

A monthly newsletter from the Associated Country Women of the World. Please feel free to forward on to your contacts.

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## Women to Women

March/April 2016

Welcome again to the ACWW E-Newsletter, featuring news from our current and upcoming projects, International Women's Day Concert and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Our work is very generously funded by individuals and supporter groups from across the world. You can find out more about our development funding work [here](#).

**International Women's Day Concert**



### ACWW International Women's Day Concert

ACWW Board members attended the concert at St John's Smith Square Church in London



ACWW celebrated International Women's Day on Tuesday the 8th March by hosting an International Women's Day concert to promote the international work of ACWW.

We were honoured to celebrate with The Amadè Players, who beautifully played and sang music written by Vivaldi during his time at the children's home for those abandoned in Venice, the Ospedale della Pietà. The all female choir allowed the works to resemble how they may

have sounded in their original form, with guest soloist Ailish Tynan singing Vivaldi's 'Gloria' a particular highlight for many.

The ACWW board was visiting London for the March board meetings and so had the chance to attend the evening, alongside an audience of Baronesses, local Councillors and friends and family of ACWW.

ACWW promoted the organisation and raised funds through selling merchandise, such as our new cookbook, The Countrywoman's Kitchen.

We would like to express our thanks to the Amadè Players for the enchanting evening of beautiful music and all those who worked hard towards the concert.



Director Nicholas Newland with guest soloist Ailish Tynan



The all female choir sing Kyrie and Gloria

## Zero Hunger Challenge





We all know that rural women carry a heavy load and bear most of the responsibility for growing food crops and feeding their families. Check out what one of ACWW's project beneficiaries said when she was asked what 'gender equality' meant for her:

<http://blog.zerohungerchallenge.org/planet5050-5qs-margaretnagaluma/>

## Project News



Kituntu Community Managed Water for Life Project, Mpigi District, Uganda, project no. 0982

Kituntu Women's Association have sent a Progress Report, in which they report that two shallow wells have been constructed in Kituntu village, benefiting 834 people with safe water. Previously the villagers had to collect water from ponds which were not clean. The women and children of the village are benefiting the most as it was their job to collect water. It is expected that the health of the villagers will improve as a result of this project. Jane Musoke, one of the village leaders, reports: 'It was very easy for me to mobilize the communities in my village to fully participate in the construction of our new water source. The community highly responded because they had a great need for the clean safe water in this area and from the initial health trainings conducted, we realized that most of the diseases we experienced in the families were due to drinking dirty unsafe water.'





Digging of borewells with rigs and fixing electrical motors to draw water in 7 villages, Andhra Pradesh, India, project no. 0966.

Bethany Ministries have sent a Final Report for this project. Elizabeth Swamy, Women's Wing Director, reports that in Ayyampalayam gypsy village, a mother and her three daughters, who leave their home very early in the morning to work as daily labourers, now have time to wash themselves, their clothes and kitchen utensils, as they have a water tank close by.

In another village, Narikoravar, the gypsies were not allowed by other villagers to use the available water, but now they have their own well and can wash and drink clean water as often as they like.

## **ACWW Projects for 2016**

The ACWW Projects Committee are pleased to announce that the following projects were approved for funding at their March 2016 meeting. For further details and information about making a donation or "adopting" one of these projects please contact Juliet Childs

([Juliet\\_c@acww.org.uk](mailto:Juliet_c@acww.org.uk))

## INDIA

### **Sarojini Naidu Rural Welfare and Education Trust, Project Number: 1003**

Innovative education for adolescent health and skill development training for mothers

### **Snekithi Charitable Trust, 1004**

Enhancing the livelihood of women in difficult circumstances through *milch* cow rearing

### **Success Trust, 1007**

Promotion of indigenous rice and vegetables cultivation among marginal women farmers

### **Women's Organisation for Rural Development, 1008**

Safe drinking water to families of low caste Arunthathiyar and Dalits

### **Organisation for Community Development, 1011**

Strengthening and developing economic and social status of fish vending women in coastal villages through income generation activities

### **Centre for the Development of Rural Women, 1014**

Apiary (bees) and warren (rabbits) for the economic self-reliance of Malayal (tribal) women

## SOUTH AFRICA

### **Federation of Women's Institutes Kwazulu Natal, 1005**

Solar Pump for the completion of water supply to Yenzanathi Community Upliftment Project garden (Project 980)

## GEORGIA

### **Koda Community Education Center, 1006**

Project Bio-Farming: Supporting Vegetable Gardens in Koda (for internally displaced people)

## KENYA

### **Ufanisi Women Group, 1009**

Lifting socioeconomic status of young mothers through revolving dairy goat farming

## UGANDA

### Friends of Women with Disabilities, 1010

Disabled Women Skills and Empowerment Project (vocational training centre)

## Commission on the Status of Women 60<sup>th</sup> Session, 14-24 March: 'Women's Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development'.

UN committee Chairperson, Sharon Hatten attended this important conference. ACWW submitted a statement on Women's empowerment and the rights of the girl child, prior to the conference, see:

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2016/NGO/6](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2016/NGO/6)

ACWW also contributed to a joint oral statement on the importance of implementing Sustainable Development Goal 5, with the International Federation for Home Economics that was read out by one of their representatives during the conference, see:

<https://www.ifhe.org/ifhe-statements/>

A set of [agreed conclusions](#) called for enhancing the basis for rapid progress, including stronger laws, policies and institutions, better data and scaled-up financing.

The Commission recognized women's vital role as agents of development. It acknowledged that progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) at the heart of Agenda 2030 will not be possible without gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

You can read the final agreement reached by the CSW60 delegates, here...

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/csw60%20agreed%20conclusions%2024march.pdf?v=1&d=20160328T173209>





### In other news at ACWW...

**Women Walk the World 2016:** On ACWW Day, 29 April, we want to encourage women, their friends and family members, from all over the world to come together for the ACWW cause by participating in a sponsored walk. You will help ACWW achieve its aim of connecting and supporting women worldwide through your group ramble, walk or simple stroll in the park! We would love 2016's Women Walk the World to be bigger and better than ever, raising ACWW's image, promoting the organisation and raising funds. Find out more information [here](#)

**Photo Competition for WWW:** The deadline for receiving photos of your Women Walk the World event is 16th May. Take photos of your walk or events and email (high resolution) or post them to ACWW's central office, and you could be featured on the front page of our July - September 2016 issue of '[The Countrywoman](#)' magazine.

**ACWW is collecting stamps and unwanted costume jewellery:** To help raise funds for our Pennies for Friendship Fund, please send your used stamps and unwanted costume jewellery to Recycling For Good Causes. Further details are available [here](#).

**Pennies for Friendship Collection Box:** New Pennies for Friendship Collection Boxes to raise funds for ACWW are now available to order from Central Office. Please email [info@acww.org.uk](mailto:info@acww.org.uk) with your request.

**Sending donations:** When contributing to a particular fund or project by cheque, please make the cheque payable to ACWW, including the fund name or project number on the back of the cheque.

**2016 Triennial Conference:** The 28th ACWW Triennial World Conference at the University of

Warwick, UK will be held between the 17 and 23 August 2016. An excellent opportunity to take part in the debates and decisions which will be the focus of the next three years, socialise and meet up with friends old and new. All conference facilities and accommodation are on one campus.

To date, 260 have already registered. Send in your registration form now to take full advantage of the early Bird Fee (£390) before the 16 April, after which it rises to £415. Despite inflation, costs have been kept as low as possible and are nearly £200 cheaper than for the 2013 Triennial in Chennai, India. Further details and all the official Mail Out Circulars are available [here](#) and updated regularly.