



SPONSOR

WOMEN



Photo: Fjona Hill

WELCOME

TO SPONSORSHIP

Dear Friend,

Since 1993, Women for Women International sponsors have proven that it is possible to make a lasting difference in the lives of women from war-torn regions – helping them to rebuild their lives and to create sustainable futures for themselves and their families.

Women for Women provides women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies.

We envision a world where no one is abused, poor, illiterate or marginalised; where members of communities have full and equal participation in the processes that ensure their health, well-being and economic independence; and where everyone has the freedom to define the scope of their life, their future and strive to achieve their full potential.

We're changing the world, one woman at a time. Thank you for joining us.

Gratefully,



Zainab Salbi, Founder, Women for Women International



SPONSORSHIP

WITH WOMEN FOR WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Sponsorship with Women for Women International is a one-to-one connection between our supporters and the women participating in the programmes where we work, as they move from victims to survivors to active citizens engaged in rebuilding their lives and communities. Because of the life-changing connection created through sponsorship, the women in our programmes and their sponsors refer to each other as ‘sister’.

What sponsorship means to your sister

The women we serve have, quite literally, lost everything. They are socially excluded and have been uprooted from their homes. Many have seen their husbands and children killed. They are living in extreme poverty – most with little or no access to clean water, food, medicine or even shelter. Many of them have several children to support or even other family members who rely on them.

That is why a portion of your sponsorship donation is given as direct financial assistance to your sister, to help her and her family meet

their basic needs, such as food and medicine, as well as school fees. Some participants save whatever they have left over, for example as seed capital to start a business.

This support for your sister’s basic needs is crucial, because it gives her the chance to focus on her future through her participation in our year-long programme of vocational and technical skills training, rights awareness and leadership education. For more information about what your sister will learn, see page five.

Julienne’s story

In 1998, Julienne was a teacher, a wife, and a mother of seven, living in the Democratic Republic of Congo. When the war came, she and her family had to flee their home, leaving behind everything they had worked so hard to build. With no income, she couldn’t afford food or schooling for her children. Her family’s future looked bleak.



One day, Julienne saw the Women for Women International logo on a passing car. Desperate, she literally chased it down and was able to enrol in our programme, where she received vocational training in soap-making. Today, she is a Women for Women International programme trainer, providing leadership and inspiration to other women in her community. Julienne has come full-circle: she can feed her children, send them to school, and has hope. She told us: “I am someone who is interesting again.”

Thousands of women like Julienne seek our help but without your support, we can’t give them the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Women in war-torn countries need just one chance to start again. Thank you for giving them that chance.

THE SPONSORSHIP

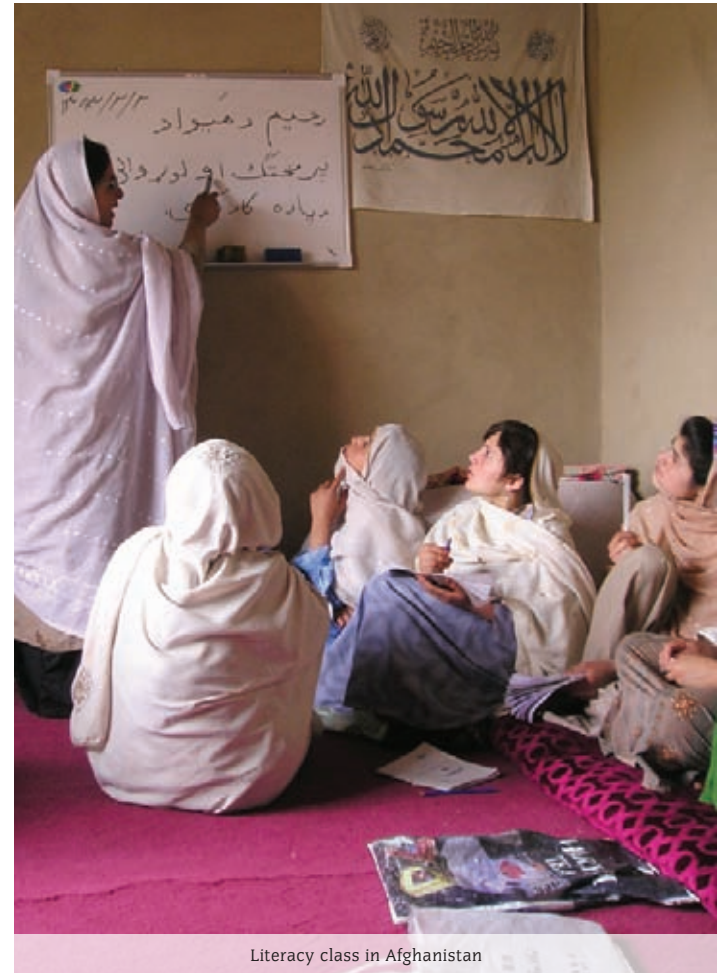
JOURNEY

As a sponsor, you will receive monthly Sponsorship Community Updates by email, which highlight developments in our programmes and feature sponsor stories. You will also receive e-updates about each stage of the programme that your sister is in and what she is learning about. You can always find up-to-date information about our country programmes on our website at www.womenforwomen.org.uk.

