

# Impact Report

## 2024- 2025

The DIWC tartan, registered on June 17, 2025, symbolises the Centre's mission to engage, educate, and empower women from diverse backgrounds.

Purple represents justice and dignity, while green symbolizes hope.



**Dundee International Women's Centre**  
Engagement | Education | Self-empowerment

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Where are we from?

# Our Values



Trust



Respect



Support



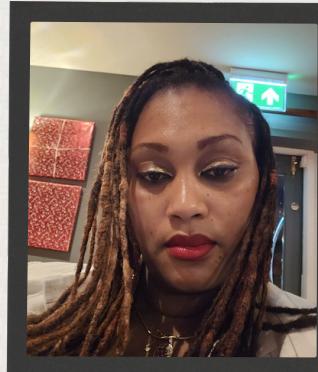
Equality



Approachable



## *A message from the chair*



This year has been one of reflection, resilience and renewal for Dundee International Women's Centre.

We began by strengthening our governance and ways of working. Members approved an update to our Articles of Association in January 2025 to allow our Board to meet online, ensuring we remain accessible and effective. Trustees also took part in development sessions and continued to focus on the long-term sustainability of the centre.

Our values were reviewed and new values created which are Trust, Respect, Support, Equality, and Approachability which were refreshed through consultation with staff, volunteers, and members. These values now guide every decision we make and shape how we work with our community.

We continue to support women from minority ethnic and disadvantaged backgrounds to learn, connect and build confidence. From accredited qualifications and digital skills to wellbeing sessions, cultural events and childcare through our Rise and Shine Crèche, the centre remains a lifeline for many.

Our projects this year including Connecting Cultures, Respected, Equal and Safe and Stobswell West have tackled inequality, promoted community cohesion and supported women to overcome isolation, poverty, and barriers to opportunity.

We are proud of the recognition received this year, including the Welcoming Women Award and being finalists in the Dundee Social Enterprise Awards.

I want to thank our staff, volunteers, funders, and partners for their commitment and belief in what we do. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of women and families across Dundee.

**Marthe Blyth**  
**Chair, Dundee International Women's Centre**



## *A message from the manager*

The past year has been both challenging and inspiring. Demand for our services continues to grow as more women face complex issues linked to poverty, isolation and migration.

Despite this, our team has achieved outstanding results through creativity, collaboration and a shared commitment to our values.

We introduced new learning opportunities, including Beauty for Beginners, Driving Theory, ICDL Digital Skills, Welcome to Scotland and Toddler Plus One. Ten women completed our new SQA Working with Numbers qualification, while 25 others built confidence in numeracy - an achievement made possible through Dundee City Council's UK Shared Prosperity funding.

Through our Connecting Cultures project, we delivered cultural awareness and anti-hate crime training across Scotland and supported parents and professionals to recognise online risks. The Respected, Equal and Safe project continued vital work addressing violence against women and girls, particularly within BME communities.

The Stobswell West initiative brought services together in one of Dundee's most deprived areas, helping families access support, improve employability, and build community connections.

We invested in staff development through Insights Discovery, safeguarding training, and leadership development. Thanks to ROSA funding, we created a new Team Leader post - strengthening internal capacity and progression with a new team leader starting with us later this year which we are all excited about.

Our Rise and Shine Crèche continues to grow as a social enterprise, providing high-quality childcare and supporting women's participation in learning.

While financial pressures and funding uncertainty remain significant challenges, our team's commitment and adaptability keep the organisation strong. We are focused on sustainability through partnership working, social enterprise growth, and strategic funding applications.

DIWC continues to be a place where women gain confidence, education, and community. Every class, event, and conversation builds towards our vision of equality and empowerment.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our amazing team of staff, our dedicated and supportive volunteers, and every woman and child who uses our centre. We know there are tough challenges ahead, especially around funding, but the laughter and learning that fill the centre each day give us renewed determination to keep DIWC thriving as a safe, women-only space that continues to inspire and empower.

