



Mothers' Union Annual Review 2016





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Introduction by the Archbishop of Canterbury

“*Mothers' Union has always been at the heart of the Church and community. For 140 years, faith and action have been at the core of what you do. I have seen this for myself both at home and abroad. You truly are the heart and love of the church.*”

August 2017

The Most Revd And Right Hon Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby

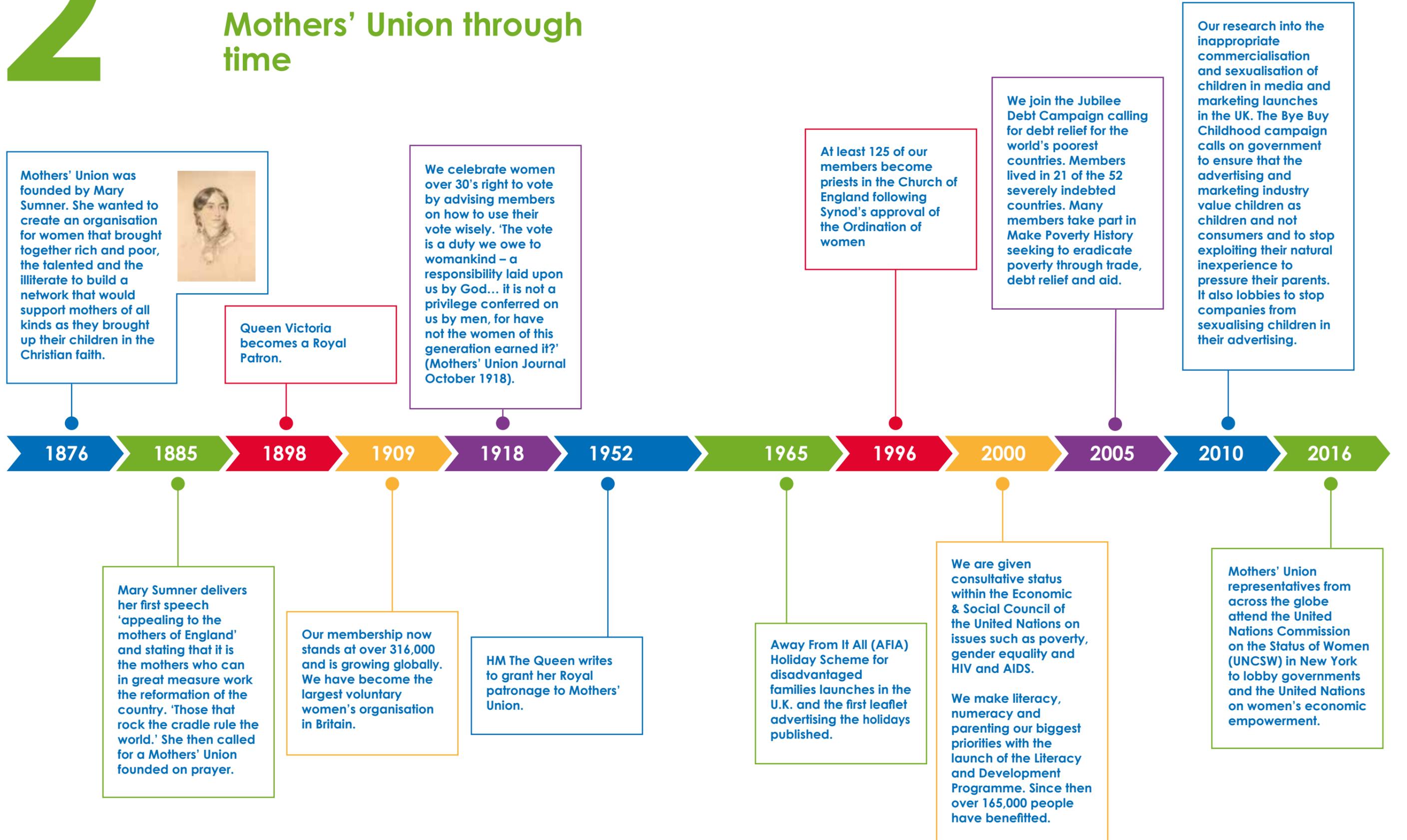
Who are we?

