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Dear <Salutation>

<February 2022>

Two years ago, Mothering Sunday coincided with the UK's first national lockdown. The suddenness of being separated from our loved ones tested us all. Mothers' Union members everywhere, like you and me, discovered new strengths, resilience and most of all we discovered the value of community and prayer.

So this year, please join me in prayer for mothers and other people we give thanks for all over the world.

In Madagascar, where 61-year-old Dophine is a mother of seven children and grandmother to 17 grandchildren, she has needed to persevere and be resilient to an extent few of us can even begin to imagine. In her rural community, which is heavily dependent on subsistence farming, climate change is having a devastating effect on rainfall and on their crop harvests. "As well as drought," says Dophine, "there are also violent winds which destroy what we grow."

**This Mothering Sunday, you can give a gift of resilience for mothers and grandmothers like Dophine. You might like to dedicate your gift to someone who's particularly special to you.**

## A Gift of Resilience

Dophine and her family were so weak from famine they could barely stand.

"We pray God for sure to send us rain so that what we plant grows well. We do not dream of getting rich and of having a lot of money. We just want to overcome this famine and have food to eat every day."



Give the **gift of resilience** this **Mothering Sunday**

Many people in Dophine's village had moved away to the towns when the droughts started. "We have not left," she explains, "because we did not even have transport fees and food to eat during the travel." She persevered and adjusted the family's meals to a drink of hot water in the morning, cactus from the forest in the day, and rice, beans or maize between the whole family in the evening.

### **Dophine's children depend on her and her husband.**

Your gifts of resilience this Mothering Sunday can answer someone's prayers at home as well. Imagine an asylum-seeker feeling your kindness and compassion as, running from persecution for practising their Christian faith, they take their first steps into freedom. For a mother protecting herself and her family, your gift means the promise of safety, compassion and community.

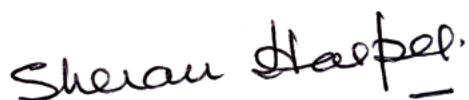
**In the Gifts Catalogue enclosed, you can find more ways of making a Mothering Sunday present of dignity, strength and companionship. As Mothers' Union members, we can help someone who needs their prayers answered to keep their faith like Dophine and keep trusting in God's love.**

Whether it's a mother thousands of miles away doing everything she can to keep her family safe and alive, or someone in our own parish who needs the gift of resilience, this Mothering Sunday, you can help.

"Before I came to see you, I thought I would have to stay quiet and suffer all on my own. Since I have met you, I have not had to hide away or worry because I know I have someone who can help me." – A mum receiving Mothers' Union support in a women's refuge.

**Please help us share more gifts of resilience and perseverance this Mothering Sunday. Your kindness will help knit together communities who have been separated, and show compassion where it is most needed.**

Happy Mothering Sunday, and thank you for your love and support,



**Sheran Harper**

Worldwide President, Mothers' Union

PS. You can choose from the range of gifts of resilience in the catalogue enclosed. Dedicate your gift to a loved one, or you might like to make your gift in memory of a special person in your life.

Thank you.

Registration charity number: 240531



Dophine's prayers were answered when the family was "given food for a whole week by Mothers' Union members who cooked the rice and brought it to us."

After this initial relief: "they gave us maize seeds and sweet potato stems to grow, for a more sustainable livelihood. Sweet potatoes grow easily here because they do not need much water, and as well as the flesh we can eat the potato leaves with rice."

**You can give a gift of resilience using the catalogue enclosed or by visiting [www.makeamothersday.org](http://www.makeamothersday.org)**



Give the **gift of resilience** this **Mothering Sunday**

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families