**Kristina Piggott,  
Manager for Strategy & Operations**



# Our Classes & Groups

# 6

new classes

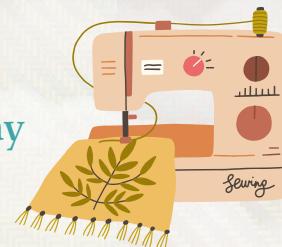
- Beauty for Beginners ----- **22** learners attended
- Everyday Numbers ----- **26** learners attended
- Driving Theory ----- **14** learners attended
- ICDL
- Welcome to Scotland
- Family Yoga -----



# 415

 learners attended classes and groups

# 150

 learners attended our **Everyday English** classes

# 128

 learners attended our **Social classes**

# 53

 ESOL learners moved up to a higher level

## Our Impact



# 40

women found employment

# 39

gained a qualification



# 15

became volunteers

# 17

went to college



### Results from Learner Survey

- 95% said coming to DIWC made them feel happier
- 91% said they felt more confident
- 84% had made new friends
- 82% felt healthier
- 86% said they felt part of a community





**125**

were registered  
in the creche

## Some Benefits of our Creche

### Child Development & Learning

- Children are learning new skills
- They are becoming more independent.
- They are making friends and enjoying social interaction.

### Emotional Wellbeing

- Parents feel peace of mind and less worry when their child is in the crèche.
- Children are happy, excited, and look forward to attending.

### Parental Support

- Parents can focus on their classes without distraction.
- Parents are able to attend classes regularly.
- Parents gain free time for self-care, exercise, chores, or rest.

## What do the parents say...

**"I feel so happy leaving my daughter here. She is safe and settled, and I can finally focus on my class without worrying."**



**"It's made a huge difference to our lives. My child has started saying English words and making friends, and I've been able to attend classes regularly."**

**"My child has learned so much since coming here, she even took her first steps in the crèche! I can see her becoming more independent every week."**



# Respected, Equal and Safe

## Empowering Women, Building Safety

Our Respected, Equal and Safe project supports women from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities to recognise and challenge gender inequality and violence against women. Through language learning, creative workshops, and one-to-one support, we help women find their voices and build safer, stronger lives.



**44** women engaged in funded activities

**32** participants joined 7 awareness workshops

**12** women received one-to-one support for domestic abuse

**6** new clients accessed help for the first time

**27** professionals attended our IWD Learning Resources launch

**1000+** resource downloads in the first two months



### Our Impact

#### Inspiration & Confidence

Workshops celebrating #AccelerateAction for International Women's Day inspired women to pursue education, work, and activism. Participants described feeling "motivated to never give up" and to "teach our daughters to fight for equality."

#### Safety & Support

We responded to a rise in domestic abuse disclosures, offering immediate risk assessment, housing and benefits support, and emotional care in a safe, trusted environment.

#### Collaboration & Change

Monthly drop-ins with the Scottish Women's Rights Centre and creative sessions with Engender and ScrapAntics connected women with vital legal and wellbeing resources.

# Connecting Cultures

A community-led project delivering workshops and partnerships across Scotland to promote diversity, inclusion, and resilience against hate and division.

**85%** of participants reported greater confidence in engaging with other cultures.

## Outcomes:

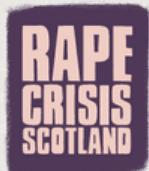
### Diversity Understood & Valued:

- 3 workshops (**35 participants**) improved awareness of bias and inclusion, encouraging cultural understanding and connection.



### Respectful & Inclusive Communities:

- 3 sessions and a multicultural flea market (**120 participants**) fostered dialogue, tolerance, and shared cultural experiences.



### Stronger Community Connections:

- 3 sessions (**95 participants**) with police, universities, and healthcare professionals built confidence and trust across communities.



### Resilience Against Division & Hate:

- 4 Rumours to Riots workshops (**142 participants**) tackled misinformation and hate, improving critical thinking and awareness. Resources adopted by prevention teams for national delivery.



### Embedding Best Practice:

- Equality events and anti-racism training strengthened partnerships; resources now shared with colleges and community organisations.

