**Central Charity's Monthly Update – November 2026 Edition**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the November edition of your monthly Central Charity Update.

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## 1. Forward, Mothers' Union, Forward! Celebrating Our Global Family in Durban

The recent Mothers' Union 150th anniversary conference in Durban was a powerful celebration of what makes our global movement so special - a deep sense of unity, a shared faith and the love and affection that connect members across the world. Bringing together nearly two thousand delegates from about fifty countries representing different cultures and backgrounds, the conference offered a precious opportunity to meet face-to-face, strengthen friendships and discover more about one another's lives and work. Above all, it was a reminder that, wherever we come from, we belong to one global family, united in prayer and service. As one of the delegates, Nobuhle Masemola-Kuzwayo, an MU central member based in Southern Africa, reflects: "The conference achieved the purpose of bringing the Mothers' Union from all walks of life. Via this event, we were able to connect, pray, cry, celebrate, and learn from one another with passion amidst this torn apart, hurting and broken world."

This spirit of togetherness was evident from the very beginning. At the opening Eucharist, the Dean of the Province, Bishop Steve Diseko, Bishop of Matlosana, inspired the congregation by calling out the familiar South African rallying cries, "Viva Mothers' Union, Viva!" and "Forward Mothers' Union, Forward!" His words captured the courage, strength and solidarity that lie at the heart of our work.

For delegates, one of the greatest joys was meeting fellow members from across Africa and around the world, sharing experiences and learning about the different ways in which Mothers' Union serves communities. Despite the diversity of languages, cultures and circumstances, the atmosphere was one of love, warmth, mutual respect and genuine care. Volunteer guides and fellow delegates helped create a welcoming environment in which everyone could feel valued, included and appreciated. The conference marketplace added another dimension to this celebration of diversity. National artefacts and locally made items offered glimpses into diverse cultures and traditions, prompting conversations, curiosity and a deeper appreciation of the richness of our global family.

Sometimes, the most meaningful connections were those that turned familiar voices into familiar faces. Nobuhle Masemola-Kuzwayo describes a particularly special moment:

"It was indeed wonderful to make new friends from different countries but, for me, the icing on the cake was to meet delegates from Mary Sumner House in

person and cementing strong and significant connections on a personal, face-to-face level with people I had previously only spoken to over the phone."

These moments of laughter, conversation, prayer and shared celebration are at the heart of what makes gathering together so powerful. The Durban conference was more than a commemoration of 150 remarkable years - it was a joyful affirmation that Mothers' Union is a living, loving and connected worldwide family.

You can find all the post-Durban articles, PowerPoint presentation and more on our website here





**2. Working Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls**

*Lessons and reflections from the 2026 EVAWG Summit*




On Friday 23 October, colleagues from the central charity attended the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Summit 2026 at Marlborough College in Wiltshire. It was a powerful and thought-provoking day, bringing together survivors, campaigners, policymakers, judges, police leaders, MPs, charities and community organisations, all committed to tackling violence against women and girls.

The summit featured contributions from a range of prominent speakers and included an unexpected guest: Her Majesty Queen Camilla, whose attendance had not been announced in advance. She joined the panel and spoke briefly, adding to an already memorable day. The summit concluded with a Question Time-style discussion chaired by Fiona Bruce.

Some of the discussions were deeply challenging, particularly the session led by criminal behaviour analyst Laura Richards. They highlighted the devastating impact of violence and abuse, and the urgent need to go beyond raising awareness. Meaningful change requires collective action, education and a

willingness to challenge the attitudes and behaviours that allow abuse to continue.

This is work to which Mothers' Union is deeply committed. Through our RISE UP programme, members are encouraged to pray, speak out against injustice, support those affected by gender-based violence and take practical action in their communities. Our engagement with the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign provides a further opportunity to raise awareness, challenge harmful attitudes and create space for important conversations in our churches and communities.

The summit was a timely reminder that we all have a part to play in creating a world where women and girls can live free from violence and abuse**.** We can make a difference by listening without judgement, learning to recognise the signs of abuse, offering compassionate support and working alongside local organisations and services to bring about lasting change.

