Associated Country
Women of the World

ACWW Connects and Supports
Women & Communities Worldwide

Information Booklet 2017
DEAR FRIENDS...

A Message from the World President

Between 2013 and 2016, our Members and Member Societies have made a major - and positive - impact on their countries. Significant funds have been raised towards ACWW’s work, both core costs and projects. More than £285,000 has been awarded internationally in project funding, all of which - of course - comes with an attached administrative and staff cost.

We will continue to work alongside the Sustainable Development Goals and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s Zero Hunger Challenge and report - with new levels of detail - not only on our funded projects but also the status of, and impact upon, the nine million women we represent as an organisation. Our work with the Zero Hunger Challenge central team has made ACWW one of their model partners, and one of our project benefactors was featured on the UN homepage for International Women’s Day 2016. Our work is being recognised internationally and, with further development, will strengthen our worldwide network.

To secure the future of this development, it is necessary to position ourselves to fully take advantage of global funding – not merely as a reactive adjustment of existing projects in a hurry, but rather as a pro-active and pre-planned framework allowing us to facilitate area-wide, cross community funding needs. This reformed approach, in conjunction with our new constitution, will strengthen the pre-existing nature of ACWW, ensuring that we can go forward together into our 90th year safe in the knowledge that we are striving to serve our members, their societies and women worldwide to the very best of our ability.

The successes of ACWW’s member societies are vast and broad-based, but in the past three years have included:

• Significant and successful lobbying on the use of Bisphenol A by the Alberta Women’s Institutes of Canada
• The Country Women’s Association in Tasmania, Australia has, through lobbying the State Government, secured a ban of plastic carrier bags on the island
• Action on E-Waste, recycling and responsible re-use of technology has been taken at the local, national and international levels by ACWW member organisations and societies
• The SSUK society in Bangladesh reports more than 3000 healthy and safe latrines created in the past Triennium

It is crucial that we build on the strong position we are in with renewed energy and drive – our Members, Societies, Officers and Staff combining their efforts to assess and report on the current state of our societies, and work to improve the quality of life of women and communities globally. Central Office will support this with a range of new resources and information, targeted to help Members further their efforts in implementing and monitoring real success. Members and societies may consider a few issues that will be relevant to them to differing extents.

This Triennium has presented challenges for the Central Office staff, with several members of the team moving on to new educational opportunities, professional development and retirement. Our staff have, in all but one case, joined ACWW in the 2013-2016 Triennium, with Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins appointed in May 2014. She has since shepherded the restructuring of the new constitution in conjunction with the Ad Hoc Committee, overseen a vast overhaul of the Office’s procedures and has spent the last year additionally covering the role of Finance Manager after the incumbent retired. My sincerest thanks, and those of the Board and the whole of ACWW go to Tish and her Central Office team.

Our outgoing Board and Committees have been successful in large part because of the unity and vision with which they have approached their work – I thank each and every one of them for their service and unanimous, thoughtful support. Our Committee Chairman in particular must receive thanks for the often arduous and unthankful tasks they have been presented with, and their unflinching enthusiasm and hard work has not gone unnoticed. The newly elected Board and Committees are already working to build upon these strong foundations.

ACWW is a unique body, with an international network of rural and non-rural women, willing to work together to improve the quality of life of others. We must work to ensure that we are all better informed, and use our increasingly strong organisation to secure our current achievements – and...
ACWW is one of the largest development organisations for rural women, working with 420 member societies and affiliates to represent more than 9 million women in 75 countries worldwide. We engage with, and advocate for, women at local, national and international levels. We seek to achieve the following:

To raise the standard of living for rural women and their families through education, training and community development programmes

To provide practical support to our members and help them set up income-generating schemes

To support educational opportunities for women and girls, and help eliminate gender discrimination

To give rural women a voice at an international level through our links with UN agencies bodies

ACWW CENTRAL OFFICE CONTACTS

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Office Administrator
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SUSTAINABILITY

This brochure uses Forest Stewardship Council approved sustainable paper. For every tree used in this production, three are planted in its place. This is part of ACWW’s commitment to a healthier planet, and Sustainable Development Goal 12.

To find out more about the SDGs and how you can help, visit https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
87 years of cooperating and understanding through networks of rural and non-rural women

- **ACWW believes:**
  In creating opportunities for women to exercise more power – through being better informed, being part of an enabling environment and having the necessary tools to carry out the changes they want. That women will be empowered when they are able to make better decisions and change their own lives.

- **ACWW believes in empowerment of women by:**
  Advocacy, partnership, sharing knowledge and local activities - including UN representation, access to information resources, funding community development projects and training programmes.

- **ACWW is:**
  Committed to raising the health and standard-of-living of rural women & their families;
  Non-sectarian, non-political, forward-looking and friendly
  A non-governmental organisation (NGO)
  A ‘not for profit’, registered in England as charity number 290367.

- **ACWW has three connected charities:**
  The Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund, Charity Number 266190
  The Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund, Charity Number 262772
  ACWW Nutrition Education Fund, Charity Number 270053

- **ACWW:**
  Welcomes into membership women’s societies, umbrella organisations, interested groups and individuals

**General Notes on ACWW**
The Triennial Conference is the highest legislative body and elects a Board of Trustees for 3 years. The Board are all volunteers who conduct most of their ACWW activities at their own expense.

In 2013, the 27th Triennial Conference took place in Chennai, India; in 2016 the venue was the University of Warwick, England for the 28th Triennial Conference.

ACWW conducts work on policy objectives set by Triennial Conference resolutions through six specified committees which meet 2-3 times per year: Agriculture, Communications and Marketing, Finance, Projects, Triennial Conference and United Nations. Area Presidents conduct work and communications within their Area. The Board meets annually in London. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Executive Committee meeting at least three times annually and who employ 7 staff members in the London Central Office.

Communication with Members is through mail outs, *The Countrywoman* magazine, our website, email, social media, e-newsletters and direct from Area Presidents.

Full versions of the 27 page Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for each year of the Triennium is available as a download from www.acww.org.uk or a printed copy is available for a small charge to cover postage.

**2013-2015 Statistics at a glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015*</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Countries with ACWW Member societies or individuals.</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of countries remained the same although the composition changed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Member Societies</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
<td>467</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No new Life memberships granted after 1992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Individual Members</td>
<td>1,491</td>
<td>1,373</td>
<td>1,836</td>
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In 2017 we have members in 75 countries, with the recent addition of Slovenia.

