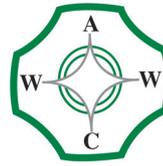


# European Area Newsletter

## December 2018



THE GLOBAL GOALS  
For Sustainable Development

from World President Mrs Ruth Shanks AM

### Dear European Area Members,

I thought it was time I made contact with you all again. I mainly have a few reminders for you.

Please, if you have a list of your own members with email addresses, forward this newsletter on to them so they can all know what is happening within ACWW.

Unfortunately for the area, we have had the loss of two stalwart members of societies in the European Area. The first was Mrs Everdine Sanders-Vonk, from The Netherlands, who had previously served as Chair of the Projects Committee and only recently Mrs Ingunn Birkeland from Norway, who had also been Chair of the Projects Committee but more recently she was Chair of the United Nations Committee. Both of these ladies will be sorely missed in their societies and we have sent our sympathies to both families.

Another reminder, of course, about the Global Women's Survey! We all want our voices heard, but they cannot be heard unless we let them. We have not had many responses from Europe, so please could you all visit [www.ifrw.org.uk](http://www.ifrw.org.uk) before the end of December and complete the survey. It doesn't matter where you live in your country, but please take the time to help us help you!

The Triennial World Conference in Australia is drawing near and, at this stage we have more than 550 registrations, which is great but it is not too late to register. The registrations remain open until December 31<sup>st</sup>. I realise it is a long way for you to travel, but it will be worth your while to travel "down under" and participate in this celebration of 90 years of ACWW.

Also please remember to cast your vote for your Area President when the voting papers are distributed to your organisation in the New Year. There is only one nomination, but you MUST vote, as this candidate must receive 50% + 1 of the votes to be elected.

If your society does not have a representative attending the conference, you can apply to Central Office for someone to be appointed as a "proxy voter" for you. They will be allocated and then you can be in touch with them to inform them how you would like them to vote both for the elections of the Officers and also for resolutions. If you do not do this through Central Office, then you will be missing out on having your say.

You may be aware that there will be a European Area Meeting prior to conference in Melbourne, so if you have any items you wish to be discussed, could you please let me know so I can put them on the agenda.

To the WI's in England and Wales: just a note to say that I am aware that NFWI has indicated to you to not send donations to ACWW at the moment. This is a directive from your organisation, NOT ACWW. We are aware of the problem and we are trying our best to sort out the issues.

At this time of the year, most of you will be feeling the cold and experiencing snow and ice. Here in Australia we are experiencing heat and some stormy weather. Whatever the weather, I am sure you are all preparing for Christmas and the New Year.

So please, enjoy your time with your family and friends and I look forward to communicating with you again in 2019.

Kind regards,

Ruth Shanks AM  
World President and Interim European Area President.

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