Across our worldwide Mothers' Union family, we have faith, relationships and community networks to make a real difference. As we look towards the 16 Days of Activism, how might we build on the work already taking place in our different contexts, encouraging one another to speak out, offer support and help create safer communities for women and girls everywhere?

To learn more about the summit, explore the discussions and hear from the speakers, visit the EVAWG Summit 2026 website, which includes media coverage, videos and photographs from the day.

### 3. Standing Together for Dignity and Safety: 16 Days of Activism 2026

Gender-based violence can and must be prevented. Every year, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign gives us an opportunity to raise awareness, speak out against injustice and take action to help end violence against women and girls.

This year, Mothers' Union's campaign theme is 'Together for Dignity and Safety', reflecting our shared commitment to promoting peace in every home and community. Our sub-theme, Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity, aligns with the United Nations campaign and calls on us to work towards a world where survivors are supported, justice is pursued and perpetrators are held accountable.

As Mothers' Union, we have an important role to play. Through our faith, prayers, conversations and practical action, we can help challenge these harmful attitudes, support people affected by abuse and encourage safer communities.

**Join us in prayer and action – Sunday 22 November**

In anticipation of the campaign, members are warmly invited to join the Church of England's online service on Sunday 22 November at 9am. The service will draw on the 16 Days resources and will be available to watch live and afterwards on the Church of England's YouTube channel, and Facebook page.

**YouTube Channel:** https://www.youtube.com/@TheChurchofEngland

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland?locale=en_GB

Throughout the campaign, members are also encouraged to join the daily Mothers' Union midday prayers on our Facebook page, as we come together in prayer for survivors, families and communities affected by gender-based violence.

**Resources to support your activities**

A range of resources is now available on the Mothers' Union website and Resource Hub. These include a campaign booklet and the following faith resources website and Resource Hub to help members, branches and dioceses take part in the campaign. Thanks to Lucy Bubb and the Faith Working Group for their work in developing these valuable resources. These include a campaign booklet and a selection of faith resources:

- **Traditional service outline**, including an option for a Eucharistic Prayer, two versions of intercessions, additional prayers and suggested hymns.

- **Reflective service** for prayer and contemplation.
- **Bible-based reflections** to encourage deeper engagement with the issues.
- **Prayer card**, suitable for sharing with others or displaying as a poster.
- **Candle prayer mat** to support prayer and reflection.

This year, we are also taking a broader approach to exploring gender-based violence. During the campaign, we will publish a series of articles examining how domestic abuse intersects with modern slavery and our prisons programme. These will help us consider the different ways violence and exploitation affect individuals and families, and how our work can contribute to change. Further details will be shared as the articles become available.

**Help spread the message**

Many members have previously supported the campaign by wearing the ’1 in 3‘ badges to raise awareness of the prevalence of violence against women. Unfortunately, the badges are currently out of stock and new ones will not be ready for this year's campaign. Members can download the campaign logo from the Resource Hub and explore whether a local badge maker can produce them.

Please also help us extend the reach of the campaign by sharing Mothers’ Union social media posts with your own networks. Every conversation, shared resource and act of solidarity can help bring us closer to a world where women and girls can live with dignity and safety.

**We would love to hear from you!**

How will you or your branch be participating in the 16 Days of Activism this year? Whether you are organising a prayer service, hosting a discussion, sharing campaign resources or taking another practical step, we would love to hear your stories.

Please share your activities, photographs and reflections with the Communications Team at **communications@mothersunion.org**. Your contribution could inspire other members and help demonstrate the difference we can make when we stand together.

Together, through prayer, awareness and action, we can help build a world where dignity is upheld, survivors are protected and violence against women and girls is no longer tolerated.

**4. Everyday Faith app: The Path to Peace (16-21 Nov)**

As part of our 150th anniversary celebrations, two of our Mothers' Union chaplains, The Revd Mary Harwood (Oxford) and The Revd Canon Vivien Gisby (Chester), have worked with Lucy Bubb, our Faith and Church Engagement Manager, to create Bible-based reflections and prayers for the Church of England's Everyday Faith app.