* 2015 is listed as it is the last year for which full figures were available
The following resolutions shaped the work of ACWW Member Societies during the Triennium:

**Maternal Health** Be it resolved that ACWW Member Societies urge their governments to provide a well-trained and resourced quality maternity health service and to improve maternal health education for all women and girls to ensure the best outcomes for mother and baby, giving particular regard to the special needs and isolation of rural women.

**Stop Use of Bisphenol A** Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations strongly urge their governments to banish the use of the hazardous chemical Bisphenol A (BPA). This chemical is the main building block of polycarbonate plastics and is used in many consumer products and household goods, such as food and drink containers, plastic baby bottles, medical devices, sports equipment and toys. The chemical components are dissolved and leach into their contents, poisoning our bodies and damaging our health.

**Stop the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation** Be it resolved that ACWW calls on all people worldwide to stop the practice of female genital mutilation, female circumcision and cutting, which endangers the health and life of young girls.

**Stop Violence against Women and Girls** ACWW urges all member societies to focus strongly on the situation of girls and women who are victims of different forms of violence.

**Women as Victims of Conflict** Be it resolved that the Associated Country Women of the World and its member organisations urge their governments to act upon, not only adopt, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

**Registration of Births** Be it resolved that ACWW member societies urge their governments to record without prejudice the births of all children born within their jurisdiction to ensure that all children are recognised as citizens.

**ACWW Constitution** Request permission to set up an ad-hoc committee to review the ACWW Constitution to ensure that it meets all of the requirements of the Charities Commission of England and Wales, and make any other changes required to bring the document up to date and bring the changes to be voted on at the 2016 Conference.

**ACWW Legal Structure** The Board (2013 – 2016) have the power to look at the legal structure of ACWW with a view to:
- making ACWW a legal entity in its own right and
- limiting the legal liability of Trustees
and to prepare a new structure for ratification at the 2016 Conference

**Recommendations Adopted**

**E-waste Recycling & Disposal** In view of the ever increasing use of electronics that pollute the environment, the members of ACWW are urged to do all they can to ensure e-waste is recycled and disposed of safely and responsibly to prevent further damage to the environment.

**Pennies for Friendship**
In 1936, as ACWW developed and needed an office, it was decided that each year every society should collect one penny (or equivalent) from each member and that these contributions would enable ACWW to continue. Thus ‘Pennies for Friendship’ was born, which contributes to our unrestricted funds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donations to Pennies for Friendship</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>£188,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>£171,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>£192,908</td>
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</table>

Pennies for Friendship is our major source of income and supports the entire operation of ACWW, including maintaining the Central Office, the Board travel and outreach costs, and the day-to-day running of ACWW.

‘Unrestricted Funds’ refers to monies coming in to ACWW for the general use of the organisation and its survival as the Board see fit, as distinct from Restricted Funds which are donated for a specified purpose.
Empowering Women and Communities through ADVOCACY

ACWW’s Consultative status as an NGO at the United Nations (UN), UNESCO and the FAO continues to give rural women a voice particularly on policies addressing poverty, hunger and women’s empowerment. Such advocacy and consultation brings potential benefits on a global scale, not restricted to ACWW membership.

The ACWW United Nations Committee coordinates contact with over 35 UN agencies and NGO committees whose mandates relate specifically to the interests, concerns and activities of ACWW and its member societies, regarding our 2016 and previous Resolutions & Recommendations. The Committee and ACWW UN Representatives keep the UN informed about the role, needs and problems of member societies, and keep member societies informed about relevant developments at the UN, enlisting their support for its work and enabling them to influence and build on opportunities available through the UN system, particularly at national and local level.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the focus of work for the ACWW UN Committee in 2013-2016, though the Commission on the Status of Women theme of “elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” and the World Health Organization’s 8th Global Conference theme of ”health in all policies” were also supported. The next big challenge was the transition from the MDGs to new goals and targets set out by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which form the UN agenda for 2016-2030.

With the addition of 3 new volunteers, we currently have ACWW UN representatives in Bangkok, Rome, New York, Geneva and Vienna who participate on working committees with other NGOs to establish statements and provide input to government policy makers at UN venues to achieve the empowerment of women.

Our UN Reps and Committee members have attended more than 40 UN and NGO committee events including the Commission on the Status of Women (New York), the World Health Assembly (Geneva), the FAO General Conference (Rome), the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok).

The Agriculture Committee has contributed to the FAO consultation on investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and has discussed FAO resolutions and recommendations such as retention of arable land for food production. They have called for greater acknowledgement of the role of women in agriculture who have traditionally lacked the same access to productive inputs as men even though women produce the majority of the World’s food.

Our input influenced the International Food Security & Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism, the largest group of non-governmental organisations working on these issues. Reporting to the Committee on World Food Security’s session in October 2013, FAO decision-makers noted: “Limited access to land and other natural assets (especially water) is one of the most binding constraints on smallholder farming investment, especially for women.”

ACWW issued statements for the International Day of Rural Women (15 October), World Food Day (16 October) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October), helping give voice to rural women’s concerns and issues. 2014 was highlighted as the International Year of Family Farming. Our Communications and Marketing Committee (formerly Promotion and Publications) made the statements available to members, the general public and UN agencies, enabling advocacy at several levels. The 2016 Year of Pulses was treated similarly and celebrated in a new Cookery Book.

Member societies were encouraged to learn about UN Observances and to celebrate the many achievements, while supporting the need to encourage change for a better life for the majority who don’t have a voice.

At the World Health Organisation 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion in Helsinki, our representative spoke about the importance of engaging young doctors in policy-making as, in time, they will become the implementers.

The UN Commission on the Status of Women held in New York each March was attended by members of the ACWW UN and Executive Committees. They passed on valuable insight into how governments are informed and how policies are developed, via The Countrywoman.

Empowering Women and Communities through PARTNERSHIP

ACWW forges partnerships with like-minded organisations such as Women’s Institutes and Country Women’s Associations around the world in order to further joint aims. The World President and other Board members are frequently invited to give presentations and speak at meetings and conferences to rural and non-rural women. For example, in 2014 at least 119 presentations were given by members of the Board in 47 countries.

In January 2013 ACWW became a partner of Save Food, the FAO’s global initiative on food loss and waste reduction. Our Agriculture Committee contributed information learned through the agricultural projects we fund and shared best practices for reducing food waste. We believe it is shameful that at least 30% of all food produced is wasted, harming the environment and driving up food prices for the poorest people in the world and therefore campaign around the slogan ‘Grow locally, benefit globally’.
ACWW United Nations Affiliations (and our commencement date):

- **FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization Consultative Status (1947)
- **ECOSOC** The Economic and Social Council Special Consultative Status (1947)
- **CoNGO** Conference of Non-governmental organizations Consultative Status (1948)
- **UNESCO** UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Consultative Status (1949)
- **UNICEF** United Nations Children’s Fund Consultative Status (1953)

In 2015 ACWW signed up to Ban Ki Moon’s Zero Hunger Challenge and has been submitting results of some ACWW funded projects in to this campaign as positive indicators.

