

TWC TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2019

This was another active year for the Women's Council. Our programme of events included two hosted by Hon Vice Presidents, a Garden Party, a Christmas Lunch, two in our series of Cultural/Friendship visits and others organised by members in their homes. These were greatly enhanced by three functions organised by Patrons, all providing opportunities for sharing the culture of the host countries, namely Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. Funds raised were mainly designated for the support of the programmes for training women working in the field of disability, as highlighted below.

We continued to participate in the initiative in which several organisations with Commonwealth connections joined together and this year the Summer Visit was to The Bank of England. In addition we provided some volunteers at a fundraising event in support of the Commonwealth Girls Education Fund.

We have continued to act in accordance with GDPR with a designated officer overseeing protocol.

Following the success of the **2018 CBR/CBID Course for Arabic speakers**, organised after a gap of seven years and made possible by seed funding from TWC, the **SETI Centre** was again able to hold a Course in 2019, this time in Cairo and again using seed funding from TWC. The Course was in two parts, the first following the pattern of the previous year's Course and the second offering advanced training. In the event, it was oversubscribed, enabling TWC to respond to a request to provide scholarships for four women who came from Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and Jordan. Other countries represented included Libya and Syria. The **CII Regional Training Course** held at the **ADAPT Centre** in Mumbai continues to develop and, in 2019, was attended by women working with children with disabilities and their families from Bangladesh, Bhutan, The Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan, and Tonga as well as from Nagaland and Odisha in India. ADAPT's Report of this Course is on TWC's website.

In spite of income from events and also from several very generous donations by members and friends, there was a shortfall of some £10,000 between income and expenditure on the Courses, which was met from reserves. Because of the impact which these training programmes are recognised to make on their respective communities, TWC continues to strive to maintain a Reserves Policy sufficient to cover a period of three years in order to maintain continuity.

In conclusion we thank our Dr Frances Moore, our Honorary Training Adviser for her steadfast care and participation in the continued evaluation and development of the CII Course, and the relationship between TWC and ADAPT, Dr Mithu Alur, its Founder/Director, and its Faculty and staff. We also thank Dr. Ala'a Sebeh without whose co-operation and determination the SETI Courses would not have been started originally, nor recently revived.

Finally, our gratitude goes to our President for her enthusiastic encouragement, and to our Honorary Vice Presidents, Diplomatic Patrons, Committee Members, Friends and Donors whose interest and support, both moral and financial, make it possible for us to continue our involvement in the two training programmes from which thousands of children, their families and communities in Asia, Asia Pacific and The Middle East are deriving unquantifiable benefit.



Pat Yaxley (Chairman)