

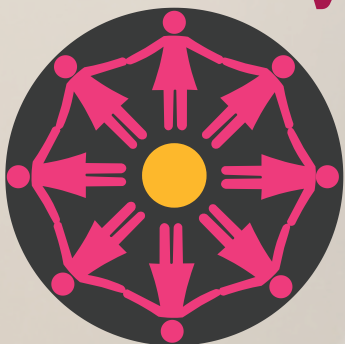
# Impact Report

2023

2024



**Dundee  
International  
Women's  
Centre**



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### Where are we from?

As we reflect on the past year I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the achievements we have accomplished together. This year has been a time of growth, resilience, and renewed commitment to our mission of empowering women from all backgrounds.

This year, we have seen the Centre flourish under new leadership, with Kristina completing her first full year as Manager. Her dedication, energy, and vision have invigorated our team, helping us to enhance our services and extend our impact within the community. Together with our committed staff, volunteers, and partners, DIWC continues to be a welcoming and inclusive space where women feel supported to learn, connect, and thrive.

One of our significant achievements this year was redefining our values through a collaborative process involving our learners, staff, and volunteers. This inclusive approach ensured that our new values truly reflect the heart of our organisation.

Our work has never been more essential as we continue to navigate the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis and its impact on our members. Yet, despite these difficulties, we have been able to introduce new programs, expand our reach, and provide vital support to women and families facing barriers in our community. The success of our projects are testaments to the dedication of our team and the resilience of the women we serve.

As we move forward, we remain focused on responding to the needs of our community, ensuring that every woman who comes through our doors is met with kindness, respect, and opportunities for growth. I am deeply grateful to our staff, volunteers, partners, and funders for their unwavering support. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Thank you for your continued belief in DIWC and our mission. Together, we are creating a brighter, more inclusive future for women in Dundee.

# A Message from the Manager



This year marks my first full year as the Manager at Dundee International Women's Centre, and I am truly proud of what we have achieved together as a team. The past year has been a period of growth, adaptation, and impact as we continued to support women in Dundee, particularly during a time when so many are facing financial challenges and social isolation due to the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

One of our key accomplishments this year was a collaborative effort to redefine the centre's values. This process was undertaken with the input of our learners, volunteers, and staff, ensuring that our values truly reflect the heart of our community. I am so pleased to share our new values: trust, respect, support, equality, and approachability. These values now guide everything we do, ensuring that DIWC remains a welcoming and empowering space for all.

Our Rise & Shine Creche has been a lifeline for many mothers, allowing 137 members to register their children so they could attend classes at the centre. The creche has not only provided a safe and nurturing environment for 66 children whose mothers were participating in our programs but has also welcomed 50 individuals from the wider community. The feedback we received from parents highlighted that having access to such a supportive service has made a significant difference to their wellbeing, providing them with much-needed space to learn, connect, and grow.

In response to the needs of our community, we

introduced several new classes, such as Life in the UK, Everyday Numbers, Toddler Plus 1, Success to Work, and Conversational Arabic. These new offerings have helped members gain essential skills, confidence, and knowledge to integrate better into the local community and prepare for employment.

Our Respected, Equal, and Safe project continued to make strides in raising awareness about gender-based violence. This year, we successfully educated members about the distinction between coercive or violent behaviours and cultural practices.

The Connecting Cultures project also gained momentum, equipping various organisations with the tools to address issues of racism, hate crime, and misinformation. Through this project, we were able to foster meaningful conversations, encourage commonality, and help break down harmful stereotypes.

Our Parenting Programme, which incorporated the Solihull Approach, saw 16 women complete the training, with many participants moving on to further education, volunteering, or finding employment. Additionally, several members successfully passed the Life in the UK Test, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our learners and staff.

This year has been incredibly rewarding, and I am grateful for the commitment of our staff, volunteers, and the broader community who support DIWC. Together, we are creating a more inclusive and supportive environment where women can thrive. I look forward to building on this success in the coming year as we continue to empower women and families in Dundee.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Piggott'.



# Our Values



Trust



Respect



Support



Equality



Approachable



“ A sense of community, support, and safety that can't be found anywhere else! ”



# Our Classes and Groups

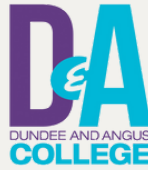
learners attended our Everyday English classes.

# 191



## ESOL

### English for Speakers of Other Languages



We offer 5 levels of English classes from complete beginners to Intermediate, and we are also partnered with Dundee & Angus College to offer English classes with a view to attending college in the future.

## DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP



- Sewing
  - Cooking
  - Art
  - French
  - Friendship
  - Flourish
  - Arabic
  - French
- ## Social Classes

# 91

 learners attended classes to improve their mental and physical wellbeing.

“ I gained more knowledge, skills, and self confidence ... Now I got a job in a nursery ... DIWC is the best place to learn skills, to improve language skills, to gain self confidence as well. ”

## Educational Classes

- NPA Childcare
- Job Search
- Success to Work



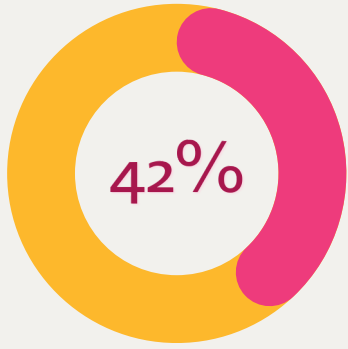
# 18

women achieved an SQA Qualification (Level 4 or 5)

We support women to get into employment through classes, arranging placements, and offering volunteering opportunities in the centre.

# 137

members registered their children in the creche in order to attend classes at the centre

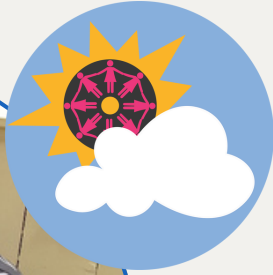


## Rise & Shine Creche

### In 1 month...

**124** children used the creche while their mother was in a class

The creche was used by **58** people from the community (non-members)



“ It helps me with my wellbeing because the creche are supportive to me, especially because I don't have family in Dundee. ”

### Play sessions allow me to...

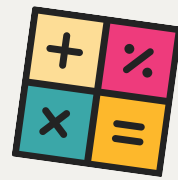
- Go running and enjoy my coffee
- Do my shopping
- Do my driving lessons
- Meet my friends
- Help my husband in the shop

“ Through Rise & Shine I become very happy with myself, and I don't feel depressed because I have a safe place for my child. ”





أهلاً وسهلاً



# 5 new classes

- Life in the UK
- Everyday Numbers
- Toddler Plus 1
- Success to Work
- Conversational Arabic

## What's New?



# 18 Health Check appointments

### Who's New?



Ana joined the team as our Cost of Living Project Worker. She has been a great addition to the centre, supporting learners and building relationships with other organisations.



Chloe moved from leading the Respected Equal and Safe project to the new Stobswell West Project, working closely with the DCC empowerment Team and Stobswell Forum to support families in the Stobswell area.

## Board Members who...

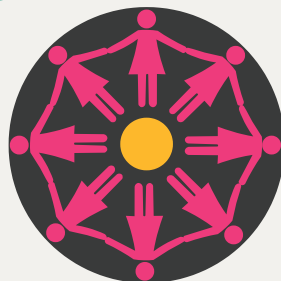
Joined

Left



Oyin  
Bilkis

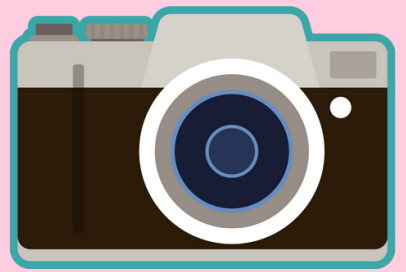
Tien  
Charlene  
Yasmine



Monika  
Michelle

Tien

# A Year in Pictures



April



May



June



July

Credit: Dundee Contemporary Arts



August



September



October



November



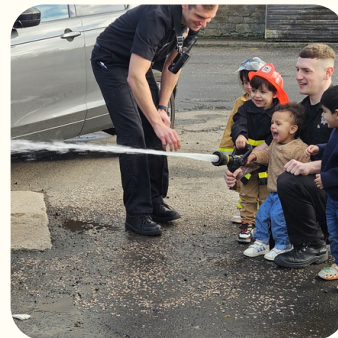
December



January



February



March





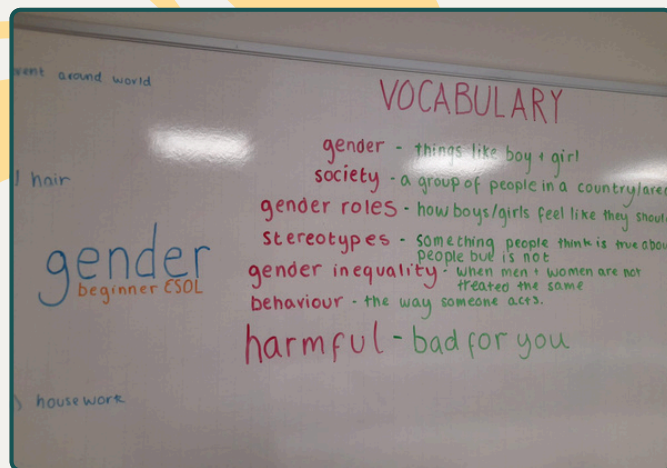
The Respected, Equal and Safe project aims to raise awareness for members and the wider community about how to combat violence against women and girls, what support is available, and how to recognise the difference between coercive or violent behaviour and cultural practises.

# Respected, Equal, and Safe

25  
people attended the 16 Days  
of Activism Art Gallery



4  
learners changed their  
mind to understand  
that husbands could be  
sexually violent  
towards their wife



104 learners attended  
a workshop

## Connecting Cultures

Connecting Cultures is a project which provides resources and training to organisations and communities regarding topics like culture and diversity, with a view to tackle and reduce racism, hate crime, and misinformation.

“  
I think what you say  
about encouraging  
people to find  
commonality is a  
great way to start to  
break down prejudice  
and stereotypes  
among students.  
”



310  
participants in training or  
workshops

# A Year in Numbers

41

went on to other learning



gained SQA  
Numeracy with  
Lead Scotland

8

40



went to college



6

went on to  
volunteering

5

passed the Life in  
the UK Test



25

completed the Solihull  
Parenting Programme

found work

16

6

achieved the  
SQA Employability Award  
Level 4

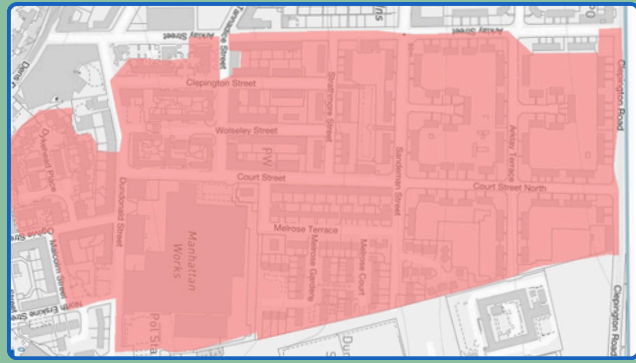


“  
[DIWC] encourages  
and educates  
women to work by  
making them  
confident.  
”



# Cost of Living

- Benefits
- Bills
- Housing
- Immigration
- Childcare Queries



## Stobswell West

1,937

residents live in Stobswell West



With funding from the National Lottery Ana has been running the Cost of Living Project since October. She has supported our learners through the cost of living crisis by informing them of available help, their entitlements, and empowering them to seek aid from other organisations.

## How can we support you?



HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND



**Housing Drop-In Session**

**Tuesday 12th December**  
**10am-12pm**

Ask questions and get support from a Dundee City Council Lettings Officer

If you need support with your appointment contact [ana.corrales@diwc.co.uk](mailto:ana.corrales@diwc.co.uk)

Unit 9B, Manhattan Works  
Dundonald Street, Dundee  
DD3 7PY

**Dundee** City Council  
[www.dundee.gov.uk](http://www.dundee.gov.uk)  
**CHANGING FOR THE FUTURE**

Dundee International Women's Centre

“ I don't usually dare asking questions. I don't really know what to ask when people have stalls in the community area even if I am very interested in this topic [energy saving] so I am happy we had this presentation today. I learnt new things and then I felt confident enough to ask my questions. ”

# Where are we from?

38  
countries

328  
members

“  
Women need to  
go some where  
and have fun for  
me study make me  
happy I love  
DIWC.”

“  
When we come to  
the DIWC we  
don't feel like a  
stranger we feel  
like we're in our  
family.”





# Partners



- Scotmid
- Dundee CRF
- Scottish Government
- Dundee Partnership
- Northwood
- Robertson Trust
- Women's Fund
- Cattanach
- DCC Equalities Fund
- DCC Common Good Fund
- DCC Stobswell West
- Hillcrest
- Maple Trust
- Women's Fund
- Nine Trades
- National Lottery Community Fund

- Bloom
- D&A College
- How It Felt
- Scrap Antics
- Police
- Dundee Biker Toy Run
- Togs for Tots



“

When I first came I suffered anxiety. Now I'm less anxious, at least about coming to the groups. I now mix with people and everyone is so friendly. I'm so glad I found this place. You don't realise just how much you've done for me.

”

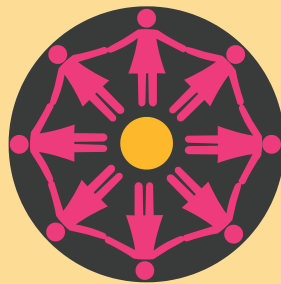


# Funders

# THANK YOU

12  
volunteers

25  
staff



9  
members of  
the Board

328  
members