We also continued to work with other NGOs on bodies such as the Committee on the Family. Through such partnerships, the impact of our advocacy and communication is maximised and ACWW’s UN representatives have assumed significant roles.

ACWW is a huge partnership of over 400 Member Societies in 74 countries. Grass roots projects in developing countries are supported by fund raising efforts in more developed countries, facilitated by staff at Central Office.

Member societies sending donations to fund projects in other countries form vital partnership links.

**Empowering Women and Communities through SHARING KNOWLEDGE**

Member Societies and Individual and Life members receive *The Countrywoman* magazine 4 times per year by post. Directed by the Communications and Marketing Committee, the magazine and the recently re-designed website provide a wealth of information on current issues keeping members and the public in touch with our organisation, its policies and activities. It is a developing resource for fact sheets, flyers, posters and brochures on topical subjects.

The International Years of Family Farming, Water Cooperation, and Quinoa, were marked with dedicated articles and summaries of projects related to these observances and participation in UN social media campaigns. Statements were also prepared for the International Day of Families.

All members nominated for the Board in 2016 were given leadership training at the pre-Conference Workshop in August 2016.

The Pen Friend Scheme or ‘Friendship Links’ provides another opportunity for members to learn about each other’s lives and cultures. Increasingly, modes of communication other than pen and paper are taking over and whole societies are exchanging information electronically.

**Empowering Women and Communities through LOCAL ACTIVITIES**

ACWW does not implement projects but rather funds them and works in partnership with grassroots organisations in developing countries, through its network of Member Societies and individual supporters. Small grants are awarded to women-led community based projects with identified outcomes of alleviating hunger, poverty, sickness or the advancement of education, in line with ACWW’s overall aims and objectives. Applications are welcomed from both member and non-member societies.

Grants may cover various elements of a project’s needs. For example, the purchase of equipment to be used in making goods for sale, for investment in food production to feed the participants and their families (perhaps producing some surplus to trade) or for educational projects to increase knowledge, understanding or skills.

Whilst supported projects primarily target women and children, benefits generally reach far wider into the community. Applicant women tend to be strong activists locally, who would not normally have access to major external funds. Grassroots organisations invariably have expert knowledge of their own communities and are supported where possible so that their communities can benefit from this knowledge. ACWW recognises its project partners as experts and teachers, rather than beneficiaries.

The Projects Committee receive far more applications than they could possibly fund. Eligibility criteria are published and the selection is made as fair as possible to distribute funds, with some reference to track record and geographical spread. Insufficient detail in the application remains the most common reason for rejection, however, regrettably, some good projects still have to be turned down. Monitoring visits were made to approximately 70% of projects and our mechanisms for evaluating and checking impact of the funding programme are under review.

All ACWW projects support some or all of the MDGs which is an important extension of UN work at the local level. UN agencies acknowledge the importance of NGO and civil society input into development. Several ACWW projects were summarized for inclusion in the International Year of the Family +20 study prepared by Dr. Peter Crowley, NGO Committee on the Family in Vienna.
Empowering Women and Communities through VOLUNTEERING

All Board, Committee members, ACWW UN Representatives and ACWW Representatives / International Representatives are volunteers who contribute considerable time, money and energy to furthering the aims of ACWW. Volunteer fundraisers raised the major source of incoming funds for the year in the form of Membership fees and Pennies for Friendship. Additionally, from England and Wales donations were received to restricted funds from WI Pennies for Friendship, in direct support of projects.

The grant funding of projects necessarily incurs support costs. There are also costs associated with maintaining an information network, a quarterly magazine, membership services, educational information, outreach by the Board and representation at the UN and related activities. Governance costs including professional, financial and legal services, plus the facilitation of meetings, the Board and six Specified Committees – all of which give ACWW its truly global reach – also need to be funded.

At conference time many volunteers come forward to act in a variety of vital administrative and support roles, for what becomes a great social occasion and opportunity to forge friendships with people from different cultures and countries.

Women Walk the World held annually on or around ACWW day, 29 April, is a major focus for awareness, fellowship and fundraising. Activities were reported with many photographs in The Countrywoman. A fundraising initiative on jewellery recycling was also launched from the Triennial Conference, raising £591.51 in 2016 alone.

Achievements and Performance

- The Finance Committee approved expenditure on a new IT system and network in order to improve security, efficiency and cut costs in the mid-to-long term and to enable a more responsive but less costly maintenance contract to be enacted. Nine desktop computers and a server were purchased from DELL under their charity discount scheme. Software including Microsoft 365 and a Customer Relationship Management system Harlequin were purchased on a similar basis streamlining entry of membership, donations and Conference registration after initial training. Sophisticated software was also purchased to enhance the website and publications.

- The World President and the Chief Executive Officer have a Skype meeting weekly. Increasingly, facilities such as Skype are being used to enable remote access to meetings, thus saving costs. It was agreed to upgrade facilities to an improved standard.

- Low cost tablet computers were purchased in advance of the October 2015 Triennial Conference Committee session to trial paperless meetings, with the aim of aligning with SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production, and ensuring all Committee members had access to appropriate documents without having to travel long distances with them. This is to be developed further to allow more productive use of time and resources in meetings.

- The Ad Hoc Committee on the Constitution was established by resolution at the 27th Triennial Conference. This Committee met twice during the 2013-2016 Triennium, and maintained considerable email correspondence. The Constitution was re-drafted in line with the Charitable Incorporated Organisation structure under the Charity Commission of England and Wales, and was approved by the 28th Triennial Conference in August 2016. This will be fully in place in the near future, pending approval of the Charity Commission. Charity lawyers Russell Cooke were engaged to assist with the process.

- Promoting ACWW Resolutions and Recommendations: All Member Societies were encouraged to send lobbying letters to their local and national governments. The ACWW UN Committee also sent these resolutions and recommendations to 35 UN agencies and non-government organisations and ACWW’s UN Representatives in early 2014.

- ACWW signed up to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s Zero Hunger Challenge, signed by World President Ruth Shanks AM and there has been close working collaboration between the Agriculture and Projects Committees.

- Towards the end of 2015, the 1,000th project was funded.

