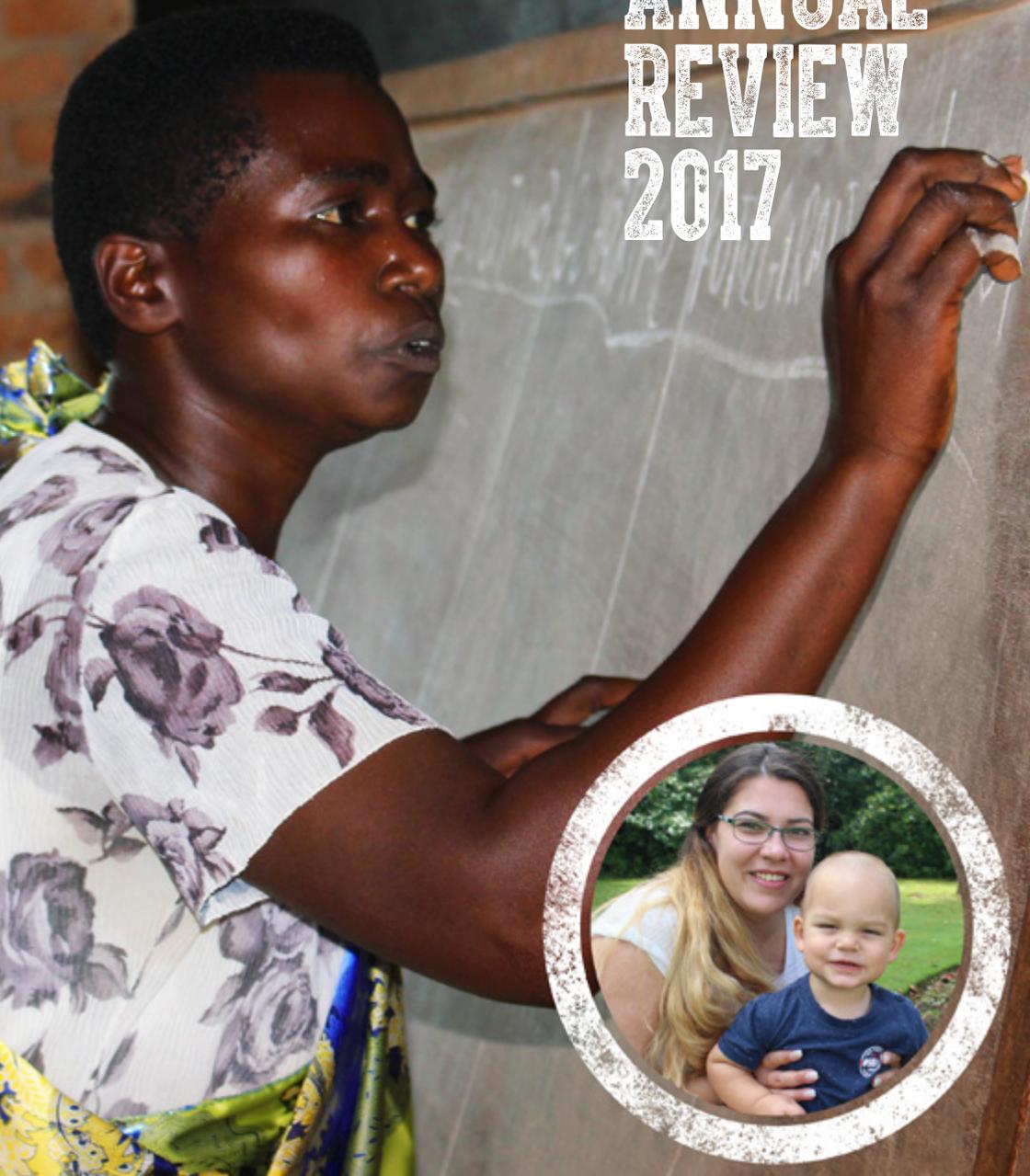


Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



A WORLDWIDE "ARMY" OF VOLUNTEERS PUTTING THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION IN 2017





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

OUR PATRON THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

“ The consistent commitment of Mothers' Union to supporting family life worldwide is a wonderful example to us all of faith in action. Across the Anglican Communion I am always heartened and encouraged to see you living out your unwavering faith in Jesus Christ through your loving, prayerful and practical actions. Rest assured that you have my prayers and support, and that of all the Bishops, as you move into this new and exciting chapter of growth for the organisation. ”

WHO ARE WE?

We are a movement of over **four million Christians in 84 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.

Her Majesty, The Queen, is our Royal Patron.



4,000,000+

Christians in 84 Countries.



1. FAITH IS AT THE CORE OF WHAT WE DO

Across the world, in 84 countries, Mothers' Union members respond daily to the immediate and pressing needs of hundreds of thousands of people in their communities.

Our four million members are driven by their Christian faith to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people around them, regardless of their religion, politics or backgrounds.

