



**Dundee International Women's Centre**

## **Impact Report 2019-20**



### **In 2019-20...**

179 women attended classes or groups every week; **73** women volunteered; **38** learners gained qualifications and **37** went on to find paid work.

### **Our learners say ...**

80% of our learners said that their **English skills had improved**

9 out of 10 learners **feel more confident** after attending groups at DIWC

### **Finances 2019-20**

Total Income £482,620

Total Expenditure £436,846

# A Year in the Life of DIWC



## April

Music therapy with Bazorg

**ESOL trip to St Andrews**

50th anniversary ladies' night

New! Jogging class

## May

DIWC 50th anniversary celebration days

3rd successful SQA external verification visit within a year

Cycle ride to Carnoustie

JK Law's workshop on legal and immigration advice

**ESOL trip to RRS Discovery**



## June

'The Great Get Together' Eid lunch club

'Let's talk about periods' workshop, DIWC Health Week

**DIWC graduation ceremonies**

Macara youth group reunion

## July

Introduction to Child, Health and Social Care course for 16-24 years-old.

**Hair braiding at Picnic in the Park, Baxter Park**

DIWC features in 'You'll have had yer feminism' mini book by Engender

Social Security Scotland consultation with CEMVO



## August

Kiltwalk fundraiser – staff raised £2,500

**50th anniversary family fun day at the Steeple**

DIWC open days

DIWC wins Scottish Women's Awards 2019 – Women Support Group of the Year

## September

DIWC is chosen as Dundee University Student charity of the year

Child healthy weight consultation with NHS Tayside

Rise & Shine is rated Very Good at an unannounced Care Inspectorate visit

Flourish class learn animation skills with DCA

**Mediterranean-themed AGM**





### October

#### Oral History workshop with Glasgow Women's Library

Bazorg group features in National Lottery's film "25 years: the cultural renaissance of Dundee, City of Discovery"

50th anniversary exhibition in Arthurstone Library for 10 weeks

Black History month lunch club  
Diwali Lunch Club

### November

"Empowering ethnic minority women to become entrepreneurs" event

Salma Hanif-Gani wins CEMVO Ethnic Minority Impact Awards 2019 – Empowering Women

#### 16 days of activism lunch club and film screening

DIWC wins SQA Star Award for Promoting Inclusion 2019



### December

New! ESOL for Childcare course starts

Christmas lunch and Class Christmas parties

Handbags with winter essentials donated to DIWC and given out to women in need in our local community

Video with directions to DIWC shared with the public

### January

DIWC students start ESOL taster course at D & A College

#### 50th anniversary volunteer visit to Glasgow Women's Library

'Imagine Scotland' exhibition at Dundee Central Library

Burns lunch club



### February

50th anniversary exhibition at Dundee Central Library for 5 weeks

3000 Facebook subscribers milestone reached

#### Queen Bees visit the V&A with a guided tour in Urdu and Punjabi



### March

#### Dundee Women's Festival events

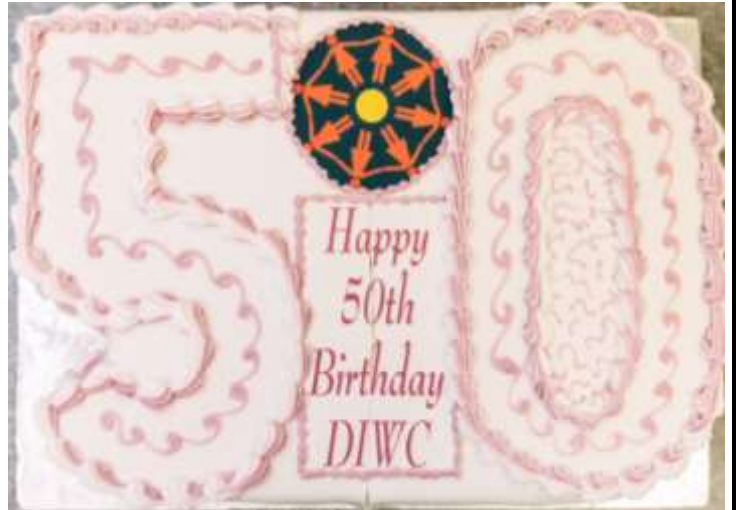
Lockdown begins – staff & learners get to grips with digital learning



While this was all happening our learners, volunteers and staff team were **ALSO** busy with Art; Baking; Queen Bees; Computing; Cooking; Cycling; Jogging; **PLUS** English (from literacy to college level); French; Sewing; Flourish; ESOL for Childcare; Employability Award; Employment placements **AND** monthly Lunch Clubs. Wow!