We are a movement of over four million Christians in 83 countries worldwide. Mothers' Union is unique because our members work as volunteers in local communities, putting their faith into action by acts great and small, giving individuals in need a helping hand and enabling communities (of all faiths and none) to have the confidence and skills to transform their lives in a sustainable way.

In 2016, we celebrated 140 years of members showing their faith through action.

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Mothers' Union through time



Here are just some of the highlights:

Fun-packed 140th anniversary year

Our 140th anniversary year was packed full with a variety of celebratory events ranging from church services, to mountain climbs. Thank you to everyone who took part and made 2016 so special.

We were aiming to raise £1.40m for the 140th but exceeded our target and reached £1,523,790, thanks to you!



After a debilitating bone illness of 10 years and several surgeries, Jane Newsome climbed Table Mountain in South Africa, for Leeds Diocese Away From It All (AFIA) Holidays.

Brave Branch Leader Jane Simpson, from Midhurst and Easebourne, abseiled down Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth to raise funds for AFIA Holidays.



Rita Pengelly set herself the phenomenal challenge of walking 140km in six days – from the Turner Contemporary Art Gallery in Margate to Mary Sumner House in London.

Our CEO, Bev Jullien jumped out of a plane.



Services, processions, parties, conferences

Hundreds of members in Kumasi Diocese, Ghana (including clergy, bishops and young women who are being mentored by MU members) gathered at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology for a service of thanksgiving.



It was followed by a programme which included a Durbar (cultural procession) displaying dances and costumes reflecting Ghana's rich culture.

Mothers' Union Diocese of Freetown, Sierra Leone celebrated its 90th year alongside our 140th year celebrations. A thanksgiving service was held at St George's Cathedral.



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The journey to transformed lives and communities

Our members work in a myriad of small ways locally to meet the needs in their communities from health care to prison visiting to caring for the young and elderly, funding the work themselves. In addition, Mothers' Union centrally raises funds for and coordinates a range of core programmes through our volunteer members, designed to help families and enable whole

communities to understand the issues they face and the resources they have to address them, giving them the skills and confidence they need to address their challenges themselves. Through workshops and consultations, they map out what their needs are and what they would like to achieve to turn their lives around and that of their wider community.



Members in Virginia, USA waiting to feed 500 homeless people in their community.

Parenting

We have programmes as far apart as Myanmar, Jamaica and Guyana.

Parents in Jamaica continue to face many challenges in maintaining stability in family life. Problems range from lack of finances, unemployment to poor behavioural management which in turn is creating a lot of stress on families. Some parents are looking for answers as to how to deal with these and other difficulties. One parent who was trained at a Mothers' Union-run parenting workshop in Old Harbour said, 'I was thinking of calling the Child Development Agency (CDA) or the National Parenting Support Commission to find out if they had any parenting workshops in Old Harbour that I could attend and my principal told me about the workshop at the church, I said: "Thank you Jesus". What I was looking for came right to me.' This is Mothers' Union in action, providing a vital contribution towards the home and family-empowering parents on how to raise children and take care of themselves. Our parenting programme in Jamaica continues to be active throughout the island, working in schools, churches and the wider community.



Parents in Myanmar taking part in parenting skills group.



A member of a parenting group in Guyana with her children. Parents have experienced positive and lasting change as a result of the programme.

Prisons

Danny and Alan both served sentences in the Solomon Island's Honiara men's prison where they took part in our parenting programme. Danny is now a facilitator for the programme and working with other dads. *'I didn't know there were ways to do parenting before. Our cultural ways are just different,'* he said.