Participants: **392**

Workshops & Events Delivered: **16**

Organisations Engaged: **12**

Communities Represented:

**Scottish, Asian, Arab, African, Eastern European, and Ukrainian**



# A Year in Pictures



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



January



February



March

# Stobswell Together Drop In

A weekly session where you can get confidential advice and information, open to everyone:

- Money/debt advice
- Benefits
- Housing
- Employment
- Health and wellbeing
- Food larders
- Community activities
- Childcare

Fridays 10am - 3pm  
Unit 9b, Manhattan Works  
Dundonald St  
DD3 7PY

Contact: Chloe Munro  
e: chloe@diwc.co.uk  
t: 07725 074 088

Free refreshments  
(children welcome)



## Impact Highlights

- Individuals supported with immigration, housing, energy, and basic needs, including direct aid such as hygiene packs, food vouchers, and clothing.
- Multi-agency collaboration has enabled income maximisation, employability opportunities, and family support.
- Case studies show the value of trusted, one-to-one rapport, empowering people to take steps toward stability and opportunity.

“ Thank you so much for the help for people in need. ”

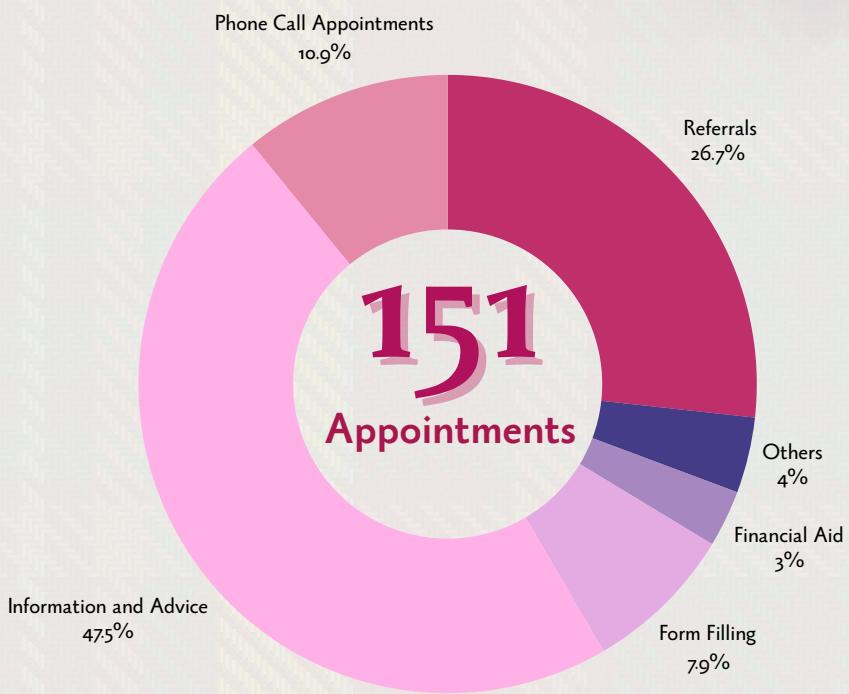
“ The support i received from everyone at DIWC helped build my confidence and give me much needed friendship. ”

# Stobswell West

Shifted from drop-in model to referral-based support, enabling holistic assessments and tailored referrals.

85 individuals and families received one-to-one support

44 referrals made to partner organisations such as Citizens Advice, Dundee Women's Aid and DCC Housing.



“ If I didn't go to the centre I would be at home except for visiting the park with my dogs. I wouldn't interact with people. The centre provides activities in a safe place which is good. I love going and meeting the friends I have made there. It's valuable for friendship and advice. ”

# Women Together Project

Since launching in October, our buddying program has provided vital support and opportunities for women to connect, learn, and grow at Dundee International Women's Centre (DIWC).

## Building Confidence & Opportunity

- Women accessed tailored guidance to choose classes and services that best suited their needs.
- New volunteering opportunities helped participants build skills, contribute to the community, and explore future career.
- Group trips and activities boosted social connections and improved wellbeing.

