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White Ribbon Bulletin

World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

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ALCOHOL AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Major obstacle to development



Code of Ethics

World Woman's Christian Temperance Union CODE OF ETHICS

The code of ethics gives guidelines which serve as a foundation for action and cooperation within the World Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WWCTU) as an organization, as well as with external partners.

The WWCTU wishes to focus on the integrity of its members to strengthen the organization's reputation. The code of ethics has its roots in Christian values that create good relations in any community. Examples include:

- Respect
- Fairness/Justice
- Loyalty
- Reliability
- Democracy
- Equality and solidarity

One must treat others as one would like to be treated. Adhering to such core values within the organization will have positive ripple effects and give a solid boost to our goal achievement. The WWCTU aims are:

- To strengthen preventative work with all kinds of addictive substances
- To protect the family
- To encourage women to join in temperance work
- To promote equality in civil rights
- To promote international peace and understanding
- To protect the home and community
- To build public sentiment for sobriety
- To promote good citizenship
- To instill Christian principles into the character of our children
- To inform society about the values of total abstinence by providing scientific facts concerning the nature and effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- To promote just and fair laws

To reach these objectives, the WWCTU continues to:

- Teach the scientific facts about the effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on the body and on society in general
- Promote laws for such teaching throughout society
- Produce teaching aids for use in the classroom and the church
- Distribute videos, provide websites and other electronic means to reach as many as possible
- Conduct alcohol and drug workshops

The WWCTU Board is to ensure that the organization operates in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The WWCTU is a Christ-based organization with the Holy Bible as a guideline for its activities.

The WWCTU is a non-partisan, non-denominational, non-profit organization.

Dear all,

I recently attended the 6th Conference for the World Forum against Drugs in Gothenburg, Sweden. Wonderful speakers on a wide range of topics inspired the several hundred delegates who attended from all over the world. It re-enforced the importance of trying new ways to reach people. The need is greater than ever and our work will never be finished. It is DO-ABLE as long as we don't lose hope. On page 2 you can read our WWCTU Code of Ethics. We stand by them; no exceptions.



*Margaret Ostenstad
World President*

The WWCTU has always been proud of its heritage and I am saddened that prime focus these past two years has been to work very hard on protecting and preserving our history. It is our heritage! Past warriors and leaders are in danger of their good names and reputations being distorted or blackened on social media. It is already happening! Historical negationism, otherwise known as rewriting history is occurring regularly with online inferences about Frances Willard's life, attitudes and activities. Persons engaged in these distortions of facts are in no way affiliated with WWCTU. We must not allow them to abuse/denigrate our history to «suit» modern-day ideas. I have sent our original history to all National Presidents around the world for their websites and archives. Like all things worth having, it came at a price. Treasure it!

St. Augustine once defined a nation/organization "as a multitude of rational beings united by the common objects of love.» Let our common object be the example Jesus set for us in Matt 25:40 -«And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.»

He gave His all to those He loved, and called out to all to hear those words which had the power to save. He raised the dead, and He healed the sick. He walked for miles, and He carried the cross up to the destiny of you and me. On the day He knew He would be betrayed, He gave the most powerful message ever known to men. He knew He was faced with death, and yet His glory was ready to shine. Though He knew of the pain and suffering that was in store, He walked that road with us in His heart.

The Crusade Psalm says it so clearly! Prayer has always been our walk and the Lord has heard our prayers. Romans 12:2. We thank God, for a new member country, Thailand, and for the news that the Vita Bandet in Sweden is still working!

Remember - It is not the honour you take with you, it is the heritage you leave behind.

In Christ's love,
Margaret



Invitation to World Convention

Organized maternal love since 1896 -

The Finnish White Ribbon Union

The Finnish White Ribbon Union, founded in 1905, is a Christian values-based, national organization working against substance abuse. Its members are women who identify with the principles of the Union. As an organization, we support individuals and families in finding a balanced and healthy lifestyle, as well as call our citizens to work for a substance-free society. Our work is aimed at both men and women. The objective of White Ribbon work is to offer various forms of support to people who have problems. Our languages of service are Finnish, Swedish and English.

