



# Drumchapel

Thriving Places Community

## news

SPRING 2024



# Drumchapel Celebrates INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024

## International Women's Day

This year International Women's Day acquires a special meaning due to many events taking place across the world which affect women directly or indirectly. The massacre which is taking place in Palestine where more than 30000 Palestinians have been slaughtered, most of whom are children and women, the use of rape as a weapon of war in Sudan and in many other countries across the world, the forced conscription of men in the Ukraine – Russia war leaving women alone to raise the children and sustain the families left behind, are three examples of how women are feeling the brunt of the unjust and unequal societies that we live in across the world.

In Scotland, perhaps not as openly violent as in other countries, women still suffer the effects of global issues. Recently, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation published a report on poverty in Scotland which states that just over 10% of workers in Scotland are locked in persistent poverty and of these, 72% are women who are paid under the real living wage, which is less than £12 per hour. Families that are most likely to experience poverty in greater scale, are single parent led households, where, according to the Poverty Alliance, 90% are women. By not being able to make ends meet, many women have been forced to resort to the local foodbank, which has become their local shop!

The theme of this year's International Women's Day, "Inspire Inclusion", delivers a clear message of what is minimally required to change this context of injustice and inequality, felt even more by women. Women must be included in decisions that affect them,

directly or indirectly, whether as individuals, as families, or as communities. Women have a right to work, understood as a meaningful activity, with a salary that comfortably covers their needs. If they are unable to work, a supportive social security system should be in place to guarantee a life of dignity and respect. Every woman, indeed, every person, has a right to a health and educational systems which contribute to families being able to live a healthy life and acquire the necessary skills to analyse critically and participate actively in society.

In this struggle to include women in society, there is also a role for men, which is at least to recognise the challenging reality that many women face daily. That recognition is a starting point for men which should then lead to engaging positively together with women, in the struggle to build a rights-based society of justice and equality. However, these rights will only be recognised and implemented if women themselves have more control over their lives, supported in solidarity by men. There are many women's groups who contribute to organising women, all over the world, aware that this struggle cannot be taken on individually. Locally, in Drumchapel, the WOW group has taken on this challenge, and is open to all women who are willing to take on the enormous task of building a new society where justice, equality and solidarity are the underlying norms.

Real, effective and recognised participation of both women and men, are key to "inspiring inclusion"!



## The WOW Group - Our story so far...

The Women of Wonder (WOW) group came together as part of a course in 2022. The aim of the course was to provide a safe space where women could discuss issues that affect them such as gender-based violence. When the course came to an end the women decided that they wanted to keep meeting and build a supportive environment for any woman to join. The group then decided to start working towards a community event to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) 2023.

The group has now grown to 32 women who come together to support and encourage each other. Over the past year, and after the success of International Women's Day 2023, we have been meeting on a regular basis. As part of the celebrations around International Women's Day, we organised an afternoon tea in the Hilton Hotel, and visited the Glasgow Central Mosque as part of our culture awareness.

This year we have been busy planning International Women's Day 2024 with a series of workshops. One workshop was with Karen Dunbar to create a song and the other with Ailsa, from the Citizens Theatre, to make some purple flowers to give out on IWD.

The WOW course will be running again from August this year, for any woman who would like to be part of the group. Keep an eye on 3D Drumchapel & G15 Thriving Places social media for further details.

**The WOW group meets during term time every Thursday 9.30 - 11.30am in Drumchapel Community Centre.**





# A picture tells a 1000 stories







Claire

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

I do, I have support, I feel wanted and included in every way. Which was not always the case

I know I've got my own independence. And I am who I am today. I stand my own ground. Tell people no when I want. I'm not just a mum, I'm not just that I'm Claire, I am me.



Michelle

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

Yes, I feel included in society. I am aware there are still inequalities between men and women, such as wages and positions in workplaces. I think this is getting better and women are getting better standing up and making their voices heard and calling out inequalities.

**Advice to younger self?**

You will end up where you are supposed to be.



