teaching, and sharing. ACWW is rural women in action, determined to change the world through collective, strategic action and advocacy. You can interpret this theme as literally or abstractly as you want, but please include your thoughts when you submit your design.

Once the winning design is decided, the tea towel will be produced with the winner's name included and sold with the proceeds going to Pennies for Friendship, the enabling fund of ACWW. This fund is what enables ACWW to continue its work, and include participation in UN meetings, advocacy with national and international policymakers and legislators, educational and awareness-raising materials like *The Countrywoman* magazine, and extension work and meetings for Board members.

Your design can be in any medium, but must strictly adhere to the size requirements. You can use as many colours as you want. Please send us the original artwork and do not scan/email us with a copy. We will only accept email entries if they are digital artwork.

If you have a good idea but don't have confidence in your ability to create a design, feel free to partner with someone else to produce your entry, but remember that this competition is intended to be a showcase of our members' talents, not the professional skills of a paid designer.

If you need us to send any digital design elements from Central Office, like the ACWW logo or examples of typefaces, please email [media@acww.org.uk](mailto:media@acww.org.uk)

## Terms and Conditions

1. The winner of the competition will be decided by the Communications and Marketing Committee according to the published Judging Criteria. There will only be one winning design
2. ACWW reserves the right to sharpen and otherwise edit the winning design to aid in the reproduction process
3. Upon submission, you grant ACWW full intellectual property rights to your design and agree that ACWW may use it with or without your name and for any lawful purpose including, for example, publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.
4. ACWW may use designs that do not win this competition for other purposes, including publicity, web content, illustration, and advertising.

**Theme: Rural Women in Action**

**Medium: Anything**

**Requirements:**

**Size: 620mm x 420mm**

**Must include the text  
*Rural Women in Action***

**Must include the ACWW Logo**

**Judging Criteria**

1. Relevance to theme
2. Originality
3. Artistry
4. Ease of Reproduction

From C&M Committee Chairman, Sheila Needham: Imagine a perfectly white and empty tea towel and then add in images about ACWW that come to mind while picturing this and then add to it the words including "Rural Women in Action" that you feel are part of what ACWW stands for and then realize how important it is that Pennies for Friendship have helped to bring this all about, and you will have a design to put on paper or to describe to an artist friend, to submit by the extended deadline of April 29<sup>th</sup>, which is in fact ACWW Day!

## Guidelines

1. Keep in mind that your design will need to be scanned and replicated, so use bold lines and clear definition
2. Please remember that intricate details may not be able to be faithfully replicated
3. When you send your design by post, please either roll it or send it flat. It is imperative that your design is not creased.
4. If you are submitting Digital Artwork, please submit your design in a vector format and remember to use bold, clear lines. Please note that rich colours may not be able to be faithfully reproduced on cloth.



# From your Area Presidents

## Coping with the Pandemic, and hopes for the coming year



**Gail Commens JP:** All countries in the South Pacific have been impacted by COVID-19 however some have been lucky that their Governments closed borders early so that the virus did not or has not affected them too much. Most of the smaller Island countries have had it and still do, except Tonga and I know Kiribati is fearful of getting it.

However, though I am unable to travel overseas from Australia since COVID, I have been able to fund four projects last year which is good. These funds were for training in literacy and sewing and for soil, plants and gardening supplies and training. I was also thrilled to be able to facilitate seven suitcases of donations and aid to PNG from CWA NSW.

With very strict regulations in Australia regarding travel outside the country I can not see myself visiting the Island Societies this year. However, who knows - hopefully things may change by the end of 2021. I truly pray that I will be able to meet with Societies again before my term finishes and I am looking forward to our Area Zoom meeting on 8th March, International Women's Day.



**Dr Marina Muller:** We are well and looking forward to the South Africa Area Conference early in February 2021. I urge members to be enthusiastic about ACWW, to double their contributions for Pennies and to target more societies to join the fold. Let's stand united against poverty and fight abuse against women and children.



**Linda Hoy:** As Canada Area President, my hope is that life will get back to some kind of normalcy in 2021 following a year of uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of us have had to make changes and learn new ways of communicating with our members and family. Through it all, I have seen

and felt the support not only to me but to each other and their community. The Area Conference is now in "Plan D" after being postponed to 2021, the closing of the venue and now will be held virtually. My wish is that we stay safe and will be able to meet in person soon.



**Irene Hinds:** My Area is coping with the Covid 19 Pandemic by following all the Protocols as outlined by our governments i.e social distancing, wearing of mask, washing of hands/ sanitising and conducting online meetings.

When lockdown measures begin to lift the first venture that will be encouraged is an Interfaith Service and as our membership is an ageing one we will do workshops on "Living your best life after Covid 19".



**Afrodita Roman:** Unfortunately I feel that this pandemic has made my activity as Area President almost impossible and even more, the Conference planned for October had to be postponed for next year. I have tried to keep in touch with the European members through regular Newsletters, but still I felt that face to

face meetings with at least a few societies would have made a big difference.

I have big hopes that the restrictions will be lifted soon, probably after the vaccine is ready to be used by the people/population. I am hoping to be able to travel in 2021, to visit societies in Europe, talk to members about the challenging period we went through, about how they coped with it and about their immediate plans/wishes.

I would like to come in direct contact with societies from countries that are not yet represented in ACWW, to give talks about ACWW mission/vision and objectives, projects, etc., explain the benefits of becoming members of this great international organisation.



**Irene Chinje:** The Covid pandemic has brought a lot of hardship to the societies in East, West, and Central Africa as many could not remain sustainable and we sure will see a decline on our numbers. Hopefully there are prospects of new societies and as I anxiously await the improvement on restrictions I am

poised to start reaching out to as many societies as possible to encourage them. I hope to visit especially those with projects on hold to ensure they are well executed to be a booster for others and encouragement for new societies that are beneficiaries but not members. We definitely will need membership to step up the loss suffered during the pandemic.



**Bonnie Teeples:** The USA Area is doing the best we can to stay connected during this pandemic.

Some states and national organisations have increased the newsletters they put out and have gone digital with them. Many organisations are using Zoom or similar platforms to hold trainings and some are teaching monthly programs also. As the Area President I have tried to send more newsletters, and or just notes of encouragement to the societies via digital form. We are coping!!!