'We are used to ignoring each other's feelings. We don't really get taught how to think about what other people might be feeling about something,' added Alan who served three years.

'It changed the way I communicate. I used to dominate. I gave direction without asking others' opinions. I made big decisions for the family that weren't always right. Now I want to talk about those decisions with them and make joint ones,' said Alan.

Both men used to whip their children with sticks. *'I realise now you need to have proper conversations with your wife and children. It's more important than sticks,'* said Danny. Alan agreed. *'Before, the sticks spoke all the words. Now*

we speak the words. The right words can be way more powerful than sticks. Some homes still have sticks. I see my neighbours with them. It's everywhere! It needs to change.'

They now encourage others in prison to do the parenting programme.

'They're desperate for it! They read our manuals and kept saying "This is me". They can see their weaknesses – family violence is what brought most of them to prison, so they're desperate to know how to work on it to make it better,' explained Danny.



Alan (left) and Danny (right)

Work in prisons

Across the world, Mothers' Union visits prisoners and supports their families. In Britain and Ireland alone, members work or volunteer in 85 prisons which is why we were invited to partner with the Toy Retailers Association.

During Christmas 2016 eight groups running crèches in prison visitor centres were allowed to select toys and equipment from The Entertainer toy shops for their crèches.

'A big thank you for the generous donation of money that was spent on toys for our play areas (in the prison). We were able to select toys for all ages and they are of high quality. This will make a big difference to children and families who use the play area, lots of children use this facility so the toys are played with all of the time.'



Working at the heart of local communities to address common needs

Church and Community Mobilisation (CCM) such as the EAGLE programme in Uganda, is a complete transformational, community-based process using facilitator-led Bible stories to work with church groups to encourage them to initiate economic, social and physical transformation within their communities.

Improved health and sanitation is another direct result of us responding to communities' issues and needs.

Justine Byamukama lives with her husband Patrick in **Sayuni, Uganda**. They have six children. The income they raise from their farm helps them pay school fees. Through taking part in Mothers' Union's Eagle programme, Justine realised the need to work hard and give back to God. She set up a small-scale poultry project and has plans of expanding it to benefit the community. Justine is happy because her family life has changed. Their health is better compared to before.



They get eggs from their poultry, sell off some for income and also eat some of them. 'I'm looking forward to a better life economically, socially, spiritually and physically,' says Justine.



Handwashing in Uganda. A group member demonstrating handwashing at her home using a tippy tap to improve hygiene.

Community engagement in Britain and Ireland

Stories on the street

Churches in Reading started looking at ways they could work with their communities. Mothers' Union has provided them with resources to help them identify needs and carry out projects accordingly. A minister in Loddon Reach said, 'I've picked the best bits of the resource. We carried out a church service using the book of Nehemiah and went on to have a shared lunch and workshop. We also plan to have an ecumenical tent service after the village carnival.'

The resources have helped another parish to approach their local school to provide Sunday school at the afterschool club. 'We will be running Sunday school in the middle of the week. This is the suggestion from the school. We'll be running two sessions. One for older children and the other for younger. We approached the school. We wouldn't have done it had we not been equipped with the resources from Mothers' Union.'



Members from Stories on the Streets in Reading, UK, map out their plans.

“
I didn't realise that Mothers' Union was so cutting edge

”
Church Minister

Building confidence and self – esteem

The Literacy and Financial Education Programmes (LFEP) in Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan,

co-funded by Comic Relief, have far exceeded expectations. Not only are individuals and their immediate families benefiting, but so too is the wider community. The aim of the programme is to reduce poverty and address gender inequality by raising awareness of women's rights and entitlements, and enable them to take action.