**20**  
Women  
attended trips



## Women's Voices

*"I have become more confident asking for support and it's no longer a shameful thing. I have learned a lot about myself."*

*"I came every day with my daughter and I make friends. I am very happy."*

*"Joining the beauty class was relaxing, and I realised I need to come more often."*

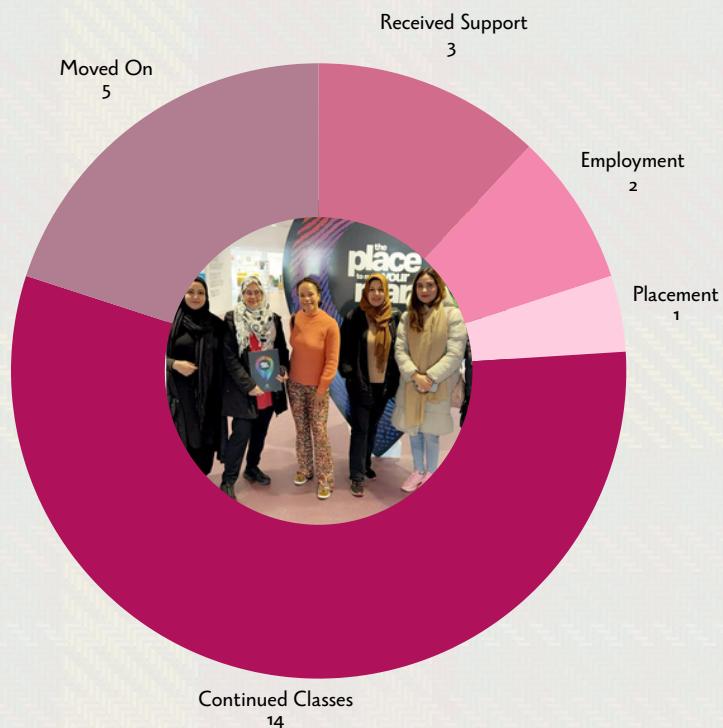
**24** women engaged with the Centre through this project.

## Case Studies of Change

**Member A** - A single mother facing anxiety found confidence and joy through volunteering and teaching beauty classes. She is now exploring education and career opportunities in the beauty industry.

**Member B** - A single mother living with cancer rebuilt her confidence through drop-in services and community support. She now attends events regularly and feels safe and connected.

## Outcomes



Our website, [diwc.co.uk](http://diwc.co.uk), is where our community comes to life online. It celebrates women's stories, showcases our classes and events, and invites everyone to be part of the DIWC journey. Through our digital space, we inspire, connect, and share the powerful impact of women supporting women.

# Our Online Presence



## Connecting Cultures

30 resources available for download

Most popular resource: Fake News worksheets

Total downloads since launch:

**1403**

Top 10 most visited pages include our **sewing** and **cooking** classes



## Respected, Equal & Safe

8 resources available for download

Most popular resource:

Domestic Abuse Awareness PowerPoint

Total downloads since launch:

**232**

## We work to improve the lives of women living in Dundee

We help women to gain the confidence, life skills, education and employability skills that will enable them to reach their full potential and prosper in their community.



**Classes and Groups**  
Check out our weekly timetable and what workshops are on.



**The Centre**  
What to expect when you visit.



**Events**  
What's coming up and when!



**Projects and Resources**  
See what training is available and download free resources.

How many views and followers did we get on our social medias?



