

## **MSH Update – June 2024 edition**

Dear Members,

Welcome to your June edition of Mary Sumner's House Members' update.

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### **Celebrating Mary Sumner Day 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024: Honouring Our Legacy and Inspiring Our Future**

As we approach Mary Sumner Day on August 9th, it is a good time to take a moment to honour the incredible legacy of the founder of our movement, Mary Sumner. This day is a special opportunity for us to reflect on her vision, dedication, and the profound impact she has had on countless lives around the world through the Mothers' Union.

Mary Sumner's dream was to create a network of women who support each other, nurture their families, and work together to improve their communities. Her tireless efforts and steadfast faith laid the foundation for the vibrant, global community that we are part of today.

Mary Sumner Day is not just a time to look back, but also to look forward. It is a chance to renew our commitment to the principles that guide us and to inspire each other to carry on the work she so passionately began. Every act of kindness, every moment of support, and every bit of effort we put into our community is a testament to her enduring legacy.

Let us make Mary Sumner Day 2024 a joyful celebration of our collective spirit and dedication. Together, we can continue to build a world filled with hope, love, and unity.

See the links below for more information on Mary Sumner Day, including the Mary Sumner Day 2024 Programme with all the events and activities planned to celebrate this special day.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/lasting-legacy-mary-sumner>

<https://www.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/resources/public/MSD%20service%20with%20Eucharist%202024.pdf>

## **Summer of Hope 2024**

Our Summer of Hope appeal is still ongoing, and we are incredibly grateful to those who have already donated to this fund. Your contributions are making a significant impact on our global initiatives. However, we would like to seek more support as we are still far from our target amount.

This appeal is a fantastic opportunity to build on years of transformative work that is changing the lives of women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), your faithful support is empowering women to break free from the cycle of poverty. However, the need remains urgent as we strive to expand our Literacy Circles to more dioceses where women are most in need of support.

The Literacy Circles are not just about teaching women to read and write; they also provide essential skills in numeracy, agriculture, and business. These skills enable women to support their families and gain status in their communities. For instance, Grace, a participant in the program, shared how learning to count has empowered her to manage her money wisely and avoid being cheated at the market.

We invite you to continue supporting this vital cause. Whether through direct donations, bake sales, jumble sales, or sponsored physical challenges, every contribution helps us give the gift of hope for a brighter future.

Thank you for your continued support. Copies of the appeal pack and how to get involved can be found at [www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope-2024](http://www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope-2024)

## **Worldwide President's Tour of Oceania Comes To An End**

The Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, has now successfully completed the five-week tour of Oceania countries, marking the final leg of her leadership journey before her term concludes in December 2024. This tour was a significant event, celebrating the global unity and shared mission of empowering women and supporting families. The journey was not just a symbolic farewell but a heartfelt exploration of the vibrant communities within Mothers' Union across the region, from Australia to New Zealand through to the Solomons Islands, each country offered unique insights and moments of shared joy and solidarity.

Throughout her travels, she experienced the warm and enthusiastic welcome that Mothers' Union members are renowned for, encountering diverse cultures and witnessing firsthand the impactful work being done in local communities. In the Solomon Islands, Mrs Harper was warmly received by the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM). The welcome ceremonies were marked by traditional attire, heartfelt prayers, and inspiring speeches, reflecting the deep respect and admiration for her leadership.

Now safely back in her home country of Guyana, the Worldwide President cherishes the memories and friendships formed during this journey. Reflecting on the trip, she expressed gratitude for the hospitality shown and the opportunity to witness the dedication of Mothers' Union members in Oceania, Zone C.

**As a tribute to the safe journey's safe completion, we share a prayer of thanksgiving:**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is your name in all the earth! Heavenly Father, we thank you for guiding and protecting our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper and our Regional Development Coordinator, Jeanette Lawrence, during their five-weeks tour of the Oceania countries. We are grateful for their safe travel and the peace you accorded them during the tour, and the warm welcomes they received, the bonds of friendship strengthened, and the inspiring work they witnessed among Mothers' Union members across the region.*

*Father, may Sheran's journey continue to inspire us to serve with love and compassion, following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner, and may your blessings continue to guide her as she prepares for the next chapter of leadership.*

*In Jesus mighty name we pray,*

*Amen!*

**Pictures capturing the essence of Sheran's memorable journey, showcasing moments of joy, fellowship, and the shared mission of Mothers' Union worldwide.**





## Unveiling Our Achievements: Explore Our 2023 Annual Review

In the afternoon of Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, after our Worldwide Trustees meeting, our Annual Review for 2023 will be available on our website to read and download. We are really proud of all that we have achieved over 2023. You can read about our impact around the world as well as here in B&I.

You may notice that the publication looks different to previous years. We have worked with a new designer to help modernise our brand, introducing new graphics and symbols for our three core pillars of work:

We work under three core pillars to help communities transform:



