

Guidelines for Women's Ministries

AIM

The ideal basic unit of society is the home and family, where women play a vital and definitive role. Furthermore, as natural providers of hope, women play an important part in shaping society. Therefore any fellowship of women in which Christian influence is exerted and practical help given benefits not only the individual and the family, but also the nation. Women's Ministries provide a programme of meetings and other activities based on the following four-fold aim:

- a) Worship
- b) Education
- c) Fellowship
- d) Service

REIMAGINING

While the aim of Women's Ministries remains relevant, on 12 February 2020 the International Headquarters Women's Ministries department launched a 'Reimagining' of Women's Ministries, featuring significant work that had been undertaken by IHQ and international women leaders to reimagine the programs and processes of Women's Ministries. As part of 'Reimagining' Women's Ministries, instead of a separate Mission Statement, Women's Ministries aligned with The Salvation Army's International Mission Statement and adopted a new Vision Statement giving direction to the desired outcomes for women in fulfilling the Mission Statement. Additionally, a new International Women's Ministries logo was presented, and International Women's Ministries social media sites were launched to reflect the technological reach of Women's Ministries in the world today. Women around the world were challenged to reimagine ministry to women, by women, and for women in their present realities and moving forward.

Contents:

Aim	Administration
Reimagining	Programmes
Mission statement	Finance
Vision statement	Planning procedures
Logo	Reporting
Expectation	Women's Sunday



MISSION STATEMENT

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision women who are:

- Transformed and empowered by the gospel to lead a Christ-like life
- Engaged in social justice and action to positively impact our world
- Equipped to fulfil their potential through life-long learning and development
- Enriched mutually through local and global connections and support

LOGO

A logo was created for International Women's Ministries and released in February 2020. The aim of the logo is to bring light, life, and freedom of spirit to all women around the world. Where thoughts, actions and morals are, as they have always been, concentrated on the Bible and its universal message. The five zones of The Salvation Army are identified by the 5 birds emerging from the sun and the world which are represented as one. The elements are designed to inspire women from any culture or background that at the dawning of each day they are encouraged to unite as one voice and one body, where God's love is always at the very centre of their being.



EXPECTATION

'Women's ministries' includes any type of ministry

- To all women who attend our programmes and/or find themselves in our sphere of care and influence
- For all women who are directly or indirectly affected by our ministry, including those who may benefit from our advocacy in terms of the rights of women and girls, our efforts for gender equality, our efforts to reduce poverty and other issues that affect the lives of women and girls
- By all women, including officers, local officers, soldiers, WM members, volunteers, friends and employees.

In an effort to win women and/or families for Christ and to minister to their needs, corps/social institutions may need to explore and implement a variety of programmes. (See: *Guidelines for Women's Ministries, Programmes.*) Among these, The Home League is unique in that common requirements must be followed in order to ensure its international unity and maintain the worldwide fellowship. (See: *Guidelines for The Home League.*)

Where there are several women's group leaders, one should be appointed as the Corps Women's Ministries Secretary. (See: *Guidelines for Women's Ministries, Administration: 3c.*)

ADMINISTRATION

Administration of Women 's Ministries comes under the following leadership:

1. International

- a) World President, Women's Ministries
- b) Zonal Secretary, Women's Ministries (*Africa, Americas and Caribbean, Europe, South Asia, South Pacific and East Asia*)

2. Territorial/Command

Territorial/ Command President and Territorial/ Command Secretary, Women's Ministries

3. Divisional

- a) **Divisional Director/District Director**, Women's Ministries
- b) **Corps Officer**. Among other officer-related duties, the corps officer, takes responsibility for Women's Ministries. Duties may be delegated to assistant officers as needed. This principle applies equally to social and field officers.
- c) **Corps Women's Ministries Secretary** (*where applicable*) is a Salvationist who may be one of the leaders of the Women 's Ministries groups in the corps. She is appointed for a limited period (*one or two years*) as the co-ordinator of these groups with the understanding that she can be reappointed if this is desired. The Corps Women's Ministries Secretary (*who is not necessarily the Home League Secretary*) may be appointed to the corps council as the representative of the women's groups.
- d) **Leaders** of Women's Ministries groups may be commissioned as local officers, appointed or warranted in accordance with territorial policy.

PROGRAMMES

The variety of programmes aiming to meet local needs, interests and age-groups is unlimited. Each group operates to develop and empower women within the aim and vision of Women 's Ministries. The list of programmes could include:

- Adult literacy
- Baby song
- Bible study
- Coffee mornings
- Crafts
- Drama
- Evening fellowship
- Exercise
- Family life
- Health/nutrition
- Hobbies
- Home League
- Home management/ budgeting
- Junior Home League/ Junior Miss
- Parenting
- Parents and toddlers
- Prayer
- Social Justice actions
- Support groups for battered women, prisoners, single mothers, etc
- Teaching a second language
- 12-step programme
- Vocational training
- Walking
- Weight Loss

FINANCE

The corps officer and leaders of groups are together responsible to ensure that accounting for group finances is carried out strictly in accordance with Salvation Army policy.



PLANNING PROCEDURES

Planning meetings for all Women 's Ministries in the corps should be held regularly. Membership of the corps women's ministries planning group includes at least one corps officer who convenes and presides over the meeting, the corps Women 's Ministries secretary and/or the Home League Secretary, and the leaders of all the women's groups. Others may be co-opted as desired. The purpose of this meeting is to review, plan and develop the mission and programme of each women's ministries group.

REPORTING

Wherever possible and in all its forms Women's Ministries should statistically attempt to capture membership and attendance. This can also be supported and qualified with narrative information channelled from corps through divisional headquarters and territorial headquarters to international headquarters. These reports will be prepared by the leaders outlined in the ADMINISTRATION section above. They may be included in their entirety, or in part, in any other divisional or territorial reports.

WOMEN'S SUNDAY

Every corps should feature a Women's Sunday. The corps women's ministries planning group is responsible for the detailed planning of this day. This may be in lieu of or in addition to a Home League Sunday.

- a) The purpose of the day is to:
 - give members the opportunity to participate in corps meetings
 - present the Women's Ministries groups to the corps
 - attract new members.
- b) This annual event may be extended to:
 - a rally to which representatives of other women's organisations (Army and non-Army) may be invited
 - other special programmes such as music, drama, films
 - a celebration of family.

