



IIW President Trish Douglas shares her message on International Women's day

International Inner Wheel is one of the largest Women's Organisations in the World, we are in approx. 100 Countries Worldwide with over 120,000 members. International Women's Day for our members is their commitment to service above self, helping those who are less fortunate than themselves.

Inner Wheel this past year has been able to 'Shine A Light' on the plight of women who have been abused by offering shelter and comfort, along with education, learning new skills enabling them along with their children to be self-sufficient, free from sexual abuse and can live without fear.

"Invest in Women: Accelerate progress" is the theme this year for International Women's Day, how do we do this? Certainly, Inner Wheel have embraced Gender Equality but there are challenges to be overcome by society before these challenges can be met and embraced benefitting everyone.

Ending poverty is one of the great challenges being faced today, 80% of people are under the breadline around the world, public spending has been drastically cut by many countries, this can lead to more people falling into severe poverty, by 2030 we may be looking at 342 million women and children living in poverty. Action must be taken now whenever and where ever Inner Wheel is active to prevent such a disaster from happening, let's 'Brighten Lives for the Future' by committing ourselves to try and eradicate poverty NOW!

When it comes to a Green Economy and Care Society I feel this is again comes under one of our own initiatives this year 'Brighten Lives for the Future'. We have to take great care of our planet as we are suffering greatly from climate change whether it's floods, fire or drought this affects us all. A Green economy encourages organic methods, no chemical pesticides and fertilisers, this improves environmental productivity and quality of life. Inner Wheel supports humanitarian programmes under 'Wellness Brightens Lives', looking after the homeless and introducing rehabilitation back into society is high on our agenda around the world.

Having travelled to thirteen countries these past months I have seen the enormous contribution Inner Wheel are doing whether it be the education of street children, running and developing schools in slum areas, helping blind children to learn skills for life. shelter abused mothers and children we are there every step of the way! WE CARE! We will create Strong women Stronger World!

March 8th International Women's Day gives all Inner Wheel members the opportunity to do that little bit extra to 'Brighten Lives for the Future'.

Love to all,

Trish

International Inner Wheel President 2023/24