# Make your voice heard!

## The C&M Committee want to know what you think

Over the last year, ACWW has had to temporarily transition to digital-only magazines due to the closing of mailing houses and printing offices all over the world.

The production of a digital-only magazine has reignited an old conversation about the cost-saving associated with producing a digital-only magazine. During the lockdown, we heard from some of you that you wanted to continue to receive a digital magazine, while we heard from others that you did not like the digital magazine, and were concerned that it wasn't reaching enough members. So, the Communications and Marketing Committee have decided to investigate the issue with you all.

In this issue, we are officially launching a consultation on the future of The Countrywoman magazine. The results of this consultation will not be in any way binding, but will be advisory to the Board of Trustees and, depending on the outcome, might serve as the basis for a resolution to the next Triennial World Conference. In any case, rest assured that the future of The Countrywoman magazine rests in the hands of the members, and there will be no permanent change to the delivery method without consensus.

You'll see the consultation on the page opposite, and below is some information to help you make an informed decision.

Printing and Posting	A mix of digital and print / post	Digital-only
<p>In theory, membership dues are meant to cover the cost of producing, printing, and posting the magazine. However, postage rates rise faster than membership rates rise, and with discounts on 3 years of membership, the membership rates don't really cover the cost of the magazine. To raise the cost of membership to the point of covering the exponential growth of postage costs through a Triennium may make individual membership unattainable for many of our members.</p> <p>The cost of printing the magazine is very low, at about 65 pence per copy.</p> <p>The magazine postage is 90% of the total cost of getting the magazine to you, with production and printing accounting for the remaining percent.</p> <p>The current distribution for the magazine is about 1,700 individual addresses. About 450 of these are societies.</p> <p>Central Office is always re-evaluating the cost of printing and the most economical ways of shipping. The purpose of this consultation is not to find ways to make postage and printing cheaper - we're already on that!</p>	<p>A digital version of the magazine is now available on the website, and will continue to be whatever the outcome of this consultation. This is at the request of our members in East, West, and Central Africa who find a digital magazine more reliable than their posted copy.</p> <p>It is not financially viable for some members to choose to have a printed magazine, and for others to choose a digital magazine. This is because economies of scale mean that the fewer magazines we print, the more expensive they become.</p> <p>One option may be to print 2 magazines per year, and have a digital-only version for the other 2. Alternatively, we could have a digital version for 3 and a printed version for 1.</p> <p>Reach and potential reach should still be considered.</p> <p>Digital communications, even partially digital communications, will require an overhaul to communications strategy. This means potentially investing in new software and staff training. This, however, may be a long-term saving.</p>	<p>During the lockdown, each digital issue of the magazine was only read by, on average, 330 people, on a distribution list of nearly 2000. The email that included the magazine was only opened by 644 individuals. This means that only half of those who saw the email actually opened it, and only about 16% of those who received the emailed magazine actually read the magazine itself (rather than just opening the email and ignoring the magazine link) We know this because of the software we use to send the digital magazine out.</p> <p>Transitioning to a digital-only magazine as the primary way of communicating ACWW's message requires an overhaul of communications strategy. This is fully possible, but it is vital that the members are aware that it is not as simple as putting the magazine online as we do now - in order to get anywhere near the reach we currently have through print, we potentially need new resources, staff training, and a completely different approach.</p> <p>A digital-only magazine is a cost-saving activity on the surface, but the alienation of some members must be taken into account. This might lead to a reduction in donations, and may negate any savings.</p> <p>A digital-only magazine may, in contrast to the above point, reach an expanded member base, where the difference in donations may be made up for.</p>

**FIND THE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE DIGITAL MAGAZINES ON OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.ACWW.ORG.UK/THE\\_COUNTRYWOMAN.HTML](http://WWW.ACWW.ORG.UK/THE_COUNTRYWOMAN.HTML)**

# Consultation on the future of The Countrywoman Magazine

Please return this consultation to us by post or email at [media@acww.org.uk](mailto:media@acww.org.uk) as soon as possible. Note: If you are unable to receive emails, please skip to question 3.

1. Were you able to read issues 2, 3, and 4 in 2020?

YES NO

2. Do you feel comfortable clicking links in emails from ACWW?

YES NO

3. a. Do you have reliable internet access?

YES NO

b. Do you normally have a reliable postal service?

YES NO

4. Please tell us how you feel about the possibility of ACWW transitioning to a digital magazine:

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5. What country do you live in?

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If you are happy to be contacted about your responses, please include your name and either an email address, phone number, or postal address:

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# Women Walk the World

## Things looked a little different in 2020

In the early months of 2020, the communications and Marketing Committee, along with the Executive Committee, decided to delay the observation of Women Walk the World. With lockdown measures going into effect all over the world, it was seen as the most responsible course of action. It was hoped that the delay to October, to coincide with celebration of the International Day of Rural Women, would mean that members all over the world could carry out their walks as normal. Alas, it was not meant to be. Lockdown measures persisted through the end of the year in many parts of the world. However, that did not stop ACWW members from innovating and adapting!

All over the world, ACWW members celebrated the International Day of Rural Women by arranging walks around the theme of The Role of Rural Women in food systems. It was a year of change and firsts: It was the first time Women Walk the World had been held in October, and certainly the first time it was held during a global pandemic! It was the first time we've had a specific theme, and provided resources earmarked for the event.

We have been delighted with the response, and are already looking forward to the next event!

## Adapting to Lockdown in Northamptonshire England



Irchester WI enjoying a socially distanced coffee after the walk. They raised £35.



This is one of the groups of six from Hunsbury Hill WI. They raised £100.



Wootton WI members (spot the second group in the background) who raised £140 for ACWW project funding.



On a lovely Fall evening, Lyon's Brook W.I in Nova Scotia Canada members were joined by representatives of Caribou and Macphersons Mills W.I's and a few members of the community to walk and raise awareness and funds for #Walkforfood. Our local newspaper also agreed to publish an article to support us.



## Women Walk the World Highlight

Gillian Crisp, ACWW representative for Warwickshire FWI in the UK tells us about a fantastic effort from one individual, and how one person can make a big difference:

Julie Howard of Norton Lindsey WI in Warwickshire, England decided she would like to walk 20 miles to raise money for ACWW's Women Walk the World campaign in October.

