

## ACWW Update

### A final word from your Herefordshire Associated Country Women of the World rep.

I thought you might like to be updated on the current relationship between ACWW and the W.I. Since Covid 19 when fund-raising came to a standstill, certain changes were made by ACWW management so that:

- “Pennies for Friendship” and the Women Empowered Fund were closed!
- There is no ability now, to direct your fund raising towards a particular project.
- The Rural Women in Action Fund (new name) is to be used to direct your donations to projects which are identified by ACWW management or for their office use.
- Projects will have more flexibility built in to add features or extend periods of activity for a better outcome.
- The logo has been redesigned, moving away from a compass framework to a “bracket”.
- A global network of Co-ordinators are receiving training, will have resources supplied to deliver a co-ordinated presentation and have links to ACWW Presidents for their region.
- The changes have not been taken to the triennial conference for member agreement which has caused concern.
- The same amount of funding will be distributed to women’s groups but to a fewer number of projects.

Some of the county WI representatives like myself, have resigned their positions. After having supported ACWW enthusiastically for many years, two have been “blacklisted” by ACWW for criticising their motives and methods. Since being informed of this, National W.I. has given advice that WIs are at liberty to raise funds for whichever cause they feel important to them, including ACWW. They are not recommending that we cut links with them, this would be catastrophic as 75% of their funding has come from WIs in the past. They are creating other funding streams to ensure stability.

I have been particularly concerned that the period of project interruption was much longer than the Covid disruption necessitated. However, project information is now filtering down to members and work seems to be progressing. Rural Women are still suffering throughout the world by not having their voices heard and the ACWW is at least one line of communication and support for them. So I would urge you to continue to raise funds for ACWW if you can, to help our fellow womenfolk by whatever method you can. The Women Walk the World activity takes place on 29th April annually and is one event that can be easily organised to raise funds.

As I have not requested a position as ACWW Co-ordinator I will be unable to access their resources and visit your WIs to explain the work they are doing. For this, I am very sorry as I have enjoyed meeting your amazing groups in the short period that I have been the Herefordshire representative. If you would like to take up the challenge of Co-ordinator, contact ACWW. They will welcome your interest. If you would like to support in a small way, pay for annual membership at £27, some of your funds will go towards the women who request help. If you raise funds within your W.I. I would recommend that you use the ACWW website to pay by BACS as the safest and easiest form of payment.

Many thanks for all your help and support and don’t forget those women who need us!  
Shirley Edgar