Starting on Monday 16 November, the reflections will explore the theme of 'The Path of Peace'. Drawing on the idea that true peace begins with God and flows outward into community and action, we will journey together as we reflect on our lives and relationships as peace-builders, learning to be Christ-like as we actively love and forgive.

The app is free to download for iOS and Android from the relevant app store and is optimised for Apple devices running iOS 15.0 and above, and Android 14 and above.

**5. Exciting News! Fundraising Community of Interest Starts in January**

Mothers' Union is restarting its Fundraising Community of Interest (COI) in January 2027, and we would love to hear from members who are interested in being part of it.

We are keen to bring together a broad cross-section of members from across our dioceses to share ideas, experiences and good practice, and to explore opportunities to strengthen fundraising across Mothers' Union.

If you are interested in joining the group, please complete the expression of interest form using the link below:

The launch date is still to be confirmed. Those who express an interest will receive the date, time and Zoom joining details in due course.

Could you, or someone in your diocese, help shape the future of fundraising in Mothers' Union? We look forward to hearing from you!

Expression of Interest: Joining the Fundraising COI – Fill out form

**6. Give the Gift of Membership This Christmas**

Christmas is coming, and what better time to give a gift that can bring people together, build friendships and transform lives?




Our 'Gift of Membership' is a thoughtful way to introduce someone you love to Mothers' Union. It could be a daughter, son, daughter-in-law, neighbour, friend or work colleague who is exploring their faith. Perhaps you have a new neighbour who is settling into the community and would love the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Whatever the reason, Gift of Membership is a gift that keeps on giving – offering a sense of belonging, friendship, faith, and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families and communities.

This Christmas, why not give something meaningful to someone special? Visit the MU Shop and discover the Gift of Membership – a life-transforming gift for someone you love. A Gift Of Membership – Mothers' Union Shop

## 7. Dates for Your Diary

Please make a note of the following dates in your diary:

- **150th Anniversary Support Meeting – 12 November, 6:30pm – 7:30pm**

  Join us for a virtual celebration of our 150th Anniversary Challenges and all the wonderful things we have achieved together! Bring along your biscuits, cake, tea, wine, champagne or drink of choice as we raise a glass, celebrate our successes and give thanks for the incredible contributions of our members in making this milestone year so special.

- **Provincial & Diocesan Chaplain Community Of Interest – 30 November, 2pm - 3pm**

- **Faith Community of Interest – 4 December, 10am - 11am**

## 8. Beat The Rush! Get Your Christmas Cards Sorted Early.

Now is the perfect time to start preparing the Christmas cards you will be sending to family, friends, and loved ones.




Our Christmas Card collection includes beautiful traditional, faith-inspired, and festive designs, perfect for sharing warm wishes and thoughtful messages this season.

Choose your cards early and enjoy a little more time to write each one with care. By shopping from our online shop, you will also be helping to support our work and make a difference to families and communities.

**9. Christmas Tree Festivals!**

Does your church host a Christmas tree festival? Do you know of other local churches who host a Christmas tree festival? We would love there to be a Mothers' Union decorated tree in every Christmas tree festival and so by mid-November we will be providing templates for MU-focused baubles for you to print and use.

If you've never thought of getting involved, now is your chance! Keep an eye out for more communications about this.

**10. MU Live - Your Stories bring Mothers' Union to life!**

We encourage all dioceses to continue submitting updates on their activities through MU Live and to ensure that all reports for 2026 are completed by 29 January 2027.

Every story shared helps us celebrate the amazing work happening across our movement. From small acts of kindness to larger community initiatives, these stories inspire others, strengthen our connections and demonstrate how faith in action transforms lives every day.

If you have any questions or encounter any problems, please contact Jeanette.Lawrence@mothersunion.org

Thank you for your continued support!

**Membership Team**
**Central Charity**
Mary Sumner House
membership@mothersunion.org