To make it a community event, Julie chose a route which would take her nine times round a 2.3 mile track round the village. Throughout the day WI members and friends came out to cheer her on her way as she passed by. There was an information point on the route with displays about the work of ACWW and a pot for donations. Donations were received not only from WI members and friends but also from passing delivery van drivers and tradesmen, who stopped to ask what was going on! Julie maintained a cracking pace all day and managed to keep to her schedule. Having started at 8.00am, Julie finished the 20 miles at 3.10pm, when she was cheered home and rewarded with a large chocolate medal! Julie's walk for ACWW's Women Walk the World has so far raised £1100, which she has donated to the WE Fund: Education and Capacity Building.

Norton Lindsey WI and ACWW are so proud of her!



## New options for Women Walk the World

This year, we introduced new options for your Women Walk the World event. Julie was one of the first to take advantage of this modern fundraising method, creating a fundraising page hosted on the ACWW website. This allowed her supporters to give donations by credit or debit card directly to ACWW.

As with any new initiative, we had some bumps along the way, but we are so grateful to those who set up fundraising pages and gave us valuable feedback that will help us improve the system in the future. We are also grateful for their patience as we worked out how to offer support while the uncertainty of lockdown measures in London meant we didn't know when we'd have to be working from home again.

We also developed a theme for this Women Walk the World event. The idea of setting a theme was that it would give supporters a way to fully engage with the work of ACWW, and fulfil our mandate to educate our communities about the contribution of rural women to society. It doesn't seem like many people used this theme though, so we'd appreciate your feedback on how you want to see future Women Walk the World events supported, and whether you like the idea of having a theme or not. Please always feel free to email Central Office with feedback, requests for information, or ideas about how we can improve the support we offer to our members.

The screenshot shows the ACWW website with the following sections:

- Home**: About ACWW, Membership, History & Policy, Projects, Conferences, Support ACWW, Contact.
- Women Walk the World 2020 - #WWTWforFood**: Each year on or around 29th April, women worldwide celebrate ACWW's international network by joining together to walk the world.
- How is 2020 Different?**: This year, ACWW and its members have been affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Because member societies are rightly following WHO and government guidelines and not having meetings, we have seen a decrease in donations to the enabling fund of ACWW's Perennials for Friendship. You will know that our projects donations (The Women Empowered Funds) are restricted to only funding projects and their direct associated costs, so all the other work of ACWW is reliant on Perennials for Friendship. This includes UN representation and participation, promotional and educational materials like the magazine and leaflets, research, Board members' outreach, Secret and committee meetings, and staffing. Since ACWW has financial security because of our reserves, we need our members to help ensure that ACWW is able to continue all of its vital work, this year and beyond. So, as you plan your event, we will provide you with resources that explain how ACWW uses your donations to help rural women around the world.
- Resources**: A great way to tell a story quickly, these posters and PowerPoint Presentations can be shared, updated to social media, or printed and put up locally.
  - Download Poster: Women Walk the World
  - Download Poster: JOIN US
  - Download Poster: Women Walk the World
  - Download Poster: Zero Hunger
  - Download Poster: Women Walk the World
  - Download Poster: Women Walk the World
  - Download Poster: Women Walk the World
  - Download Poster: Women Walk the World
- Fundraising Pages**: Your opportunity to raise money for ACWW, and direct your supporters to a personalised page which tells them all about your efforts in aid of Women Walk the World.
  - Download & Thank you
  - World President's Walk
  - Adri Howard's Walk
  - Prize Edward Lloyd WI's Walk
  - Allyson Bennett's Walk
  - Miss Bennett's Walk

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Recently 23 WAB members from Lochaber and Padthaway Branches from South Australia met together and walked the Heritage Naracoorte Caves 'Roof Top Walk,' a fully accessible walk along the Naracoorte caves, where there are opportunities to view the interior of the caves, or even see bats flying in and out. They raised \$200 Australian for ACWW Women Walk the World.



CWA Woy Woy Branch in New South Wales, Australia: Here in Down Under, Australia, we did our first 'walk the world' walk last week. We are nearly free of Covid-19, and luckily, we could meet and walk after months of not having meetings and seeing each other. We were accompanied by one husband and two lively doggies.



Provincial and national WI leaders participated across Prince Edward Island in Canada for this year's international ACWW Women Walk the World event to bring awareness to global food security. There were three walks that took place at strategic points along the island. Here, you can see the group posing with a quilt made by Past World President, Ruth Shanks AM.

Snoekie Erasmus, a member of the ACWW Projects Committee tells us about a special Women Walk the World event that came as a bright spot during a local tragedy:

An estimated 200,000 hectares of grazing were lost when uncontrolled wild fires swept through some farms in the Hartswater region of the North Cape Province in South Africa in October 2020.

Local farmers assisted fire fighters who worked day and night to control the raging fires. In collaboration with members of the Cape Women's Agriculture Association's branches of Warrenton and Hartswater, the women of Pekanhoek Pecan Processing Facility provided the fire fighters and farmers with 500 hotdogs, water and soft drinks for the duration of the time it took to control the wide spread fires which went on for a couple of days.

Apart from their successful efforts to support the fire fighters and farmers, these courageous women also participated in ACWW's annual fundraiser, Women Walk the World. They managed to raise an amount of £500 for ACWW's Pennies for Friendship. This event was financially supported by Vaalharts Agricultural Union who donated generously.



**We are so grateful to every ACWW member and supporter who, in a year of uncertainty and global upheaval, took time to think of their Rural Sisterhood and raise funds to help the work of ACWW continue.**

**A reminder of what you are helping to achieve:**

***ACWW exists to amplify the voices of rural women, so that the problems they face and their solutions they raise are heard and acknowledged by international policy-makers and legislators.***

***Rural women are the backbone of families, of communities, of nations, but they are often a silent support, adapting to change and tragedy with comparative ease. But, they bear the burden of conflict, they go unheard in legislation, and they remain unprotected and unsupported. ACWW exists to change that.***



We live in the village of Alliance, Alberta Canada population 154. We have walked every year since 2012. This year we collected over \$300. Walkers are from the left: Libby Whitall, Randy Wickstrom, Diane Dammann, Rosella Stoeze and Norma French Hesslop.