The White Ribbon movement was founded in North America in the 1870's. Over the following decades it expanded into an international movement with its current members residing in over 50 countries. The international organization presiding over national unions is called the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, WWCTU. The White Ribbon movement entered Finland in 1896 when the first local association was founded in Turku. Some of the early influential personalities were the Finnish women's rights advocate Alli Trygg-Helenius and the Union's first travel secretary Maria Stenroth, also known by her author name Marja Salmela. Activities in the early years focused on helping the most vulnerable groups in society, i.e. disadvantaged women and children. Shelters and half-way houses for women as well as children's homes for boys and girls





were founded in many parts of the country. Youth clubs were developed as a tool for working with youth. The Finnish White Ribbon union played an influential role in obtaining the first female police officers in Finland.

White Ribbon work has always been wide-ranging in the Finland. From the beginning, the White Ribbon movement has been active both in association with the Lutheran church and as an ecumenical movement. Adhering to democratic practices and laws has been essential in maintaining a spirit of tolerance in societal connections. The democratic tradition was early on rooted into the Union by some of the first Finnish female members of Parliament and White Ribbon sisters, e.g. Aleksandra Gripenberg and Hedvig Sohlberg. The international White Ribbon movement battled strongly for women's right to vote, as did the Finnish White Ribbon sisters in support of a common and equal right to vote.

Today our work is centered around families, personal discussions with people needing support, supportive group activities, and maintaining a student home for women in Helsinki. Since 1909, the Union publishes a magazine called Valkonauha (The White Ribbon). One of the capital area local associations, Greater Helsinki White Ribbon Association, maintains a retirement home named Liisankoti (Liisa Home) for women recovering from substance abuse.

The Union has nine local associations in eight cities: Helsinki, Hämeenlinna, Kuopio, Lappeenranta, Mikkeli, Oulu, Tampere and Turku.

A vision without mission is dreaming.

A mission without vision is toil.

A mission with a vision is the hope of the world.(Henri Nouwen)

We look forward to hosting the 41st triennial World WCTU Convention to be held in culturally rich Helsinki, Finland from 10-15 July, 2019. Finland's Convention Committee has the pleasure of working on the Convention program with the World President and Officers. More details in the next issue of the White Ribbon Bulletin.

Looking forward to seeing YOU in Helsinki in 2019.

-Isaiah 40:11 «He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart....»

Pirkko Larkela
National President

Irja Eskelinen
Organization Secretary



United Nations



END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

SDG 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Vicious cycle of alcohol & poverty

Alcohol has various adverse effects on people's economic status while economic status in turn affects alcohol use in many ways.

Alcohol can push people into poverty and lock them, their families and entire communities there over generations. The direct costs of alcohol harm to the household are often considerable and frequently underestimated – and put a big burden on development.

- Latin America: alcohol has become the leading cause of male death and disability threatening further progress and sustainable development¹
- A study in Sri Lanka found that over 10% of male respondents reported spending as much as or more than their regular income on alcohol²



END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY

SDG 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Vicious cycle of deprivation, alcohol, hunger

In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), alcohol tends to crowd out other more productive household spending, such as spending on education, health care and healthy food.

Both recognized and unrecognized alcohol expenditures have highly damaging impact on the

most deprived families and communities. Desperately needed resources are being taken away from the little available for food and other basics.

People with lower socio-economic status are more exposed and more vulnerable to tangible problems and negative consequences of alcohol use. This vulnerability is often passed on through generations. Thus, alcohol harm often contributes to the vicious cycle of deprivation, vulnerability and hunger.

- Socio-economically exposed people are less able to avoid adverse consequences of their behavior due to a lack of resources³
- People in poor and vulnerable communities have less extensive support networks, i.e., fewer factors or persons to motivate them to address alcohol problems⁴



Anne Bergen
Organization Secretary

2018 is almost half gone but it is good to be able to report once again on the work that is being done by WCTU members and supporters in various parts of the world. It is being remembered for past achievements as well as impacting women and children now in developing countries like Vanuatu and Kenya. Anne

KENYA: In Kenya, Knollyne Gai, who lives near Lake Victoria, speaks about WCTU wherever she goes and will be speaking at a girls' camp in August. Florence Onsando and Alice Obaga have presented radio broadcasts that have been very much appreciated. Florence works in the Turning Point House with Pr. Dr. John Macharia Gichuiri, a great supporter of our work, helping God's people who are trapped in the addictive habit of drinking alcohol, smoking, and doing drugs. Pastor Macharia has spoken to 100s of students and always gets them to sign the pledge not to drink alcohol or take other drugs.