**137k** views

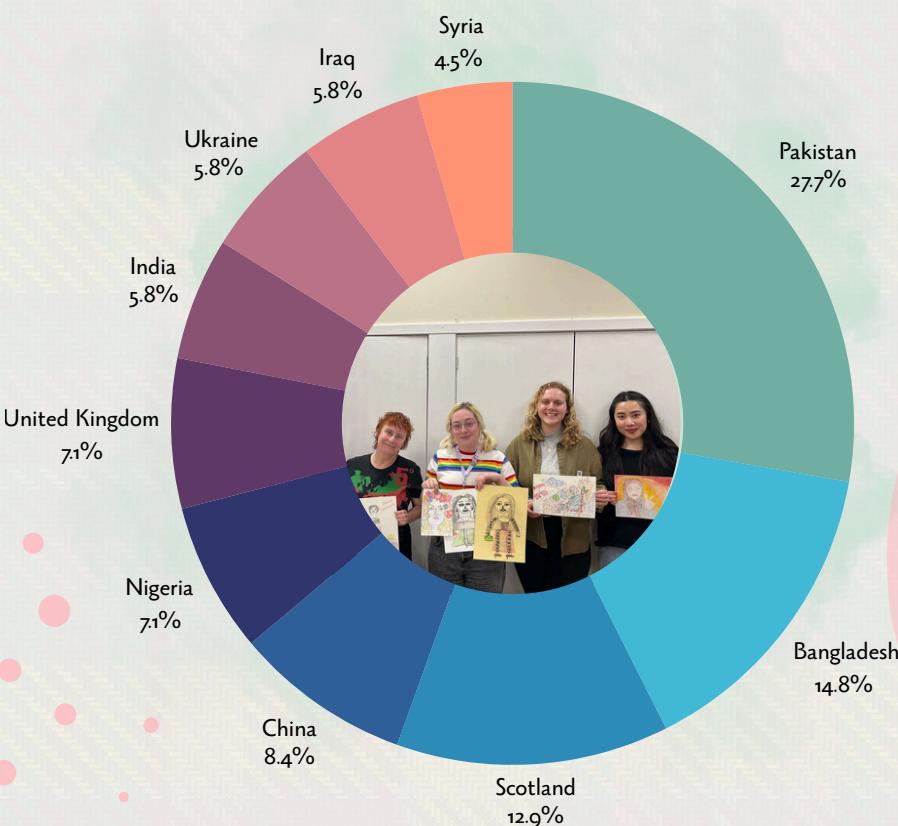
**723** followers



**44k** views

**459** followers

# Where do our members come from



What our learners say

*"The classes are excellent and i am learning new skills everyday"*

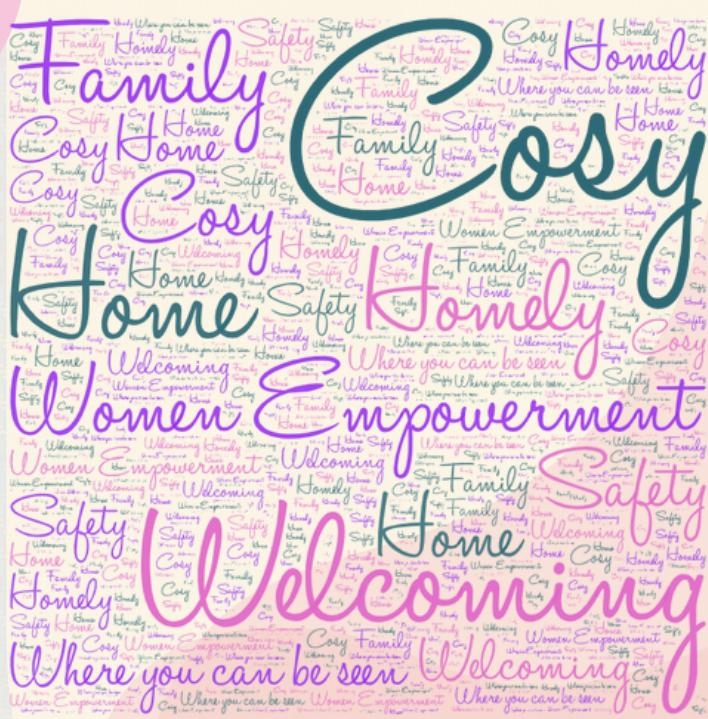
What our volunteers say

*"DIWC is a uniquely and welcoming environment where the sense of community is always present. i find such genuine happiness volunteering as an assistant in the ESOL class, especially when i am able to give back and see women flourish through their language learning."*