Bearstead and Thurnham WI in West Kent, England were the first to set up a fundraising page. Their ACWW representative, Tricia Ashdown, organised the walk which raised £135, and launched the initiative which promoted ACWW's new fundraising mechanism!



This photo shows Four Marks WI in England on their socially distanced walk. They raised £90 for ACWW funds.

**From the cover:** The Woman of the Third Millenium in Romania walked in a nearby recreation place, a forest called Platoul Cornest. The Area President, Afrodita Roman, was invited to participate. There were 10 members and 5 rural girls (the beneficiaries of the WThM scholarships). They walked in smaller groups of 5 and observed the protection rules and physical distancing. The girls were asked a couple of weeks ago, by WthM President, Agatha Bianca Bogdan, to write an essay about rural life and about their role model in life (the mother and/or grandmother), what it means to them to live in a village and to be a rural girl. The result/essays they have written are amazing and the essays were printed out and read for the participants of the walk. Afrodita took the opportunity to speak to the girls about ACWW and it's mission/vision/projects/events, about the traditional annual walk. She introduced them to "our world" and awake their interest for what ACWW are doing for women all over the world. This initiative has been called "Rural girls in Action". They also raised about £130 for Pennies for Friendship.

## What about 2021?

2021 will see Women Walk the World returning to normal, an observation of ACWW Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. We know that some parts of the world are almost back to normal, while others are still living through uncertainty with continuing lockdown measures looming ahead. We also know that while we await our vaccinations, some will be wary of meeting with others. That's ok! 2020 has proven that while things might look a little different, ACWW members know how to adapt and thrive. We are looking forward to seeing what you come up with for this year's Women Walk the World.

It is important this year to focus on Friendship. We've all had a year that has highlighted isolation and loneliness that we know is felt by rural women beyond the past year's events. This is why ACWW is vital - maintaining a network of rural women who understand and support one another is just as necessary as it was in 1929, and we must not lose sight of that. All of our advocacy, all of our project funding, all of our networking is on that foundation of friendship and collaboration. So, when you are walking with your friends on 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, think of all the

women you're walking with around the world. Capitalising on the technologies that have become mainstream over the last year, we hope to be able to give you ways to connect with your global sisters on the day through live streams, live chats with the World President and Board members, and walking challenges.

You can still set up a fundraising page, and Central Office is still on hand to provide you with fundraising materials, informational documents, and support as you endeavour to raise fund for this organisation we all know and love.

green space. Whatever you want to do to support ACWW, we are here to support you.

## Does it have to be on 29<sup>th</sup> April?

The opportunity to connect digitally will be on 29<sup>th</sup> April, but if this day doesn't work for you or your group, you are welcome to host your walk another day. Indeed, if you have an idea for a fundraising effort or initiative, you can contact us to create a fundraising page at any time! Perhaps you are a keen cyclist, or have always wanted to try your hand at skydiving? Maybe, you want to walk 20 miles around your local

**Contact Sydney at  
media@acww.org.uk  
with your fundraising  
ideas, or to set up a  
fundraising page!**



# If you haven't heard from us in a while...

The Covid-19 Pandemic was a devastating global event. It caused the Board of Trustees of ACWW to have to make some difficult decisions regarding the distribution of *The Countrywoman* magazine. With postal systems grinding to a halt globally, and mailing houses closing down, we were unable to send the magazine to the members in its usual format. As a temporary stand-in, we produced digital magazines while the world came to terms with its new normal. This proved to be doubly beneficial, as donations decreased and the cashflow could not meet the usual demand.

However, we know that this magazine is not reaching the whole membership. The digital magazine showed us that our digital reach is only a fraction of the representative membership.

That's why we need to hear from you. If you have not done so yet, please respond to the consultation on page 23.

If you haven't received the digital magazines, or are having trouble accessing them online, please contact us. We can either call you and see about helping you to access all of the digital resources ACWW has to offer, or we can print the magazines that you missed and post them to you. If you have not given your consent to receive email communications from ACWW, please fill out the form below and return it to us, either as a scan by email, or in the post

The screenshot shows the ACWW website's digital archive for 'The Countrywoman' magazine. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: Home, About ACWW, Membership, Advocacy & Policy, Projects, Conferences, Support ACWW, and Contact. The main heading is 'THE COUNTRYWOMAN' in large green letters, with the subtitle 'The International Magazine of the Associated Country Women of the World'. Below this, a paragraph explains that ACWW publishes a quarterly magazine, 'The Countrywoman', which is circulated globally to members and supporters. It mentions the use of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved sustainable paper and that 3 trees are planted for every tree used in production. To the right of this text are the FSC logo and a '12 RESPONSIBLE SOURCES AND PRODUCTION' logo. Below the text, a green button says 'Visit Polstead Press'. The main content area displays a grid of magazine covers from 2019 and 2020. Each cover has a 'Download' button below it. The covers feature various photos of women and children, along with headlines like 'Change the World', 'WOMEN WALK THE WORLD', and 'MEET YOUR NEW BEARS'.

## Consent Form for email communications from ACWW

I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to receive email communications from ACWW. I understand that this will include messages from members of the ACWW Board of Trustees on official ACWW business, and emails from ACWW Central Office with news about the work of ACWW, fundraising initiatives, digital issues of publications, surveys specifically relevant to ACWW membership, and opportunities to support the work of the charity. This will usually be a monthly email, but may, for example around the Triennial World Conference, be more often. My email address is

\_\_\_\_\_ and I understand that I need to alert ACWW if my email address changes, or if I want to revoke this consent. I understand that ACWW does not share or sell my email address for the purposes of marketing or profit. Full details of data protection policies can be found on the ACWW website. You can also request a printed version by emailing, calling, or writing to us.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



RURAL  
WOMEN  
IN ACTION

# Afternoon Tea with ACWW World President Magdie de Kock

*Melktert* (Afrikaans for milk tart) is a typical and traditional South African sweet treat to be served with tea or coffee. It consists of a sweet pastry crust containing custard filling made from milk, flour, sugar and eggs. Cinnamon is often sprinkled over its surface, and the milk used for the custard may also be infused with a cinnamon stick before preparation.