An independent evaluator of our programme in Burundi said: *'It has been more than a programme – a movement, given the very high levels of community ownership and alignment with women's and community priorities. It has taken on a life of its own as women and men, whose lives have been improved, spread the word to others about the positive changes in their lives.'*

In **South Sudan**, despite civil war and some two million displaced persons, all programme objectives were exceeded – nearly

17,000 illiterate men and women have been accredited as literate and numerate and nearly 14,000 of them are saving, lending and providing social security in groups. Also, 70% of surveyed male participants reported an increased understanding of women's rights and 75% now regularly participate in advocacy activities for women's rights

Matilda Poni, from Mundu village in South Sudan was selected by her community as a community based medicine distributor after she was accredited literate and numerate. Now, through her savings and participation in the savings and credit group she has started the first medical clinic in the Lainya



area, serving more than 8,000 people who can now receive medical care for themselves and their children without travelling long distances to Yei, the nearest town.

'The programme has reached Hard to Reach populations, including refugees from Sudan, Internally Displaced People, widows who used to beg, traumatised, depressed and physically abused people... participation has been life-changing and some have gone on to elected places in the National Assembly.' -

Independent Evaluator

One of the most powerful outcomes of the programme was the fact that 83% of LFEP groups engaged in discussions and advocated to reduce incidences of either gender based violence and early marriage or promoted to increase incidences of female inheritance and marriage/birth registration.

Women, men, girls and boys have benefited. For example, the improvement in the personal financial status of women has led to a reduction in domestic violence against them. This is because they are able to make a financial contribution to the

household and gain their husbands' respect. Another effect of the programme is that 65% of elected leaders are women who are able to express their ideas and views and actively participate in community decision-making. The women have grown in confidence and self-esteem. The positive results of this have been recognised by the men. Women are mobilising to address common challenges they face like raising awareness on the importance of sending children to school, participating in vaccination campaigns and resolving disputes.

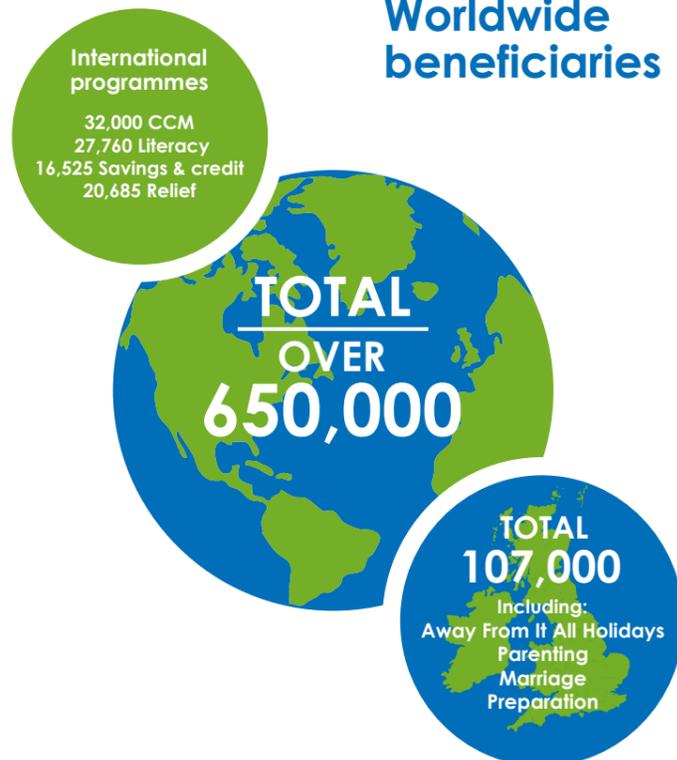
Claudette Kigeme, national coordinator of Mothers Union Burundi, said: *'54% of the nation are women. If we empower this 54% we are empowering a whole nation. Women through democratic process could change the government if they are literate and organised.'*

Mothers' Union Literacy and Financial Education Programme in Burundi has taken on a life of its own. Men and women have spread the word about the positive changes it has had on their lives.