Ladies in their WCTU uniform - blue tops

VANUATU: The White Ribbon Sisters in Vanuatu are actively meeting under the leadership of Mrs. Nanjoo Kim, missionary from Korea, and their President, Elizabeth Molidorodoro. They are about to celebrate their third birthday. With the help of Mrs. Seung Hyun Seo, secretary of NZKWCTU, they are going to plant new branches among wives of missionaries and students of a Presbyterian theological seminary in Vanuatu.



Ladies in their WCTU uniform - blue tops

I have attended two functions so far this year that celebrate WCTU history.

On 7th March I attended a reception at Government House in Wellington, New Zealand, to celebrate 125 years of women's suffrage in NZ. I received the invitation as President of WCTU Australia and Organization Secretary of WWCTU.

It was primarily the work of WCTU members who were inspired and directed by Kate Sheppard, the NZ WCTU National legislative and franchise department superintendent, to gather nearly 32,000 signatures on the franchise petitions that resulted in NZ becoming the first country in the world to give women the vote.



Annette Paterson, NZ WCTU President (right), with Anne Bergen, four WCTU members and a MP.



Dawn Giddings welcoming guests

On 1st May I opened a wonderful exhibition of the 132 year history of the WCTU of South Australia that had been prepared by a team of enthusiastic and dedicated WCTU members and supporters, led by the President of WCTU of South Australia, Mrs Dawn Giddings. It was mainly due to the work of WCTU that women in South Australia gained the vote in 1894, the first in Australia and only the second in the world after New Zealand.

An FASD advertisement that WCTU Australia has put on a bus for 32 weeks





Strength for Today

1 Peter 1:2-9 NLT

“God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Jesus Christ and are cleansed by His blood. May you have more and more of God’s special favour and wonderful peace.

All honour to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by His boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead.

For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for His children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

And God, in His mighty power, will protect you until you receive this salvation, because you are trusting Him. It will be revealed on the last day for all to see.

So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while.

These trials are only to test your faith, to show that it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold--and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

You love Him even though you have never seen Him. Though you do not see Him, you trust Him; and even now you are happy with a glorious, inexpressible joy.

Your reward for trusting Him will be the salvation of your souls.”

What beautiful promises are contained in this Bible passage! Let us thank God for them.

World Convention July 10 - 15, 2019

World Convention Keynote Speaker:

“This is not a war on drugs. It is a defense of our brains”

*Bertha K Madras, PhD
Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry*

*McLean Hospital
Harvard Medical School*



Our Prayer

Dear Father, We want to thank You today for the wonderful privilege we have of being Your children. Thank You for the Holy Spirit which is at work in our hearts, cleansing us from sin and giving us the power to follow Your will.

We do ask today that You will take our lives and make them like You, that You will forgive our sinfulness and give us the Holy Spirit to live in us. Thank you for the privilege we have of being born again as members of the family of God. We praise You for the hope we have of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. We thank You for the promise that You will be with us as we trust in You, even though the going at times is rough.

Lord, there are times when we experience trials here that seem so great. We realise that we cannot go through these trials unless we have You with us. May these experiences make us strong and also bring You praise and glory.

We thank You most of all for the salvation which You have offered to us through the death of Jesus.

We pray in a special way for this reader. You know all about them. You understand their concerns, their joys, their work, their choices, their disappointments, their loved ones. Please meet the needs of their heart right now. May they feel the sweet, joyful presence of Jesus around them. May their hearts burn within them with the power of the Holy Spirit and may others know that they have been with You. May the Word of God speak a freshness into their souls which will give them peace and joy in all they do. Lift any sorrow which they may feel and bring comfort to their hearts. Touch their lives with Your healing power if they are unwell and restore them to health according to Your will and purpose. May they know the assurance of salvation in Jesus as You cleanse their heart from sin and implant the power of the Holy Spirit that they may serve You.