- In early 2016, ACWW hosted a concert celebrating International Women’s Day on 8 March at prestigious London concert hall, St John’s Smith Square. World renowned soprano Ailish Tynan appeared as guest soloist, donating her services to ACWW, accompanied by historical instrument ensemble The Amadè Players and conductor Nick Newland. The publicity impact for ACWW was huge, and the performance featured on BBC Radio’s InTune programme, which gave the concert six previews, reaching an audience of more than 3 million listeners, and explained the work of ACWW. The event was also listed on the BBC website’s homepage in the ‘5 Ways to Celebrate International Women’s Day’ list and reviewed in music magazines The Strad and Gramophone.

- Three days after the concert, ACWW travelled to the Women’s Institute cookery school at Denman to host an ACWW Information Day. The event was quickly sold out and served to educate the audience about ACWW’s work, launch the new Countrywoman’s Kitchen cookbook and allow WI members to witness HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia’s cooking up close.
ACWW members at Denman for the Information Day.

Beneficiaries from ACWW’s thousandth project, funded in Kolkata, India. Project 1,000 offers computer training to those in financially challenging circumstances.

ACWW’s Executive, joined by HRH Princess Azizah of Malaysia, Communications & Marketing Committee Chairman Magdie de Kock and Operations Manager Tish Collins at Denman.

Nick Newland conducts The Amadè Players at St John’s Smith Square ACWW’s Concert for International Women’s Day.

The Countrywoman’s Kitchen featured 87 recipes from ACWW members, officers and staff, representing the 87 years of ACWW celebrated in 2016. The cookery book was launched on International Women’s Day and has proven hugely popular, with 445 copies sold in its first year.
The International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations is hosted every two years by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and provides NGOs in Consultative Status with UNESCO the opportunity to have input in the NGO Liaison Committee’s agenda for the next term. In December 2016 Chief Executive Officer Tish Collins and Media & Communications Manager Nick Newland set off to Paris for the ICNGO, whose theme this year was ‘The Challenge of the Digital Revolution for NGOs’.

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

His Excellency Mr Darko Tanaskovic, Serbia’s Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and Chair of the Committee on NGO Partners on the UNESCO Executive Board pointed out that ‘multiculturalism’ as an ideal, was permanently endangered by ‘dark forces, including the emerging extremist right-wing politics of central Europe and the United States of America, as well as isolationism’. Instead, he said, we must strive for ‘multiculturality’, the true engagement and interaction of all cultures and backgrounds within our states, organisations and actions.

This can be particularly facilitated by the use of digital integration and easy cross-border communications within civil society, NGOs, and groups like ACWW’s member societies.

Many people are resistant to the ‘intrusion’ of the internet and digital technology on their everyday lives. There is a fear of new things, along with a very reasonable concern about terms like ‘fake news’ and ‘post-truth’, whilst the hysteria that comes with frequent disasters, bad news and tragedies is exacerbated by the 24 hour a day, multi-platform news world we live in. A large amount of time at the Conference was spent discussing the ethics of the digital revolution, and interesting points made by many contributors - including those who questioned the intent and moral perspective of the major media companies like News International, Facebook and Google.

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

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

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

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

Other important statistics that emerged from the Conference include:

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

The final session of the Conference included the formal adoption of the working paper (the guidelines for all NGOs to work within for the next two years). Important changes and clarifications came from ACWW’s involvement, including the creation of new interaction and dialogue channels for the Committee to work on, and the call for a stronger network of NGOs working together in support of the Committee’s agenda but independent of its direction. This was an important forum for ACWW to present our goals and policy, as part of our strategy of engagement on the global stage with decision makers and those able to promote our ideals at the highest levels.
### TRIENNIAL SUMMARY 2013-2016

#### 74
Countries with ACWW member societies or individual members

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

#### 412
Member Societies
- 456 in 2012
- 394 in 2014
- 412 in 2015

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

#### PARTNERSHIP
ACWW maintains consultative status with United Nations Agencies and Organisations

#### JUNE 2015
ACWW signs UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s Zero Hunger Challenge

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

- **12,172** Women beneficiaries
- **7,941** Child beneficiaries
- **48,000** Additional family members reached, in 12,021 families
- **630** Rural women in self-employment projects to boost income and independence
- **434** Women farmers in agriculture projects to increase knowledge and improve yields
- **7,455** Women, men and children benefiting from water and sanitation projects
## ACWW BALANCE SHEETS as at 31 DECEMBER 2013, 2014 & 2015

### ALL ASSOCIATED CHARITIES

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<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
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<td>£11,956</td>
<td>£10,025</td>
<td>£13,901</td>
<td>£11,956</td>
<td>£10,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>£2,219,731</td>
<td>£2,231,571</td>
<td>£2,177,521</td>
<td>£2,219,731</td>
<td>£2,231,571</td>
<td>£2,177,521</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors</td>
<td>£40,894</td>
<td>£46,733</td>
<td>£30,252</td>
<td>£40,894</td>
<td>£46,733</td>
<td>£30,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>£497,834</td>
<td>£432,921</td>
<td>£470,274</td>
<td>£395,538</td>
<td>£330,585</td>
<td>£367,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>£538,728</td>
<td>£479,654</td>
<td>£500,526</td>
<td>£436,432</td>
<td>£377,318</td>
<td>£398,182</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creditors: Amounts falling due within 1 year</td>
<td>£- 98,741</td>
<td>£- 51,087</td>
<td>£- 52,696</td>
<td>£- 173,650</td>
<td>£- 123,216</td>
<td>£- 123,438</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net current assets</strong></td>
<td>£439,987</td>
<td>£428,567</td>
<td>£447,830</td>
<td>£262,782</td>
<td>£254,102</td>
<td>£274,744</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets</strong></td>
<td>£2,673,619</td>
<td>£2,672,094</td>
<td>£2,635,376</td>
<td>£2,496,414</td>
<td>£2,497,629</td>
<td>£2,462,290</td>
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### Funds