## “Where the world meets as neighbours” – DIWC’s 50th anniversary year

In 1969 a social worker involved in an outreach urban aid programme in the Hilltown area began to visit the families of overseas workers who had come to Dundee to work in the jute trade. The women were isolated and needed support to socialise and integrate. A year later, a voluntary committee of seven women was running the Dundee International Women’s Group. From a shop on Church Street, to a flat on Lyon Street, to a purpose-built centre on Dundonald Street, DIWC has empowered thousands of women from all cultures, backgrounds and walks of life to achieve their goals and become active agents of change in their local communities for the past fifty years.



### **In 2019-2020 it was time to celebrate!**

On our Celebration Days – 1st and 2nd May we had over 200 visitors - former and current learners, staff, volunteers, placement students, board members, partner organisations, and funders! We shared food, laughter and many memories sparked by our memory wall and “flag someone you know” photo activity. We were honoured to welcome our two oldest members who had started attending the centre in the early 1970s and cut our anniversary cake!



### **Macara Youth Group Reunion – June 2019**

Youth work started as early as 1972 at DIWC and our Macara youth group for teenagers was founded in 1998. 25 former youth group members and 6 former youth leaders took part in our Macara reunion and shared pizza (a Macara staple!) and memories sparked by the many photos on display. We had a lot of fun - the girls hadn’t forgotten how to party Macara-style!

### **Family Fun Day at the Steeple – August 2019**

We had 230 members of the public attending from a cross section of the Dundee community. Our memory wall was on the main stage and visitors were able to write their memories of DIWC in our memory book. We celebrated the different cultures represented in our history with multicultural food prepared by DIWC volunteers and multicultural entertainment.

### **The Creation of the DIWC Archives**

DIWC had thousands of photos, press cuttings, and minutes of meetings, reports, posters, censuses and artefacts collected since 1970. We organised and collated all existing archive and shared a selection on our social media pages throughout the year - our very popular “flashback posts” had thousands of views and brought back fond memories to many. We will donate the DIWC Archives to the Local History Centre in Dundee Central Library which will make them available to the public.



### **Our 50th Anniversary Memory Wall on Tour**

In spring 2019, our English for Life class learners created a beautiful memory wall made of five colourful canvases with archive documents from the five decades of DIWC history. Their exhibition was on display in the centre and at events organised by DIWC, but also in Arthurstone Library in autumn 2019 and in Dundee Central Library in February 2020. Our heritage will gain a Scotland-wide audience when our exhibition is held at Glasgow Women’s Library after the Covid-19 lockdown.

### **Oral History Project**

Our 50th anniversary volunteers conducted oral history interviews with 12 women from all backgrounds who have been involved in the life of DIWC since 1970. Interviewees were grateful for the chance to share their story knowing that they will “now be heard and remembered”. Volunteers had fascinating cross-generational exchanges with the interviewees and feel greater pride in being part of the present and future of DIWC history.

The interviews will be available to the public on our website and social media pages, and in the DIWC archives at the Central Library. They will also be included in the exhibition at Glasgow Women’s Library.

### **Partnership with Glasgow Women’s Library (GWL)**

GWL staff delivered two workshops to our 50th anniversary volunteers on ‘Oral History’ and ‘Archive Handling’ in October 2019. In January 2020 a group of them visited GWL and enjoyed a guided tour of the library collections and the archive room, as well as a delicious lunch. One volunteer said: “I’ve learnt that women fight for equal rights in every country and I want to donate books written by women from my culture to the library”. Another visit to GWL will take place when our exhibition is on display there.



This project was funded by