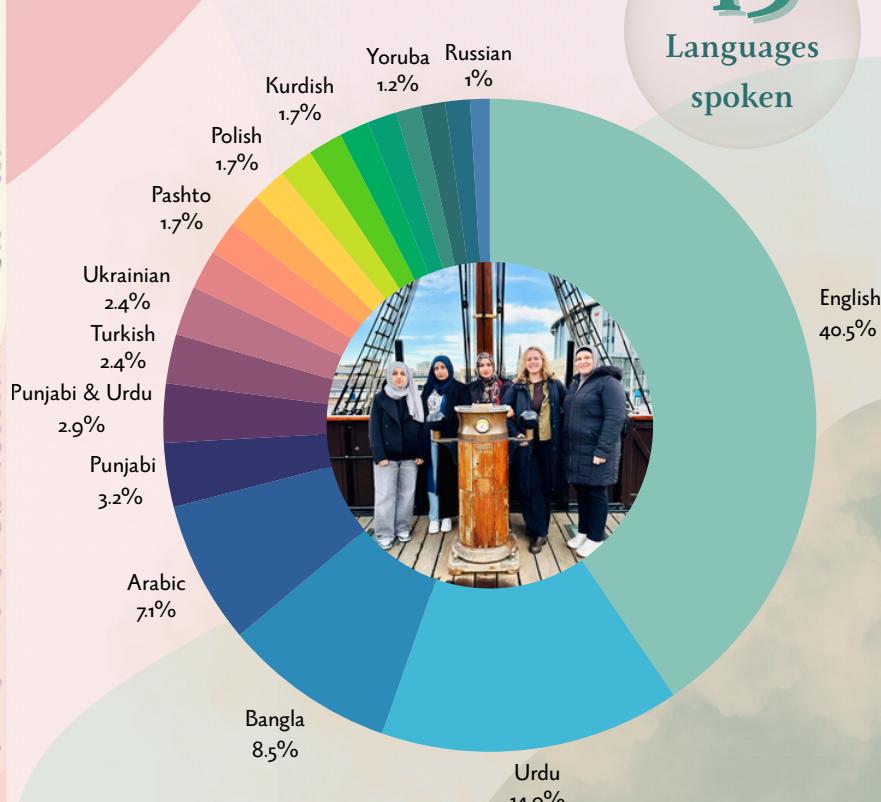
## Languages spoken by our members

1

word that comes to your mind when you think of DIWC



45  
Languages spoken



# Partners



- One Parent Families Scotland
- Citizens Advice Bureau Dundee
- NHS Tayside Interpretation and Translation Service
- Terrance Higgins Trust
- Abertay University
- Police Scotland Tayside
- Boomerang
- Dundee City Council Antisocial Behaviour Team
- Tayside Council on Alcohol
- Dundee Law Centre
- Dundee and Angus College
- Business Gateway
- Dundee City Council Community Health Team
- NHS Tayside Sexual and Reproductive Health
- NHS Tayside Apprenticeships and Careers
- Leisure and Culture Dundee
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Home Energy Scotland
- WRASAC
- Dundee City Council Housing
- Stobswell Forum
- Scottish Women Rights Centre
- Dundee University
- National Literacy Trust
- Volunteering Matters
- DVVA
- DCA
- Ninewells Hospital
- Grow
- Ishka
- What Matters To You
- St Andrews University
- Angus Council
- Scrap antics
- HIF
- Together to thrive
- Togs for tots
- Children Immunisation
- Yusuf Youth Initiative
- Groundswell Project
- Morgan Academy
- Future Leaders Academy
- Faith & Belief
- Strathairlie Arbroath
- Youth Link Scot
- Scotland Police (Dundee)
- DUSA
- FOSS
- Media Education
- Fareshare
- Rape Crisis Scotland
- Citizens Advice Edinburgh
- St Paul's Academy
- Asda Community Champions
- One Parent Families
- Iamme



# Funders

- Alexander Moncur
- Bank of Scotland
- National Lottery
- Cattanach Trust
- Museums Galleries Scotland
- Scottish Government
- Dundee City Council
- George and Grace Thomson
- Hillcrest
- Nine Trades of Dundee
- Northwood Trust
- Robertson Trust
- Rosa
- Rotary Club of Dundee
- Scottish Children's Lottery
- Tay Charitable Trust
- Tesco
- The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust
- The Ward Family Trust

**346** members



**34** staff

**28** volunteers



**9** members of  
the board



THANK YOU