#### ACWW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent endowment fund</td>
<td>£644,131</td>
<td>£660,314</td>
<td>£644,374</td>
<td>£644,131</td>
<td>£660,314</td>
<td>£644,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted funds</td>
<td>£466,250</td>
<td>£448,577</td>
<td>£410,337</td>
<td>£466,250</td>
<td>£448,577</td>
<td>£410,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td>£161,904</td>
<td>£161,875</td>
<td>£161,809</td>
<td>£161,904</td>
<td>£161,875</td>
<td>£161,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td>£1,224,129</td>
<td>£1,226,863</td>
<td>£1,245,770</td>
<td>£1,224,129</td>
<td>£1,226,863</td>
<td>£1,245,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
<td>£2,496,414</td>
<td>£2,497,629</td>
<td>£2,462,290</td>
<td>£2,496,414</td>
<td>£2,497,629</td>
<td>£2,462,290</td>
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### Connected Charities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Lady Aberdeen Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>£74,378</td>
<td>£72,489</td>
<td>£71,138</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elsie Zimmern Memorial Fund</td>
<td>£33,296</td>
<td>£33,296</td>
<td>£33,296</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition Education Trust Fund</td>
<td>£69,531</td>
<td>£68,680</td>
<td>£68,652</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
<td>£177,205</td>
<td>£174,465</td>
<td>£173,086</td>
<td>£2,496,414</td>
<td>£2,497,629</td>
<td>£2,462,290</td>
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</table>
## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Permanent Endowment</th>
<th>Connected Charities</th>
<th>Total 2015 (restated)</th>
<th>Total 2014 (restated)</th>
<th>Total 2013 (restated)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations, membership, legacies</td>
<td>249,613</td>
<td>181,855</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,741</td>
<td>434,209</td>
<td>381,370</td>
<td>550,408</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>82,079</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>82,079</td>
<td>71,082</td>
<td>69,679</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td>1,283</td>
<td>284</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>336,030</strong></td>
<td><strong>181,855</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>2,741</strong></td>
<td><strong>520,626</strong></td>
<td><strong>453,735</strong></td>
<td><strong>620,371</strong></td>
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<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Raising Funds:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment management costs</td>
<td>8,124</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,124</td>
<td>7,975</td>
<td>7,493</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable activities:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>295,501</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>295,501</td>
<td>273,762</td>
<td>281,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>24,615</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>24,615</td>
<td>22,885</td>
<td>23,445</td>
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<td>Outreach</td>
<td>47,930</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>47,930</td>
<td>44,564</td>
<td>35,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information and research</td>
<td>101,712</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>101,712</td>
<td>94,567</td>
<td>78,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations representation</td>
<td>37,503</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37,503</td>
<td>34,867</td>
<td>33,659</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>57,245</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>219,884</strong></td>
<td><strong>295,501</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>2,741</strong></td>
<td><strong>515,385</strong></td>
<td><strong>479,042</strong></td>
<td><strong>509,629</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Net income (expenditure)</td>
<td>116,146</td>
<td>- 113,646</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,741</td>
<td>5,241</td>
<td>- 25,307</td>
<td>110,742</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers between funds</td>
<td>- 128,950</td>
<td>128,950</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net income (expenditure) before other gains (losses)</td>
<td>- 12,804</td>
<td>15,304</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,741</td>
<td>5,241</td>
<td>- 25,307</td>
<td>110,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gains (losses) on investment assets</td>
<td>10,098</td>
<td>2,369</td>
<td>- 16,183</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,716</td>
<td>62,025</td>
<td>100,103</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net movement in funds</strong></td>
<td>- 2,706</td>
<td>17,673</td>
<td>- 16,183</td>
<td>2,741</td>
<td>1,525</td>
<td>36,718</td>
<td>210,845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund balances brought forward 1 January 2015</td>
<td>1,388,738</td>
<td>448,577</td>
<td>660,314</td>
<td>174,465</td>
<td>2,672,094</td>
<td>2,635,376</td>
<td>2,424,531</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund balances carried forward 31 December 2015</td>
<td><strong>1,386,032</strong></td>
<td><strong>466,250</strong></td>
<td><strong>644,131</strong></td>
<td><strong>177,206</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,673,619</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,672,094</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,635,376</strong></td>
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<td>COUNTRY</td>
<td>PROJECT NO.</td>
<td>ORGANISATION</td>
<td>PROJECT TITLE</td>
<td>GRANT AMOUNT</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1,009</td>
<td>Ufanisi Women Group (UWG)</td>
<td>Lifting socioeconomic status of young mothers through revolving dairy goat farming</td>
<td>£3,880</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>975</td>
<td>Hope for Children and Development</td>
<td>A roadmap to better health for women with disabilities</td>
<td>£3,215</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>Youth Active in Community Development (YACODO)</td>
<td>Naotcha sustainable livelihoods development project</td>
<td>£2,453</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>Sain Tus Center NGO</td>
<td>Greenhouse development</td>
<td>£2,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>FLAME Foundation</td>
<td>Equipping rural women through health awareness, nutritional education and food safety</td>
<td>£2,610</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>986</td>
<td>Advocacy, Research, Training and Service (ARTS) Foundation</td>
<td>Empowering orphan girl through computer literacy project</td>
<td>£5,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>Country Women's Association Jiwaka</td>
<td>Pepik model community water project</td>
<td>£13,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>Federation of Women's Institutes Kwazulu Natal</td>
<td>Solar pump for completion of Project 980: Yenzanathi community upliftment project garden</td>
<td>£1,940</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>980</td>
<td>Federation of Women's Institutes Kwazulu Natal</td>
<td>Drilling a borehole for Yenzanathi community upliftment project garden</td>
<td>£6,188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>Lanka Mahila Samiti</td>
<td>Build latrines, provide sanitation facilities to pre-schools and rural members</td>
<td>£4,859</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>981</td>
<td>Nest</td>
<td>Cultivation skills and education/school support for children, women and families in the North, North Central, Central &amp; Southern Provinces</td>
<td>£6,096</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>The Trust of Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI) Tanzania</td>
<td>Support for employable skill building programme for victims of trafficking in Kibamba</td>
<td>£4,767</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>996</td>
<td>Goodness Organisation</td>
<td>Improving household income and nutrition of HIV/AIDS affected families</td>
<td>£3,109</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>963</td>
<td>Tumaini Women Group</td>
<td>Mushroom production project</td>
<td>£2,338</td>
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<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>997</td>
<td>Charité Chrétienne pour Personnes en Détresse</td>
<td>Enhancing access to safe drinking water and improving sanitation in the community of Agodeke</td>
<td>£3,536</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>Aloua Ma’a Tonga Association</td>
<td>Nursery and home gardens for food production</td>
<td>£11,524</td>
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<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>The Network of Rural Women Producers, Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>A revolving loan facility for rural women farmers</td>
<td>£10,698</td>
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<td>COUNTRY</td>
<td>PROJECT NO.</td>
<td>ORGANISATION</td>
<td>PROJECT TITLE</td>
<td>GRANT AMOUNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1,012</td>
<td>Bayira Rural Women’s Development Association (BARWODA)</td>
<td>Community sanitary pads production project in Kyarumba and Kisinga Sub-Counties</td>
<td>£4,520</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>Friends of Women with Disabilities (FWD)</td>
<td>Disabled Women skills and empowerment project</td>
<td>£4,434</td>
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<td></td>
<td>999</td>
<td>Kasese District Women with Disabilities</td>
<td>Prevention of HIV/AIDS, maternal and child mortality rate in Kasese District</td>
<td>£3,864</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>998</td>
<td>Safeplan Uganda</td>
<td>Masindi young women empowerment enterprise</td>
<td>£2,549</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>987</td>
<td>Nyakasanga Development Community Foundation (NYAKU)</td>
<td>Compress recycled materials for smokeless charcoal briquettes</td>
<td>£3,455</td>
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<td></td>
<td>983</td>
<td>Maganjo Farmers Association (MAFA)</td>
<td>Promotion of increased household food security and incomes among 100 rural poor women-led families</td>
<td>£7,324</td>
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<td>982</td>
<td>Kituntu Women’s Association</td>
<td>Kituntu community managed water for life project</td>
<td>£4,431</td>
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<td></td>
<td>974</td>
<td>Voluntary Efforts for Community Health Uganda (VECH Uganda)</td>
<td>Kabembe grandmothers and orphans and vulnerable children health improvement</td>
<td>£2,570</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>964</td>
<td>Training of Rural Women in Uganda (TORUWU)</td>
<td>Provision of safe piped water to the local community of Kikajo (Phase 2)</td>
<td>£1,645</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>962</td>
<td>Nyaka AIDS Foundation</td>
<td>Nyaka grannies project (Phase 3)</td>
<td>£3,263</td>
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<td>Zambia</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>Trust of Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI)</td>
<td>To promote awareness, control and prevention of cervical cancer in 10 compounds in Lusaka</td>
<td>£5,367</td>
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**PROJECTS SUPPORTED 2013-2015**