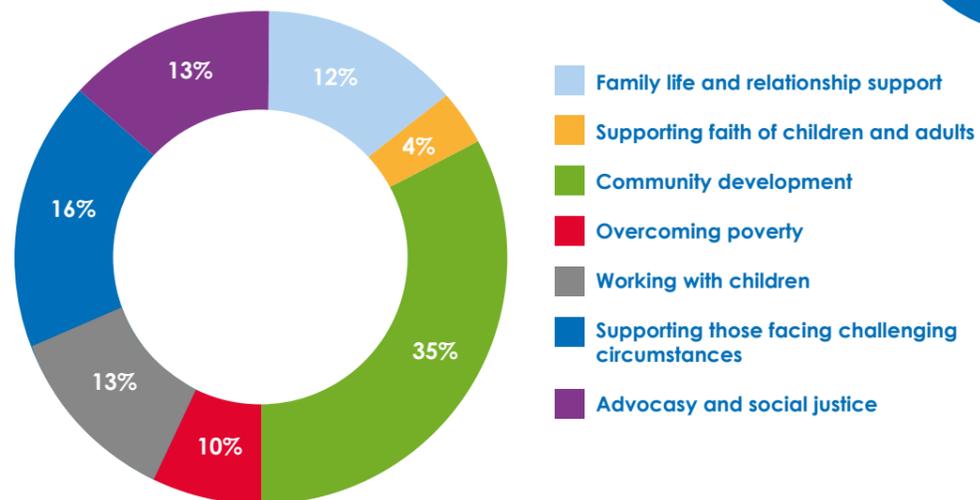


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Worldwide beneficiaries



Direct beneficiaries during 2016



The Central Mothers' Union, incorporated under Royal Charter, is the "umbrella" charity to which independent Mothers' Union Charities across the world are affiliated.

The role of the Central Charity is to listen to the membership, support them, generate funding and provide

coordination for major transformational programmes. All our work is determined by, and carried out through our volunteer membership, who contribute incalculable amounts of time in service each year.

Our finances (central charity)

Income 2016 £2,621,972

Membership subscriptions	736,908
Membership donations	810,221
Non member donations	23,901
Legacies	242,191
Fundraising events and appeals	347,061
Grants	101,565
Investment and rental income	174,891
Sale of publications	5,804
MUenterprises	179,426

Expenditure 2016 £2,601,925

Programme work	1,207,699
Faith and worship	241,979
Campaigning	321,502
Emergency relief	40,552
Membership	453,391
Governance	127,101
Fundraising	209,701

Governance

By 2021 we aim to have:

Had a positive impact on over one million lives

Advocated successfully on our chosen issues, especially gender-based violence

Grown our membership significantly to over 6 million worldwide

Shared our story with increased confidence

Committed to modernisation which will provide a framework for our future

Developed further income streams

Thankyou

Thank you to all our amazing donors and supporters, who contributed over 45% of our funding for 2016.

To our MUE customers, who supported our work through the purchasing of our products and services.

To our funding partners, whose valuable contributions enable us to widen our reach and transform many more lives each year:

- **Comic Relief**
- **The Patron's Fund**
- **Patricia Wright Charitable Trust**
- **The Whitecourt Charitable Trust**
- **Isle of Man International Development Committee**
- **The Old Friend Charitable Trust**
- **WA Shawdon Charitable Trust**
- **Roger Vere Foundation**
- **Westhill Endowment Trust**
- **Candap Trust**
- **St Mary's Charity**
- **Church of Ireland's Bishops Appeal**
- **Carlisle Diocesan Appeal**
- **Marsh Christian Trust**
- **Christadelphian Samaritans Fund**
- **Five Talents International**
- **Women's World Day of Prayer**
- **The Jake Memorial Charitable Trust**

We would also like to thank those partners with whom our members work in many different countries.



Lynne Tembey
Worldwide President



Bev Jullien
CEO



Mothers' Union CEO Beverley Jullien, Worldwide President Lynne Tembey and Chaplain Bishop Andrew Proud, cut 140th Anniversary cake at celebration in Basingstoke.



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