Zipura

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

I would say 50/50, because obviously there are certain jobs that women want to do, but they don't get a chance. Because they say that oh, it's about more males' jobs. Women have got more responsibilities.



Karen

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

Kind of 50/50, I wouldn't say that I'm excluded but not fully included I think it is a man's world. Full inclusion would be where women and men are paid equally. They get an equal chance with jobs and prospects where as at the moment men have got a better chance.

**Advice to younger self?**

Just take one day at a time and live your life don't let anything hold you back.



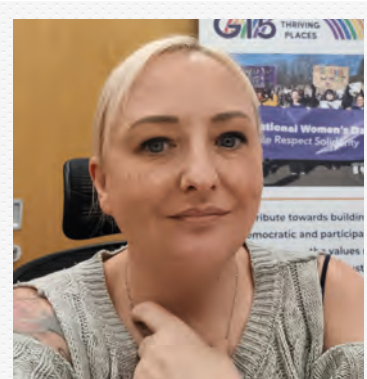
Laura

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

I feel included in society, but it can still be a struggle even today, for example to be equal to men, I think there is still a major gap between women and men in terms of workplace and expectations put on them by society.

**Advice to younger self?**

Be strong, be forceful and don't take no for an answer.



Tracy

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

Yes, I do feel included in society as a woman. I still believe it's a man's world, but I don't let that hold me back as the barriers that women face can be changed. I feel this way because men and women that have been in my life have shown me that I can achieve anything through determination and hard work.

I would tell myself to never give up or have any regrets as that's what has made me who I am today even though I am not perfect I am in charge of my own happiness and success.



*Wei Ai*

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

I feel included in most places.

**Advice to younger self?**

Stand up for yourself more, be more confident and don't be afraid of anything.



*Dion*

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

I feel included in society,

**Advice to younger self?**

Enjoy life and don't take yourself too seriously.



*Marion*

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

Yes, I feel valued within the Drumchapel Community.

**Advice to younger self?**

To be the person I want to be not the person everyone else wants me to be



*Jade*

**Advice to younger self?**

Be proud of the woman you are because you fought to be her. I think that's the best thing.



*Gemma*

**Advice to younger self?**

Speak up against things. Don't let anyone take you for a mug and just continue to love and respect everybody.



*Kelly*

There have been some challenges where people probably think, you're tougher than me. But when they get to know you as a person, you're actually a nice person and not that tough person you are made out to be.

**What advice would you give to younger Kelly?**

If I knew then what I know now I would have made better choices. But my choices made me the mother I am today so they're great choices, but if I knew then there would be probably a different person in front of you today.



*Mhari*

**As a woman, do you feel included in society?**

Yes, I feel included.

**Advice to younger self?**

To have more confidence in myself.

# Thank you to all of our partners on the day.

## **Amma Birth Companions**

info@ammabirthcompanions.org | 0141 471 9799

## **Antonine Court**

admin@antonine.org | 0141 944 6393

## **Cernach Housing Association**

admin@cernachha.co.uk | 0141 944 3860

## **Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland**

adviceline@chss.org.uk

## **Drumchapel Cycle Hub**

anne@drumchapelcyclehub.org.uk

## **Fortune Works**

admin@enableglasgow.org.uk

## **Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis**

www.glasgowclyderapecrisis.org.uk

## **Glasgow Helps**

0141 276 1185

## **Life Link**

www.lifelink.org.uk

## **National Autistic Society**

www.autism.org.uk

## **North West Carers**

Catherine.McLeod@glasgow.gov.uk

## **North West Health Improvement**

fern.macdonald2@ggc.scot.nhs.uk or josh.henderson@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

## **North West Recovery Communities**

info@nwrc-glasgow.co.uk

## **Scottish Fire & Rescue**

carol.smith2@firescotland.gov.uk or catherine.wallace@firescotland.gov.uk

**New Hope Community, St. Andrew's Church Warm Welcome Cafe**

&

**Officers from Drumchapel Police Station**



**The WOW Group**  
Women of Wonder