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<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td>Projects approved for funding</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount granted</td>
<td>£109,809</td>
<td>£114,871</td>
<td>£139,767</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Countries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
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**IMPACT - typical results from 2014 Projects**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Directly supported by our Projects programme</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>12,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>7,941</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Additional family members reached (in 12,021 families) | 48,000 |
- Poor rural women in self-employment projects to boost income, support their families and increase levels of self-sufficiency | 630   |
- Women farmers in agricultural projects to increase knowledge, share techniques and improve yields. | 434   |
- Women, men and children benefiting from water and sanitation projects | 7,455 |
1. CONSTITUTION: TO APPROVE THE ACWW CHARITY INCORPORATION PROCESS

The members, having been informed of the incorporation process and consulted on the new constitution, hereby resolve that:

1. Incorporation of the Charity ACWW into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation is in the best interests of the Charity and its beneficiaries; and
2. The trustees may use the power under Article IX d. of the ACWW Constitution to take all necessary steps to incorporate the Charity into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, including making minor amendments only to the constitution as the Charity Commission may require and that following the incorporation the trustees may dissolve the present Charity.

Supporting statement: It was noted that:

a) Resolutions were passed in 2013 for the trustees and an Ad-Hoc committee to consider the legal structure and constitution of the ACWW Charity and “prepare a new structure” and “constitution to ensure that it meets all of the requirements of the Charities Commission of England and Wales, and make any other changes required to bring the document up to date and bring changes to be voted on at the 2016 Conference”.

b) The ACWW Charity is currently formed as a charitable unincorporated association.
   i. Unincorporated associations do not have a separate legal personality. As such, any legal agreements are entered into by the trustees on behalf of the Charity. Similarly, property and investments must be held by individual trustees or a “holding” trustee on behalf of the ACWW Charity and its charitable objects.
   ii. The ACWW Charity being formed as a charitable unincorporated association means there is unlimited liability on the trustees and members to meet any debts or claims if they arise.

c) A new structure established for charities, called Charitable Incorporated Organisations was created in January 2013, under the Charities Act 2011 (England and Wales).
   i. Charitable Incorporated Organisations do have their own separate legal personality and can enter into legal agreements in their own name.
   ii. Charitable Incorporated Organisations provide limited liability for its members.
   iii. Many charitable unincorporated associations have incorporated into Charitable Incorporated Organisations since 2013.
   iv. The Charity ACWW, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, would have the same charitable objects and continue its current activities unchanged.
   v. The Charity ACWW, as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, would have a constitution which provides the members with additional powers due to requirements under the Charities Act 2011.

d) The trustees have a power under the Charity’s constitution to incorporate the Charity and that the proposal is for the Charity to begin to function as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation from 1 January 2017.

e) The trustees and ad-hoc committee are in agreement that the Charity should incorporate.

2. FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

Be it resolved that the ACWW accept Food Sovereignty as part of ACWW agricultural policy and that the ACWW begin a campaign to bring awareness and understanding of Food Sovereignty to the organisation and its members during the next triennium (2016 - 2019).

Supporting statement: Food Sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food production through ecologically sound and sustainable methods and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It advocates for equity and full access to resources for women on farms and in rural communities. Food Sovereignty aims to reduce rural poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation.
3. FRUCTOSE

Be it resolved that the ACWW and its member organisations strongly urge their governments to ban food and drink manufacturers from claiming their sweetened products are healthier if they use fructose as sweetener.

Supporting statement: Worldwide, obesity is becoming a serious health problem. On advice from the European Food Safety Authority (ESFA), taking effect as of 2014, the EU has ruled that food and drink manufacturers can claim their sweetened products are healthier, if they replace more than 30% of the glucose and sucrose they contain with fructose. Fructose has a lower glycaemic index (GI), meaning fructose does not cause as high and rapid a blood sugar spike as sucrose or glucose. However, being isocaloric ISO. isometabolic like other sweeteners, fructose is metabolized differently from other sugars. Fructose goes straight to the liver and unprocessed excess is stored there as fat, building up deposits that may cause life-threatening diseases. While refined fructose creates a lower glycemic response in the short term, compared to other sugars, in the long term it causes greater metabolic havoc than sugar, as has been repeatedly demonstrated in scientific studies. Even the EU Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies, while still agreeing with the health claim for fructose, notes in their Opinion Paper 7 that ‘high intakes of fructose may lead to metabolic complications such as dyslipidaemia, insulin resistance and increased visceral adiposity’.

4. SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

As 2014 opened the UN decade of Sustainable Energy for All, be it resolved that the member societies of ACWW promote and support community energy projects and access to sustainable energy for all.