## A Family Recipe for my Melktert

### Method

#### Pastry Crust

Grease a 9-inch pie/tart pan. Set aside.

1. In a bowl add flour, salt and sugar, and mix the ingredients.
2. Add butter and mix by hand or with a hand mixer.
3. Add egg and water and mix until a dough forms.
4. Remove dough place on a work surface - knead just enough to incorporate all the dough. Working the dough as little as possible, not handling it too much.
5. Lightly press the dough on the prepared tart pan – working from the centre up until the bottom and sides are fully covered with pastry.
6. Place pie pan in the freezer and freeze for at least 30 minutes or more. (To prevent the dough from rising when blind baked).
7. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (205 degrees C) and place rack in centre of oven
8. Bake (blind bake) crust for about 20 to 25 minutes or until the crust is golden browned. Set aside.

#### Milk Filling

1. Place saucepan over medium heat, add butter, cinnamon and milk - bring to a boil and remove from the heat.
2. In another bowl, mix together flour, cornstarch, sugar, vanilla extract - whisk in eggs until smooth. Gently whisk into the saucepan making sure there are no lumps.
3. Now return the pan back on the stove – keep stirring constantly until it starts to bubble.
4. Cook for about 5-6 minutes. Remove from heat, remove the cinnamon stick and pour mixture into the baked pastry shell.
5. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Cool down until ready to be served - preferably at room temperature.



### Ingredients

#### Pastry Crust

- 1 and 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup castor sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 9 tablespoons cold butter cut into small pieces
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon cold water

#### Milk Filling

- 2 and 1/4 cups full cream milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 cinnamon stick
- cinnamon for sprinkling on top before serving

*Note for ease:* To save time and effort, I often take a short cut and use “ready made” puff pastry for the crust. The cooked filling is then poured into the raw pie shell and baked in a preheated oven for 15 – 20 minutes.

**Associated Country Women of the World**

[www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk) | [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

A04 Parkhall | 40 Martell Road | London SE21 8EN | UK



**RURAL  
WOMEN  
IN ACTION**

# ACWW in 2019

Summary of the 2019 Annual Report & Accounts  
of the Associated Country Women of the World

**1929**

ACWW is founded,  
born from the International  
Council of Women

ACWW becomes a Charitable  
Incorporated Organisation with  
CIO number 1174798

**2017**

**2019**

The Membership of ACWW ratify  
the Constitution adopted on  
22 September 2017 at the 29<sup>th</sup>  
Triennial World Conference in  
Melbourne, Australia in  
May 2019



## International Reach

ACWW has members in 84 countries

ACWW is an International  
Non-Governmental Organisation  
(INGO) and pursues its  
charitable objectives through its  
member societies and through  
networks of non-member  
Non-Governmental  
Organisations (NGOs).



# Board of Trustees

The new Board of Trustees was elected in April 2019 at the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference in Melbourne, Australia. They were:



World President  
Magdie de Kock (South Africa)



Deputy World President  
Alison Burnett (Scotland)



Secretary  
Christine Rearburn (Canada)



Treasurer  
Ruth Cargill (Australia)\*



Communications & Marketing  
Committee Chairman  
Sheila Needham (Canada)



Projects Committee  
Chairman  
Maybel Moyo (Zimbabwe)\*\*



United Nations Committee  
Chairman  
Marie Kenny (Canada)



Area President:  
Canada  
Linda Hoy (Canada)



Area President: Caribbean,  
Central & South America  
Irene Hinds (Trinidad & Tobago)



Area President:  
Central & South Asia  
Sr. Lucas Arul Seeli (India)\*\*\*



Area President:  
East, West, and Central Africa  
Irene Chinje (Cameroon)



Area President:  
Europe  
Afrodita Roman (Romania)



Area President:  
South East Asia & the Far East  
Norjanah Razali (Malaysia)



Area President:  
Southern Africa  
Anphia Grobler (South Africa)§



Area President:  
South Pacific  
Gail Commens (Australia)



Area President:  
United States of America  
Bonnie Teeples



Projects Committee Chairman  
(June 2020- )  
Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland)



Area President: Southern  
Africa (October 2019 - )  
Dr Marina Muller (Namibia)

\* Ruth Cargill resigned in June 2020, and Deputy World President Alison Burnett is now Acting Treasurer  
\*\* Maybel Moyo passed away in June 2020, and Edwina Marr of Northern Ireland was co-opted to complete the Triennium  
\*\*\* Sr. Lucas Arul Seeli was removed from the Board in June 2020, and World President Magdie de Kock is acting Area President  
§ Anphia Grobler resigned in October 2019, and Dr Marina Muller of Namibia was co-opted to complete the Triennium



The highlight of the year was the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference held in May. This was a marvellous gathering of 560 delegates over six days in Melbourne. In addition to the resolutions passed, talks were heard, friendships were formed and it was a great opportunity to learn from each other and share knowledge.

The Triennial Report of Work included reports from all members of the Board and Committees and from over 80 member societies.

Held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference was hosted by The Countrywomen's Association of Victoria, Inc. and supported by the Victoria State Government. The Board and Staff would

like to again extend their thanks to all those who volunteered and worked hard to ensure the Conference was a great success.

We were pleased that delegates had the opportunity to experience a taste of Aboriginal culture with a Welcome to Country, and a session on traditional foods and cooking techniques. Other Concurrent Sessions which proved very popular were the 'ACWW and the UN' talk which gave insight into exactly how ACWW uses the mechanisms of the United Nations to hold governments to account, and the 'Q&A' with the World President and CEO which allowed members the chance to ask any questions they had face to face.

Before the Conference opened, there were two days of leadership training for all candidates standing for election to the Board of Trustees. Whilst there were many familiar faces, this was also a fantastic opportunity for those standing for the first time to get a deeper understanding of ACWW's 'behind the scenes' working methods, and the obligations of a Charity Trustee in UK law. Amid two days of hard work, there was also a lot of fun and laughter!

## Central Office

Located at A04 Parkhall, 40 Martell Road, London SE21 8EN, the Central Office premises continues to serve ACWW well with multiple events held on site, as well housing the extensive archive and being the main place of work for ACWW's staff.