In 2017 our global theme was "faith in action". This year's annual review highlights what that looks like.



“ Mothers' Union members prayerfully listen to what the needs are and respond by providing practical support. It could be visiting people in prisons, caring for the elderly, or providing sanitary pads for teenage girls. This is what Christian care in action is all about. ”

Lynne Tembey,
Worldwide President

Teaching English after school to children in Sri Lanka whose parents can't afford the tuition or providing a place where refugee women in Chelmsford can meet together while learning English at the same time, is one way that members are responding to these immediate needs. Another is in Guyana where members in a remote region of the country are making sanitary napkins so that girls don't drop out of school during their periods because they can't afford the store bought pads.

2. MEETING IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY NEEDS

BREAKING THROUGH THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

Sri Lanka

September 2017 saw the launch of English classes for children in a mixed Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and Christian community on the outskirts of Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo. Mothers' Union members there put their **faith in action** after realising that the children of the poorest families were struggling to keep up with lessons. English is taught within lessons and if the children don't master it they could be left behind academically. Roshini Mendis, Diocesan President for the Church of Ceylon Mothers' Union, said, "The children are weak in the subject and don't get the extra attention they need in school and neither can their parents help them at home because their knowledge of the English language is poor." For parents who can't afford the necessary tuition, Mothers' Union started the classes - run by volunteers. Since then, Roshini says the children's standard of English has improved which in turn is helping them with their studies.

"The volunteer teachers feel very satisfied when they see an improvement in the children's work and parents are relieved that they no longer have to worry about their children's education." Roshini also says that the entire community is happy that the church is doing something good for them through these classes.

Parents are spreading the word and there's now a demand for places, "Sadly we can't take any new children because we don't have the space and we only have a limited number of voluntary teachers. If it was possible we would," said Roshini.

“ The classes have brought recognition to this small Anglican church, where, as far as the community knew, nothing ever happened. ”

Roshini Mendis,
Mothers' Union Diocesan
President Church of Ceylon



United Kingdom

Members in the UK are also providing English classes for women in the community who do not have English as their first language. In the Diocese of Chelmsford, for example, members from the cathedral provide English lessons and much more! The project, which is called "English For Women", was initially set up for wives of British Army translators from Afghanistan in 2015. Thanks to members' putting their faith in action, there are now almost 100 women of 20 different nationalities who attend free informal English classes three times a week. This is a women only safe space where they relax, make friends, learn from each other and also have English classes - one of many practical skills they learn together.





BRINGING DIGNITY TO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN GUYANA

Mothers' Union members in a village in Guyana are helping girls stay in high school by providing them with a kit bag which includes reusable sanitary napkins, soap and underwear.

"72 Miles" is a remote village in the Potaro region of northern Guyana. At the centre of the village is a craft shop, run by members, where they make crafts and clothes to sell to tourists and visitors. The income is divided among the women who are able to supplement the family income.

Our Mothers' Union Parenting Programme in Guyana is networking with the 'Days for Girls' project to make affordable re-usable sanitary napkins for young girls and women, who often can't afford to buy disposable sanitary pads when they are available in the local shops.



These items are distributed free of cost to the girls and women in grassroots communities. The kits, which are made at the Mothers' Union craft shop, are of high quality and made from washable cotton and flannel and last up to four years.

"In the past girls weren't able to finish their high school education because they had to stay away during their monthly period, and were getting further behind in their studies," says Edna Edwards, Mothers' Union's Regional Officer in Potaro who also runs the craft shop. "Now that we are providing them with the sanitary napkins we are seeing more girls are staying in school, thereby giving them a better chance at continuing their education."

Because girls are staying in school and not dropping out, they are better empowered and more aware to deal with issues that may affect them in

the future such as access to better health care, being able to afford transport and even speaking out against domestic violence – challenges that face many women in rural Guyana.

The cost for one kit is approximately £7.50 and even includes soap made by Mothers' Union members as part of their own soap-making project.

“We are receiving urgent requests for kits in nearby communities, but don't have the resources to meet them. We are working on it!”

Says Edna.

The Mothers' Union Parenting Programme is currently active in 23 countries and is tailored to the local context in which it is run. Our facilitators are locally trained members and this has proven to be the most effective model for making what we do relevant in each community.



23

The number of countries the Mothers' Union Parenting Programme is now active in.



£7.50

cost of kit

Mothers' Union Parenting Programme in Guyana is networking with the Days for Girls Project. Providing Kits, to help more girls to stay in school.



COMMUNITIES TAKING ACTION IN ZIMBABWE

The Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) in Zimbabwe started in Harare in 2012. It is a complete transformational, community-based process which uses facilitator-led Bible studies to work with church groups to encourage them to initiate economic, social and physical transformation in their communities – the embodiment of **faith in action**.

“The aim of the CCMP is to help people sustain themselves. So when people are doing the Bible studies, they are encouraged to what is happening to them and how they can improve their lives.”