Supporting statement: The grave impact of lack of clean energy on health, particularly for women and children, is not widely recognised. The first two years of the SE4All initiative are dedicated to the complex ties between energy, women, children and health. More than one billion people in the world still have no access to electricity; millions more rely on unsustainable and polluting fuels for cooking. In the industrialised world the problem is not generally one of access but of inefficiency and pollution. ‘Affordable, Clean Energy’ – the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goal 7 – sets national targets for energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency; locally generated energy is cleaner, more efficient and more secure. The goal of the resolution ‘Secure Sustainable Energy’ is ‘working together for a better future’.

5. SHALE GAS

Be it resolved that ACWW members request their governments to, before allowing shale gas exploration to commence, gather as much as possible information from more than just the oil and gas companies applying for the fracking licenses.

Supporting statement: The decision should be based on sound scientific information, in other words proper investigation on the risks of shale gas exploration and extraction. Task teams should include NGO’s involved in the sustainability of the environment, all government departments like Agriculture, Health, Rural Development, Land Reform, Tourism and Transport. Well pod sizes differ from 1 ha to 2.4 ha. According to an oil company one pod can house up to 32 wells. The amount of water needed per well is 20 million litres. 55 000 truck trips per road will be transporting water and other equipment (like chemicals) to and from the wells. Road infrastructure will take a beating. 32 billion litres of water will be used on one pod, of which half will end up toxic and radioactive waste water.

A myriad of health concerns and risks are associated with natural gas production and can range from infections and irritations to cancer. These are not just related to humans, but also the ecosystem. Different stages of the gas extraction pose different health issues. Groundwater and surface water contamination resulting from the toxic drilling waste water leads to serious illnesses in humans and cattle, especially due to BTEX chemicals known for causing endocrine disruption and cancer. Arid countries will not have the capacity to lose any water resources, as that will impact negatively on all communities and herds along the area earmarked for drilling.
6. PROTECTING THE SUPPLY OF WATER

Be it resolved that ACWW urges all countries to vigorously protect the supply of potable, farming and industrial water through the best technical information available that will provide sustainability of life.

Supporting statement: ACWW has supported drilling wells and clean water. It is time to think about not wasting a precious resource. Water is not a limitless resource and only 3% is available for drinking. Water usage has increased 6 times in the past 100 years and will double again by the year 2050. By 2025 it is estimated that half of the world’s population will lack access to safe drinking water. One fifth of the world’s population (1.2 billion people) live in areas where water is physically scarce. Shortages of water may be caused by population growth, unsustainable agriculture, pollution, and lack of the natural resource. One third of all water used in the home is flushed down the toilet. Homes could reduce this waste by using a water saving device. The average household could save 44,000 gallons per year by just turning off the tap.

7. VACCINATION AGAINST POTENTIALLY ERADICABLE DISEASES

Be it resolved that ACWW societies and members urge their governments and health organisations to continue local vaccination efforts of potentially eradicable diseases in order to work toward area elimination which would then result in global eradication.

Supporting statement: To date smallpox is the only infectious disease that effects humans that has been eradicated and we are close to the second global eradication, that being Guinea Worm Disease. Other diseases Lymphatic Filariasis, Measles, Rubella, and Taeniasis/Systicerososis are currently potentially eradicable with Poliomyelitis at the top of the list. In some cases there is a public misconception of the seriousness which can be a chief obstacle to eradication. Incredible headway has been made and we need eradication efforts to continue.

8. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR BOARD & COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

Be it resolved that it is a prerequisite for any candidate seeking office as a member of the Board of ACWW, a Committee Chairman or a member of a specified committee, to hold individual membership of ACWW.

Supporting statement: In order to be considered for a position on the highest level of governance of most organisations a candidate must be a financial member. ACWW is slightly different in that it is made up of Member Societies and Individual Members. Whilst Member Societies may nominate a candidate, that candidate should hold Individual Membership of ACWW to show a real commitment to ACWW. Individual Members are very supportive of and committed to ACWW without having any voting rights. A candidate needs to show that same kind of commitment.

This resolution was proposed by RWNZ at the 2010 ACWW 26th Triennial Conference in Hot Springs, Arkansas, USA. The Board downgraded it to a Recommendation. This was passed, but it is not binding as a Recommendation and therefore it was again raised at the South Pacific Area Conference in Dubbo, New South Wales. It was passed and is now forwarded as a Resolution from that Conference to the 2016 ACWW World Conference.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Be it resolved that the membership subscription for Categories I, II, III, IVa and IVb be increased to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>New Subscription</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cat I</td>
<td>£105 + handling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat IVb for 3 years</td>
<td>£65 + handling</td>
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Supporting statement: The Constitution (old or new) states that the Triennial World Conference should review membership fees (2010 page 19 Bye-law 1 Dues and 32 Bye-law 18.6 Business of the Triennial Conference.) There was no review in 2013 so fees have not increased since 2010. The suggested new fees represent an increase of 10% over six years for Societies (less than 2% per year) and rather more for individuals where an increase has not been made for many more years. The handling charge is for foreign exchange and is standard on the ACWW website but of course the figures are for current fees. It is thought this is about the charge made by banks.
10. CIVIL SOCIETY AND GENDER

Be it resolved that member societies of ACWW strongly urge their governments to integrate a gender-perspective in their policies to create an enabling environment for economic and social development especially in rural areas.

Supporting statement: The worldwide need for food production, the eradication of poverty, and the urge for sustainability needs strong citizens of all ages. The whole series of budget cuts in the EU-countries for example are disproportionately affecting women through job losses and reductions in public services. There is evidence of rising precarious working conditions, increasing discrimination in the labour market with subsequent shift to informal work, rising levels of poverty, reduced access to services, and rising levels of domestic violence, accompanied by cuts in vital support services. Solutions are needed which are built on the positive effects of gender equality on well-being, employment and people-centred sustainable growth.

Food, care and health are in the hearts of women. Working in these fields contribute to the development of life-standards and to the eradication of poverty. Investing in sustainability is a chance to restore the gender balance and using the knowledge of the region of both men and women.

An equal relation between civil society, the government and private sector is essential. Women’s organizations, as a part of that civil society, play a role in empowering women through their network and programs at local, regional or national level. The main goals for women are: encouragement in decision making and participation, learning by doing, learning together, strengthening personal development and competences, such as entrepreneurship. Stimulation of knowledge sharing and strengthening civil society, such as women’s organizations, is effective for the livability (survival expectancy) and continuation of projects in local communities.

In addition to the previously submitted resolutions, the following Urgency Resolution was submitted from the floor, and adopted by the Conference.