During 2019, there were staff changes at Central Office. Mrs Monica Tomlins' time as Office Assistant came to an end in September 2019, and Projects Administrator Ms Viktoria Dimitrova left in October 2019 to pursue a Postgraduate Degree. Mrs Susan Williams joined ACWW as Finance Manager in September 2019, and Ms Jenny Sellers joined as Projects Administrator in the same month, facilitating a handover from Viktoria before she left. Other staff remained in post throughout the year.



Of course the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference also saw the retirement of ACWW's leadership team. World President Ruth Shanks A.M. stepped down after 6 years in post, and is pictured here with outgoing Deputy World President Margaret Yetman (2013-2019), Treasurer Heather Brennan (2016-2019), Secretary Henrietta Schoeman (2013-2019), and outgoing Chairman of the Communications and Marketing Committee Magdie de Kock (2013-2019). Of course Magdie de Kock was elected as the new World President and was handed the badge of office on the last day of the Triennial World Conference.

On the right you can see the standing ovation Ruth rightly received after chairing her final session of the Conference, one of Plenary Sessions when Ruth was joined by her travelling companion, and the new World President, Magdie de Kock.

After the Conference, Ruth's portrait was added to the wall of past World Presidents on display at Central Office, 'Madge Watt House'.





# New Policy Resolutions

At the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial World Conference ACWW Members voted to adopt new policy Resolutions:

**Registration of Old Landfills:** Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge the governments of all countries to map and register the presence of old landfill sites. The register should record the presence of dangerous substances (if known) and the risk of future leakage. In addition, we urge each country to develop a strategy for the rehabilitation of these sites.

**Protection of Shared Marine Environment, Sustainable Coral Reefs, and Fish Stocks:** Be it resolved that Member societies of the ACWW request their Governments and Industries to take urgent action, as appropriate, to ensure the wise use and protection of the shared marine environment, to protect the sustainability of coral reefs and fish stocks for future generations.

**Use of Plastics:** Be it resolved that ACWW calls on all governments to regulate the use of plastics in packaging and manufacturing processes to reduce the impact of discarded plastic on the environment.

**Action on Climate Change:** Be it resolved that all ACWW member societies support the historic Paris Climate Agreement 2015 by taking action at local, national and international level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help build resilience within their communities to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

**Pollinator Protection:** Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and research institutes to continue to identify and reduce specific drivers of insect pollinator decline, develop agricultural pollinator-friendly practices, and promote greater public awareness of the role of insect pollination in global food production.

**Elimination of Dog Mediated Rabies:** Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World member societies support rabies education globally and support 'Zero by 30'. This initiative of the World Health Organisation, World Organisation for Animal Health, Food and Agriculture Organisation and Global Alliance for Rabies Control seeks to eliminate dog mediated rabies by 2030 through: rabies education programs on bite prevention, expanding dog rabies vaccination coverage to stop transmission, improving access to post exposure prophylaxis and by lobbying governments to provide the funds to achieve this.

**Iron Deficiency:** Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and health organizations to continue financing and supporting the research needed to eliminate the world-wide incidence of iron deficiency.

**Gender Sensitive Health Care:** Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organizations urge their governments to strive for gender sensitive health care by carrying out a gender analysis on all health policies as they are developed and before they are implemented.

**Health and Nutrition for Women with Emphasis on Environmental Health:** Be it resolved that ACWW gives high priority to programs relating to health and nutrition for rural women including provision of clean water, training in sanitation, hygiene and waste disposal which are of paramount importance to vulnerable rural communities. Where possible member societies should promote work with Governments and other non-governmental agencies in unison to achieve measurable improvements in malnutrition and environmental health for rural women.

**Q or Query Fever:** Be it resolved that ACWW Member Societies advocate to governments in their respective regions that increased funding be made available to: a) educate medical practitioners and alert all communities about the identification, treatment and prevention of Q fever, and b) if not already in place, implement a scheme to subsidise vaccination programs to prevent Q fever in high risk areas.

**Textiles and Clothes:** Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations put pressure upon all textile, footwear and apparel companies and manufacturers to ensure fair pay and working conditions, as suggested by current International Labour Organisation conventions and recommendations, for all their women workers.

**Domestic Violence:** Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge the governments of all countries and their agents to develop and implement strategies for the prevention of domestic violence.

**Safe and Secure Access to Toilet Facilities for All:** Be it resolved that ACWW and their members aim to raise the standard of living of rural women and their families by putting specific emphasis to Goal 6 of the UN Sustainable Development Goal for water and sanitation, by including special and appropriate sanitary facilities for people with disabilities, serious illnesses and the elderly.

**Adoption of the New Constitution:** Be it resolved that the constitution of the Associated Country Women of the World Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1174798, approved by the Charity Commission in September 2017, be formally adopted.

**Adoption of Bye Laws, Standing Orders, and Rules of Procedure:** Be it resolved that the Bye Laws, Standing Orders and Rules of Procedure be ratified and approved as amended and in line with the new Constitution.

**Membership Subscriptions:** Be it resolved that the membership subscription for Categories 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 increase to: Category 1 £110, Category 2 £69, Category 3 £55, Category 4 £37, Category 5 Individual £27, Category 5 Individuals for 3 years £68.

**Chairman of the Agriculture Committee:** Be it resolved that the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee be a singular position on the Board and Executive.

# Advocacy

Today rural women continue to face challenges that are interconnected, from the way climate change affects food growth and distribution, to the legal implications of governments weakening human rights treaties. So many of the issues identified by members in 1929 remain, and this is largely because governmental systems and ideas remain the same. We need to see systematic change to address these systemic problems, with the realisation that rural women are crucial to the lives of all humanity and must therefore be included in global, national, and local dialogues.

Over the past three years ACWW has used a series of different surveys to gather information on the reality of life for rural women, and our members all over the world. These are critically important, as it means we are collecting data - and the UN has identified a 'data gap' concerning rural women and therefore they are not counted or represented when governments take policy decisions. Gathering data about the living conditions of rural women means we can contribute to policy conversations at national and international levels, and make sure our members have evidence to support their own lobbying. These surveys are circulated by email and are promoted on our website and social media channels.