Senior facilitator, Rugare, Harare



3. ADDRESSING UNDERLYING ISSUES

SETTING OFF ON THE JOURNEY TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

By drawing on our strengths of listening and working within the community, we help communities find their own long-term solutions.

This is achieved through a range of transformational programmes such as Mothers' Union's Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP).

When churches listen to their community, transformation starts taking place. Here are just a few examples from Rugare:

- There were no street lights in the area. The community shared their concerns with the local authority, and, working together, they have identified sites where tower lights will be erected in the very near future
- Rugare's District Administrator has seen that the CCMP team is reliable and transparent and prefers to go to them to assist with the distribution of food and donations in the community
- Mothers' Union in Rugare works very closely with other civil society groups in the community and as a result one of our CCMP Facilitators, Esther, has been appointed Children's Rights advocate working on behalf of all groups
- A local day care centre, inspired by the social responsibility actions of the CCMP, started to enrol pupils from disadvantaged families. All costs are catered for by the centre. The first children who were enrolled in 2016 have now graduated and have started primary school.



RWANDA – SAVINGS AND CREDIT – WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Mothers' Union in Rwanda set up a savings and credit project across the entire country, training more than **20,250** disadvantaged people in the communities. They formed **889** community managed Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA's) where members save together and offer one another small loans to start micro businesses. The project incorporated business skills training and faith-based Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools into the savings group which helped address their own ideas about fatalism, poverty and donor dependency. A major positive outcome of this programme is that **94% of female members** reported an improvement in their family relationships over the last year as they gained increased access to and control over financial resources.



94%

of female members reported an improvement in their family relationships as they gained increased access over finances



20,250

disadvantaged people in communities trained in Rwanda by Mothers Union savings and credit projects



Generating funds to provide health insurance and social care for the community



889

Community managed Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA's) formed



4. ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNING

We believe that practical faith in action needs to go hand-in-hand with advocating for change. Sadly, we know that our members across the world have either experienced or witnessed gender based violence in different ways – whether in the intimacy of a personal relationship or as a result of violent conflict. Therefore, campaigning and advocating for change on a local, national and international level is crucial.



100+

pairs of shoes have been exhibited in the "Souls of our Shoes" project displayed in schools and prisons. Each pair telling the story of someone who has managed to walk away from abuse.

- In Britain, the "Souls of our Shoes" project has been exhibiting over 100 pairs of shoes in schools and prisons. Each pair telling the story of someone who has managed to walk away from abuse. Its aim is to raise awareness of domestic violence. People see for themselves the impact that it has on the lives of those it affects.
- Widows in Burundi, irrespective of the length of their marriages under customary law, lose all rights to the home and life that they built with their husband. He may have intended for her to keep the home to raise his children, however, his family, often in the early days after his death, will evict his widow onto the streets with nothing. In the midst of grief, they have to start a new life with their children. Widow's inheritance has been a key part of Mothers' Union Burundi's work against Gender Based Violence. It has been particularly significant, as the scale of the work of our members has made this a key issue at election time in their communities.

- At the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York we advocated for Women's Economic Empowerment as a means to reduce conflict and and gender based violence.

- At our General Meeting in Edinburgh we focused on the role of women as peacebuilders and a motion was unanimously passed that we would commit the organisation to focus on Peace and Reconciliation work both at home and overseas.

5. ACTIVITIES



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.

6. FINANCIALS IN & OUT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Income in £'s

● Subscriptions	785,511
● Donations	1,198,714
● Grants	41,364
● Investments & Rental	187,262
● Publications	6,678
● MU Enterprise	129,058
Total	£2,348,587



Expenditure in £'s

● Programme Work	1,307,879
● Faith & Worship	340,208
● Campaigning	392,267
● Emergency Relief	53,299
● Membership	606,372
● Governance	140,051
● Fundraising	206,473
Total	£3,046,549



The gap between income and expenditure in 2017 is due to 2 factors:

Firstly, the Board took the strategic decision to invest in a number of key projects to ensure the longer-term sustainability of the Charity:

- MULO, which is engaging with members around the world to reaffirm the key purpose of the movement
- Updating the Constitution to comply with modern governance

- Creating a membership database fully compliant with GDPR
- Renewing the website, to improve communications and the charity profile

All of these projects will continue through 2018, for which the Board has exceptionally approved a deficit budget. Thereafter, it is expected that they will begin to yield benefits through increased membership and diversification of income streams.

Secondly, the Triennial Valuation of the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme, of which Mothers' Union was a part, generated a significantly higher financial obligation than in previous years. Mothers' Union no longer has members in that scheme, and is in negotiation concerning the ongoing liability.



THANK YOU TO DONORS

Thank you to all our amazing donors and supporters who contributed over 52% of our funding for 2017. 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
- Heb Ffin Charity
- Patricia Wright Charitable Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- St Monica Trust
- The Candap Trust
- The Old Friend Charitable trust
- The Patron's Fund

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



Lynne Tembey
Worldwide President



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Registered charity no. 240531

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