10. WOMEN IN REFUGEE CAMPS AND SHELTERS

Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organisations urge their governments to take action to stop the increasing worldwide sexual abuse of women and children in refugee camps and shelters.
1. ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT BORDER CHILDREN

Be it recommended that ACWW member societies urge their governments to develop comprehensive plans to identify and care for illegal immigrant border children as to their safety, health and education.

Supporting statement: Worldwide, undocumented (illegal) immigrant children are crossing borders daily hoping to escape the poverty, violence and social oppression in their homelands. Data collection of numbers of children is a major challenge due to the lack of unified protocol for differentiating between children that are unaccompanied, seeking asylum or victims of trafficking. Unaccompanied young migrants are more vulnerable and often there is no post release monitoring which raises questions about security and safety.

2. REFUGEES

ACWW calls for all governments affected by the current refugee crisis impacting Africa, Europe and Asia to afford such compassion, humanity and assistance as is necessary to those refugees who find themselves in this situation.

Supporting statement: Over recent months we have had a significant number of people fleeing persecution across Africa and taking desperate measures to reach a safe haven whether that is in Europe or Asia. We have seen the pictures of desperate people on our television screens attempting to flee oppression and violence. EU governments scaled back the search and rescue capabilities within the Mediterranean resulting in a significant loss of life of some of the most vulnerable people of the world. No government should turn their backs on providing whatever assistance they can in protecting the vulnerable whilst those that engage in people trafficking profit from their misery.

3. REGULATION OF THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY

Be it resolved that ACWW and its member organizations strongly urge their governments to regulate the gold mining industry.

Supporting statement: The gold industry is one of the top 5 largest industries in the world. Gold is a precious possession, but gold mining has major consequences for the environment. Extraction of gold causes the following problems:

- Loss of vegetation
- Pulling away of fauna
- Loss of water and flora/ fauna
- Negative social effects varying from disturbance to pushing aside traditional and local societies
- Environmental disasters
- Deteriorating health of people and animals

It is neither easy to find gold nor winning the ore, as gold coheres with other minerals. One method is grinding the extracted ore several times, making gold digging very expensive. It is cheaper to use poisonous cyanide and mercury to dissolve the gold. 85-90% of gold is extracted via large-scale mining with the toxic cyanide. Cyanide is used to exploit the gold and Mercury to separate gold from the mud. Mercury is not only a danger to fish as food source, but also for sensitive ecosystems and animal populations, such as fish-eating birds and mammals in the tropical rainforest. The most important effects of mercury on the health of people are disturbance of the brain functions. Damaged brain functions may cause degradation of learning capacity, deafness, memory loss, Down’s syndrome and allergic reactions resulting in rashes, fatigue headaches and so on. Sometimes children have 33 times more mercury in their body than the internationally accepted safety standard. Often there is no thorough legislation. As a result, (foreign) companies are unlimitedly left to their own devices, putting up roads deep into the jungle, even through nature reservations, “gobbling up” jungle villages. Thus in many places turning the jungle into bald excavated craters and toxic lunar landscapes. This 24/7 industry causes not only day and night noise pollution for the local population and the fauna, it also poisons the rivers making it unfit for human (and animal) use and consumption. Furthermore, sand and gravel accumulate in the river, silting up fairways. Foreign companies start a mine and force the people who live on that spot to move. Gold mining workers see little back from the real value of their gold. Gold mining causes great damage to people and the environment. Regulation of the gold mining industry is therefore necessary.
Delegates at the 28th Triennial Conference at the University of Warwick, England in August 2016
ACWW’s Board consists of the Executive (the World President, Deputy President, Treasurer and Secretary), the nine Area Presidents, and the chairmen of the three Specified Committees (Communications & Marketing, Projects and United Nations). The Treasurer also acts as Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Secretary is also Chairman of the Triennial Conference Committee and the Deputy President also chairs the Agriculture Committee.

Each of these Officers is elected at the Triennial Conference, though in the last Triennium six Areas elected their Area Presidents by postal vote. This was carried out in the traditional method, and also for the first time using email and website-based online voting. This had a terrific response, and we will be able to offer this service again in the future so that we can ensure our member societies’ voices are heard whether they are in the financial position to travel to Conference or not.

If you want to contact ACWW, you should generally get in touch with Central Office by calling +44 (0)207 799 3875 or emailing info@acww.org.uk (or of course by sending mail to ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB.

We have also now introduced email addresses that go directly to the Area Presidents, so if you need to reach yours, please check the address on the next page.

### The Executive

**World President**

Mrs Ruth Shanks, AM
Australia

**Deputy President**

Mrs Margaret Yetman
Canada

**Treasurer**

Mrs Heather Brennan
Australia

**Secretary**

Mrs Henrietta Schoeman
South Africa

### Committee Chairmen

**Communications & Marketing**

Mrs Magdie de Kock
South Africa

**Projects**

Mrs Anne Marit Hovstad
Norway

**United Nations**

Mrs Kerry Maw-Smith
New Zealand

### Specified Committee Members

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Chairman
Mrs Margaret Yetman (Canada)

Mrs Donna Jebb (Canada)
Mrs Joan Brady (Canada)
Mrs Therese Casemore (Wales)
Mrs Pamela Brown (Northern Ireland)

**Communications & Marketing**

Chairman
Mrs Magdie de Kock (South Africa)

Mrs Marie O’Toole (Ireland)
Mrs Deborah Reardon (England)
Mrs Moira Hammond (England)
Mrs Rehanon Mackenzie (England)

**Finance**

Chairman
Mrs Heather Brennan (Australia)

Mrs Maggie Simons (England)
Mrs Iris Montgomery (England)
2016 - 2019

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Mrs Hazel Armstrong (England)
Mrs Roma Patten (England)
Mrs Edwina Marr (Northern Ireland)
Sr Viji Dali (India)
Mrs Paddy Blake (Ireland)

Triennial Conference
Chairman
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Mrs Lynn Maclean (Canada)
Mrs Afroditia Roman (Romania)
Mrs Sue Watkins (England)
Mrs Lynette Harris (Australia)

United Nations
Chairman
Mrs Kerry Maw-Smith (New Zealand)

Mrs Suzanne Garrett (Australia)
Mrs Christine Reaburn (Canada)
Mrs Christine Trewick (England)
Mrs Susan Jonas (England)
Associated Country Women of the World
ACWW CONNECTS AND SUPPORTS WOMEN AND COMMUNITIES WORLDWIDE

1 Board
6 Committees
9 Areas
75 Countries
412 Societies
9 Million Women

#WeAreACWW