Thank you for the gift of eternal life which you have preserved for us. May we look forward to the day when we can speak with You face to face, In Jesus' name, Amen.

May you experience the reality of these promises in your life today.



Noontide prayer

Around the world, someone is always praying



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

SDG 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ration...

SDG 3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five...

Alcohol use during pregnancy risks mother's and newborn's survival, health

There is an urgent need to improve the health of pregnant women and their infants by identifying factors that place them at greater risk and providing interventions to improve their outcomes.

- Maternal alcohol use is associated with higher mortality rates for pregnant women and infants⁵
- Alcohol use during pregnancy is associated with increased morbidity and mortality in infants and children⁵
- Evidence from Ghana shows that alcohol consumption is significantly associated with abortion-related maternal deaths. Women who had ever consumed alcohol, frequent alcohol users, and even occasional alcohol users were about three times as likely to die from abortion-related causes compared to those who abstained from alcohol. Maternal age, marital status and educational level are factors that have a confounding effect on the observed association⁶



ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

SDG 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Alcohol fuels epidemic of violence against women

There is a strong relationship between alcohol and domestic abuse, intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

- Australia: Alcohol contributes to 50% of all partner violence, and to 73% of physical assaults by a partner²⁵

Alcohol is seldom the sole explanation for the use of violence, but it's often the triggering factor. Alcohol use creates a context for violent acts. It is often used as excuse for otherwise socially unacceptable behavior.²²

- 65% of women experiencing intimate partner violence
- in South Africa reported the perpetrator had used alcohol²³
- USA: victims of physical assault reported alcohol use by their partner in 55% of the cases²³
- Focus groups in rural Rwanda show that women who are victims of domestic violence rank alcohol as number one factor²⁴



PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

SDG 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Pervasive alcohol violence

Alcohol violence impacts physical, mental and sexual health. It considerably burdens the public health system and other public sectors, making it a major sustainable development issue.

Globally, across all age groups, alcohol is estimated to be responsible for 26% and 16% of years of life lost through homicide by males and females respectively.⁵⁹

- Across all industrialized countries, alcohol is estimated to be responsible for 41% of male and 32% of female DALYs lost through homicide⁶⁰
- In Norway, 53% of victims of assaults presenting at an emergency department reported that their attacker had used alcohol prior to the attack⁶⁰
- USA: up to 86% of homicide offenders, 37% of assault offenders, 60% of sexual offenders were under the influence of alcohol⁶²
- England, Wales: Alcohol is involved in ca. 1.2 million violent incidents – almost half of all violent crimes⁶³

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MAJOR OBSTACLE TO DEVELOPMENT ALCOHOL AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The 2030 Agenda contains 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets. The 17 SDGs cover all three aspects of sustainable human development: the social, environmental and economic dimension.

Alcohol is a major obstacle to sustainable human development, adversely affecting all three dimensions of sustainable development.

Alcohol kills 3.3 million people worldwide every year. It means: Every 10 seconds a human being dies because of alcohol. This represents 5.9 % of all deaths. Globally, alcohol is the 5th leading risk factor for premature death and disability; among people between the ages of 15 and 49, it is the number one risk factor.

Through its multiple public health, social and economic impacts, alcohol is a massive obstacle to achieving 13 out of 17 SDGs, and a total of 52 targets.

Alcohol is an obstacle to development by jeopardizing human capital and hindering sustainable human development.

Evidence shows that alcohol is a cross-cutting, harmful factor in many areas of the 2030 Agenda, such as:

-  No poverty
-  Zero Hunger
-  Good health and well-being
-  Quality education
-  Gender equality
-  Clean water and water security
-  Decent work and economic productivity
-  Reduced inequalities
-  Sustainable cities and communities
-  Responsible consumption and production
-  Climate action
-  Peace and justice
-  Partnerships free from conflicts of interest

Alcohol is specifically mentioned in SDG 3 on health and well-being.

Target 3.5 reads:

“Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol”