



BPW New Zealand President Hellen Swales 2017

Candle-lighting Message

Dear BPW Members,

As your newly elected President I welcome you and your friends to this important BPW tradition. Globally our members in over 100 countries will be celebrating, like us, on this special Candle-lighting evening.

BPW has a very proud record for working for change in New Zealand, which benefits both women and girls across all walks of life. We continue to build on the work and accomplishments of those women that have gone before us.

It is our custom to celebrate our sisters globally at our International candle-lighting evenings. Like all our sisters worldwide, we will be acknowledging the past, the present and the future at our club and federation levels as well as those International BPW women we know.

Earlier this year I attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. There I saw first-hand the efforts that our global BPW members bring to the fore with their worldwide projects to promote the priority theme - "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work". BPW New Zealand tackled the emerging issue "The Empowerment of Indigenous Women." We did this by encouraging our government to deliver a side event at CSW with country partners, Australia and Canada.

Globally it is recognised that leadership is the best tool to empower women in all phases and aspects of their lives - in the family home, workplace, in society and through the law - and we all need to prepare ourselves so we improve our performance at all levels.

My highlight at the United Nations was that I spoke on Women with Disabilities. With thanks for the work done by Dianne Glenn and Faye Gardiner, I spoke on much more with confidence.

It will be an exciting time for BPW NZ over the coming twelve months as our intention is to be all about motivating, mentoring, inspiring and providing support to our membership, to work on highlighted issues, developing campaigns and promoting BPW women in decision-making roles.

BPW has the very necessary tools needed to empower our membership along this pathway.

I look forward to meeting many New Zealand BPW members this year.

My best wishes to all of you,

Hellen Swales
BPW NZ President

BPW NEW ZEALAND

AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

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