**Ending Violence**  
through peace and  
safety work

see p8-10



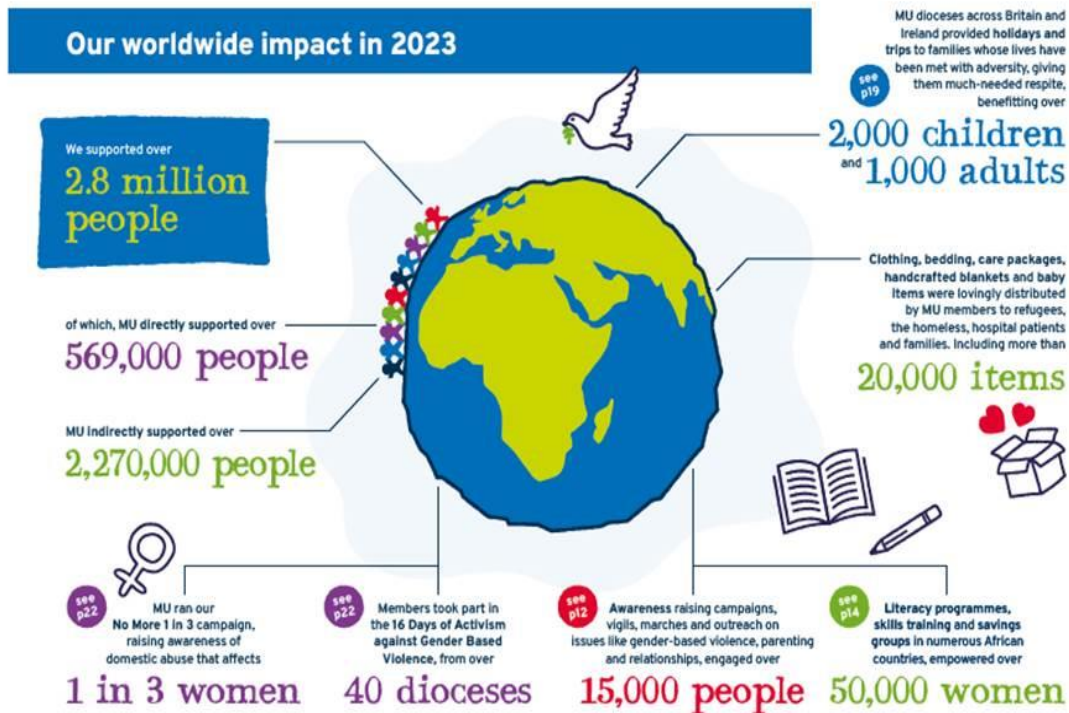
**Ending Injustice**  
through gender  
justice work

see p12-13



**Ending Poverty**  
through increasing  
self-reliance and  
building resilience

see p14-16



### Communities of Interest (COIs)

Are you already a member of one of MU’s Communities of Interest? Member forums on membership, communications, domestic abuse, AFIA, prisons work, fundraising, database, governance, safeguarding – there is a lot to choose from!

Each COI should have at least one representative from every diocese and meets 2-4 times a year on Zoom to share ideas and success stories with fellow members and to guide MSH in their work.

If you are interested in getting involved, contact your Diocesan President.

A couple of COIs to spotlight are Membership and Crafting:

#### *Membership COI:*

This new COI has met 3 times and is focused on sharing and learning from each other about what is working in branches and dioceses to sustain and grow membership. Currently focusing on how to revive branches and alternative ways to structure branches, meetings, and groups to optimise participation, volunteering and to encourage new members. Did you know branches do not need formal positions of leaders, secretaries, and treasurers? Did you know you can meet as fellowship or prayer groups in the evening or online? Did you know that member subscriptions can be paid directly to dioceses?



This COI is looking at how membership can grow locally and how MSH can fill in the gaps with new initiatives targeting new audiences with different membership options like supporter, gifts of MU and church-based memberships.

Working together, members and MSH are focused on finding ways to support each other to help sustain and grow the movement.

To find out more about the Membership COI, please contact Atim Abrams, your Membership Engagement Manager – [membershipcoi@mothersunion.org](mailto:membershipcoi@mothersunion.org) and speak with your Diocesan President.

#### *Crafting COI:*

Crafting holds a unique power to soothe the mind, fostering relaxation through the rhythmic, mindful act of creation. At Mothers' Union, crafting is more than just a hobby—it is a shared space where people connect, exchange skills and stories, and build a vibrant community.

MU crafting sessions are a testament to the magic that happens when creativity, social interaction, and productivity come together. Participants not only enjoy the calming effects of crafting but also produce tangible, practical goods that benefit others. From handmade gifts and teddy bears to essential items like our bonnets for premature babies, the fruits of our crafting efforts make a real difference in the lives of many.

Crafting will play a significant role in our 150th anniversary celebrations. However, we have observed that several dioceses presently lack a representative in our Craft COI. This group offers a fantastic opportunity to be part of something meaningful and creative. We therefore encourage more members to get involved.

To join this fulfilling and impactful activity, and help us continue to build a strong, connected, and compassionate community through the art of crafting, please send an email to [ish.lennox@mothersunion.org](mailto:ish.lennox@mothersunion.org) to express your interest and speak to your Diocesan President..

## Canterbury Provincial Gathering – 22<sup>nd</sup> June

A large gathering of members met in Oxford to celebrate the work of dioceses in Canterbury Province. The day was full of updates on local projects with fun, fellowship, and worship. A wonderful opportunity to share and learn from each other.



## Overseas Visitors at MSH!

We continue to receive visitors from all around the globe who wish to visit the chapel, have a tour of the building, and meet MU staff. Recent visitors have been from South Korea, USA, Nigeria, and New Zealand. It is always wonderful to meet members from different countries and to tell them about the wonderful work in Britain and Ireland.



*Gwendolyn Needham (left) from New Zealand is a famous author and MU member who popped in this week. Here she is with Bev Jullien, CEO and Jeanette Lawrence, Regional Development Coordinator.*

Best wishes,

Membership Team at Mary Sumner House

[membership@mothersunion.org](mailto:membership@mothersunion.org)

*We are here to help and support you; just drop us an email.*