You will also be able to connect with your sister in a very personal way by sending messages directly to her. For more information, see page six.

Near the end of your sister's participation in the programme, we will let you know that she is due to graduate soon. Graduation day is one of enormous joy and celebration, not just for your sister but also for her family and community. It is a milestone in the lives of the women we serve and we hope it will be in yours as well.

Your commitment as a sponsor will end only after you have let us know you wish to cease your support. After your current sister graduates, you will automatically be matched with a new sister who is about to join our programme, and the journey begins again.



Literacy class in Afghanistan

WHAT YOUR

SISTER

WILL LEARN

As a result of war and conflict, women often lose everything that ever mattered to them, including their sense of self. Their voices are silenced. And even if they were to speak, there is no safe place where they can voice their pain.

Women for Women International will provide your sister with a safe haven where she can express herself, share her feelings with other women, and actively participate in rebuilding her life and her community. During the programme, she will learn about her value as a woman and her rights as a citizen. She will receive leadership training that will prepare her to become a role model in her community, and healthcare training to improve her wellbeing and that of her family.

Our goal for your sister is for her to graduate from the programme with the ability to provide for herself and contribute to her family's income. The programme will teach her skills that she can use for income generation - skills



Participants from Kosovo learn bee-keeping to create honey products. Photo: Simon Wheeler

that are relevant and needed in her community. Participants have gone on to become medicinal herb cultivators in Bosnia and Herzegovina, livestock farmers in Afghanistan and textile producers in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Upon completing the programme, many participants have received microcredit to begin their own businesses or form cooperatives together. Some have been so successful that they have employed dozens of other graduates from the programme, thus improving the lives of their entire communities.

Your sister will participate in four modules during the year-long programme.

Module I is sustaining an income

Module II is health and wellness

Module III is family and community decision-making

Module IV is social networks and safety nets

We will keep you updated about what your sister is learning through email updates during your sponsorship.

CONNECTING

WITH YOUR SISTER

As a sponsor, you will be able to connect with your sister in a very personal way by sending messages directly to her. You simply cannot imagine the impact that your messages will have on your sister. We hear time and again from our country directors, staff and the participants themselves how much sponsors' messages mean to them. After experiencing hardship and isolation, receiving a message of support from someone they have never met inspires them to hope for a better future, and to know they are not alone.

Send your messages online

You can send messages to your sister through your online account, where you can also attach photos. Once you have submitted your message, it will then be sent to our country office electronically and then printed and translated, before being given to your sister. As well as sending messages, when you log in to your account you can also see your sister's details and photograph, if we are able to provide one. To register or login for your online account, go to : <https://supporters.womenforwomen.org>.

Your sister faces many challenges

Your sister will be encouraged to respond to the messages she receives from you, however some of the women in our programmes may have circumstances that make it difficult to write. For example, they may be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or they may not know how to write. We encourage you to continue sending messages to your sister even if she is unable to respond, because we know from experience that receiving messages from sponsors is an incredible source of support, comfort and inspiration to the women we serve.



Your sister will treasure the messages you send her

FREQUENTLY ASKED

QUESTIONS

How are my donations used?

Every penny of your £22 donation goes towards funding the programme that your sister participates in. A portion of your donation provides direct financial assistance to her so she can provide her family with basic necessities such as food, medicine and school fees. The remaining funds are used to support her participation in our programme. The £25 one-off fee covers the cost of administering your sponsorship, so that more of your monthly donation can be spent on supporting your sister through her programme.

How do I connect with my sister?

You can connect with your sister by sending messages to her through your online sponsorship account. Once you log in, you will be able to see your sister's details and photograph, if we are able to provide one. Her information will be automatically filled in so that you can start writing her a message straightaway. You can even attach photos, write captions, and save draft letters to come back to. To register or log in to your online account, go to: <https://supporters.womenforwomen.org>.

How else can I get involved?

There are so many ways you can get involved and support our work besides becoming a sponsor. You can donate, fundraise, volunteer, Run for Congo Women, organise a film screening, start a student society, get your company involved, or organise something completely original and your own.

For more information, email supportuk@womenforwomen.org.

How can I contact you?

Email us at: sponsorshipuk@womenforwomen.org

Call us on Freephone 0800 023 2346 (UK only) or 0044 (0) 207 922 7772.

Write to us at: The Sponsorship Team, Women for Women International, 32-36 Loman St, London SE1 0EH, UK

Our normal office hours are 9:30am-5:30pm, Monday to Friday, excluding bank holidays.

SPONSOR

WOMEN

We operate in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria,
Rwanda and South Sudan.

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