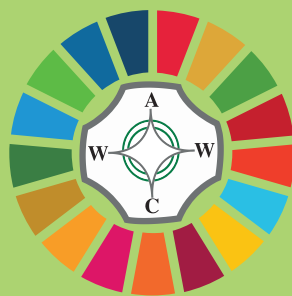
Each year, the United Nations convenes the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at its Headquarters in New York. This is a two week gathering of governments, UN bodies, and civil society organisations and NGOs like ACWW - gather together to discuss women's rights and agree new standards for action. At CSW in 2019 ACWW, along with hundreds of other women's organisations around the world, told the Commission and its 193 member states that the social protection systems in place for women are woefully lacking. While the Covid-19 pandemic is a global disaster, a strong civil society that advocates for the most vulnerable members of communities can help to mitigate the impact of such disasters by holding governments to account and seeking a better future. As ever, ACWW is committed to amplifying the voices of Rural Women to achieve this goal.



## International Forum on Rural Women

2131  
responses

94  
countries



## ACWW continues in its commitment to the SDGs

ACWW  
presented  
responses  
at HLPF

Watch on our  
website!

Working with Member Societies, ACWW gave formal responses at the UN to the governments of Lesotho and New Zealand, and co-authored the response to Cameroon.

ACWW gave evidence in Geneva at the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, provided by Members, and holding the UK Government to account



Every 4-5 years, each government which has signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is examined by the Committee for compliance. This is a legally binding obligation and governments are held to account by the Committee; they are required to make a report, then NGOs have the opportunity to give evidence - a crucial chance to ensure that voices are heard without government interference. In 2019, ACWW had the opportunity to participate in the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of CEDAW, and specifically the examination of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK). ACWW held a consultation with Member Societies and Individual Members in the UK, and based on this prepared a written statement reflecting the reality of life for rural women in all four nations of the UK. On the strength of this, ACWW was also asked to give evidence directly to the Committee, which involved 10 minutes of verbal presentation. When the Committee published its Concluding Observations, there was a strong statement finding the UK in breach of the Convention, and some specific commentary and recommendations on rural women.

In 2019, ACWW's delegation consisted World President Ruth Shanks, CEO Tish Collins, and Policy and Communications Manager Nick Newland.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was launched by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The dates for the campaign were chosen for the specific UN Observances that already fell in that time period - namely, 25 November,

the International Day Against Violence Against Women, 29 November, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, 1 December, World AIDS Day, and 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

Orange the World

63,550 global reach

ACWW's online resources were viewed by a huge number of people during the campaign

During ACWW's Orange the World campaign in 2019 more than 63,550 people saw ACWW's materials online and more than 850 people actively shared these materials on their Facebook pages. This is a fantastic reach for these resources, and we look forward to increasing this engagement in 2020.



ACWW knows that rural women face worse food insecurity than their male or urban counterparts; restricted access to financial resources; less access to education and productive technology; highest global rates of poverty; high rates of domestic violence; and lack of control over productive land. ACWW has pledged to support the UN Decade of Family Farming, joining the global campaign to ensure that rural women are empowered to improve global food systems, making sure you always have good, nutritious food on your plate, and global hunger is eradicated.



Towards the end of the year and putting into play the strapline of ACWW: Rural Women in Action, a pack of resources was produced for members including '100 ways you can make a difference'. These were produced in an attractive physical form of booklets, posters and stickers and are also available as a download from ACWW's website.

## Partnership

Throughout its ninety-year history ACWW has forged partnerships with like-minded organisations in order to further its aims connecting and supporting women and communities worldwide. The relationship with rural women's organisations has grown from membership covering 18 countries in 1929 to 84 countries in 2019. Through its member societies, ACWW gives voice internationally to over 9 million women.

In light of the Resolution passed on Dog Mediated Rabies, ACWW established a working relationship with the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) in 2019, facilitating free training on Community Rabies Care for members.

In line with ACWW policy objectives, partnerships were established beyond our Consultative Status: UNESCO

NGO Liaison Committee; UK Civil Society Women's Alliance; Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CCNGO); UNESCO Steering Committee on the Forum on Global Citizenship; Informal actions with Soroptimist International, Zonta International, and other NGOs; Women's Major Group at the United Nations; and the NGO Major Group at the United Nations.

These partnerships have seen continued development into 2020 / 2021.



# ACWW Projects Approved 2019

## Projects by WE Fund Pot



### Income Generation and Livelihood

Project	Country	Partner Organisation	Project Title
1064	Tanzania	Tanzania Women Social Economic Development and Human Rights Organization (TWSEDHRO)	Income Generation through Training and Cooperation
1061	Malawi	Youth for Positive Change (YOPOC)	Economic Opportunities for Women Living with HIV/AIDS
1060	Liberia	Universal Farmers Association INC (UFA)	Beekeeping for Economic Empowerment
1050	Bangladesh	Nari Unnayan Sangstha (NUS)	Skill Development for Young Mukkuvar Women
1040	Tanzania	Women Social Economic Development Organization	Skills Training towards a Brighter Future for Widows

### Maternal and Reproductive Health

1066	Uganda	Kiwanyi Health Centre NGO (KHC)	Installing Solar Lighting Facilities to Improve Maternal and Infant Healthcare
1062	Tanzania	Empowerment of Marginalised Communities (EMAC)	Introducing an Alternative Rite of Passage to Combat Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania

### Sustainable Agriculture, Training and Development

1068	Kenya	Kisumu Disabled Self-help Group (KIDSEG)	Mushroom Farming and Agribusiness Development
1058	India	Grameena Mahila Samstha (GMS)	Conservation Agriculture for Tribal Women
1057	Zimbabwe	Ntengwe for Community Development (NCD)	Women-Led Climate-resilient Farming; Supporting Vegetable Gardens in Zimbabwe

### Education and Capacity Building

1063	Tanzania	Tanzania People Development Organization (TADEPO)	Empowering Women with Business Training and Skill Building
1055	Mongolia	Sain Tus Center NGO (STC)	Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion
1056	Togo	SADA [Synergie d'Actions pour un Développement Approprié]	Literacy for Rural Women in Togo

### Nutrition, Good Health and Wellbeing

1065	Uganda	Action for Disadvantaged People (ACDIPE)	Improved Nutrition for Women Living with HIV/AIDS
1052	India	Community Action for Rural Development (CARD)	Mental Health Awareness in Rural India
1051	Ghana	Shape Lives International (SLI)	Agricultural Training for Improved Food Security and Nutrition

### Sustainable Water, Sanitation and Energy

1059	Kenya	UWG Ufanisi Women Group	Improving Access to Safe Water for Rural Women in Kisiwa
1067	Uganda	Voluntary Efforts for Community Health (VECH)	Drought Mitigation through Alternative Water Management
1054	India	Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD)	Economic Empowerment through Small Business Expansion

# Statement of Financial Activities 2019

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Connected Charities £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Income:</b>					
Donations, membership and legacies	242,529	197,927	10,343	450,799	495,885
Investment income	69,942	-	-	69,942	76,034
Charitable activities	296,052	-	-	296,052	438
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>608,523</b>	<b>197,927</b>	<b>10,343</b>	<b>816,793</b>	<b>572,357</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>					
<b>Raising Funds:</b>					
Investment management costs	8,514	-	-	8,514	8,985
<b>Charitable Activities:</b>					
Projects	99,443	170,285	-	269,728	204,665
Education	41,685	-	2,732	44,417	46,780
Outreach	44,417	-	-	44,417	46,780
Information and Research	88,835	-	-	88,835	93,559
United Nations Representation	44,417	-	-	44,417	46,780
Conference Preparation	402,374	3,135	-	405,509	146,186
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>729,685</b>	<b>173,420</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>905,837</b>	<b>593,735</b>
<b>Net (expenditure) / income</b>	<b>(121,162)</b>	<b>24,507</b>	<b>7,611</b>	<b>(89,044)</b>	<b>(21,378)</b>
Transfers between funds	94,391	(94,391)	-	-	-
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before other gains</b>	<b>(26,771)</b>	<b>(69,884)</b>	<b>7,611</b>	<b>(89,044)</b>	<b>(21,378)</b>
(Loss) / Gains on investment assets	249,730	-	-	249,730	(120,185)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>222,959</b>	<b>(69,884)</b>	<b>7,611</b>	<b>160,686</b>	<b>(141,563)</b>
Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2019	2,305,995	276,415	193,664	2,776,074	2,917,637
Balances transferred in from previous connected charities	-	201,275	(201,275)	-	-
<b>Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2019</b>	<b>2,528,954</b>	<b>407,806</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,936,760</b>	<b>2,776,074</b>

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The financial statements were approved and signed on behalf of the Board by Alison Burnett (Acting Treasurer) and Magdie de Kock (World President).

**NOTE: ADD STUFF**

# Income & Expenditure

## INCOME 2019

- Membership Dues - 8.5%
- Donations (Unrestricted) - 19.5%
- Donations (Restricted) - 24%
- Legacies - 3%
- Investment Income - 9%
- Conference Income - 36%



## HOW RESOURCES WERE USED 2019

- Project Activities - 30%
- Education - 5%
- Outreach - 5%
- Information & Research - 10%
- UN Representation - 5%
- Conference Preparation - 45%



## Notes on resource use 2019

### Project Activities

The project administrator's work solely involves projects, the handling of all communication concerning applications for funding, administering the work of the Projects Committee and communicating with donors. The Board decided in 2019 that restricted funds should cover just the direct salary costs of the projects administrators, amounts allocated to project grants and an allocation for monitoring and evaluation (these form the Staff and Direct Costs). All the resources expended supporting Project activities including a percentage of office space, utilities, materials used, payments out, bookkeeping, generation of publicity materials, website presentation and generation of forms and postage are shown in the Support Costs column and were expended from unrestricted funds.

## Education

Includes production and provision of resources in support of charity policies and mandates.

## Outreach Activities

Includes outreach and extension work by members of the Board and key staff plus resources associated with promoting the charity and administering committees.

## Information and Research

Includes the costs of producing *The Countrywoman* magazine, the annual report, production of information, publicity leaflets, designing and maintaining the website, time and postage distributing publicity materials, responding to enquiries, administering committees. The unit print costs of *The Countrywoman* magazine and other materials have reduced substantially over recent years thanks to negotiating and sourcing by the Policy and Communications Manager. The costs of postage have risen considerably due to a general increase of postal charges.

## United Nations

Includes subscriptions to international bodies, attendance at some international meetings, administering the United Nations Committee. In June a new UN and Advocacy budget was approved to increase the impact of such work.

## Conference Preparation

Actual Conference income and expenditure are reported in the 2019 accounts, the year of the Triennial World Conference.

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## COVID-19

Although this is the Trustees Annual Report from 2019, it was written in 2020 with the experience of the global pandemic of Covid-19 which impacted the UK in March 2020. The impact on ACWW's membership has been addressed via three surveys, the results of which have been shared with the UNESCO. The so-called 'lockdown' has increased rural isolation and made access to food and banking facilities even more of an issue for our members globally, particularly so as public transport has been curtailed. Additionally, the forced cancellation of meetings for member societies and support groups has resulted in a fall in membership income and donations. The Board has taken steps to drawn down some of the reserves in order to meet commitments for the year.

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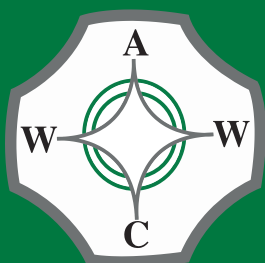
Thank you for taking the time to read the Summary of the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts of the Associated Country Women of the World.

If you have any questions, you are always welcome to contact Central Office by emailing [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk)

The full 2019  
Annual Report  
can be found at  
[acww.org.uk](http://acww.org.uk)



Members of Downpatrick Women's Institute, Northern Ireland, were to have participated in Women Walk the World on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. Unfortunately because of Covid-19 restrictions and Northern Ireland's "circuit breaker" in force at that time they were unable to walk together. Instead, Edwina Marr, President of the Institute decided to walk on her own and visit each member at their own front doors - taking a photo as she went! All social distancing adhered to, and she was able to promote ACWW in a small way and collect £280 towards Women Walk the World. She says, "Thank you to those ladies who supported me and so helped our Federation to contribute towards Pennies for Friendship Fund."



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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
 For Sustainable Development