



MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear members of MWIA,

the year 2016 is almost over and one cannot look back without being sad about the still difficult situation in many countries being torn apart by war and terror attacks causing many to leave their home countries as refugees. Those who suffer the most are women and children.



However, terror hits home too, and you probably have heard about the terror attack in Berlin in Germany a few weeks ago when an IS terrorist raced into a x-mas market with a truck, killing 12 but wounding many more: some of them are still in critical condition. People full of hate and part of ideologies are “used” as weapons. In 2016 also right wing populist parties are on the rise in many European countries, often negatively impacting the work of many NGOs fighting for women

rights and for the advancement of women.

There will be no final solutions to these situations in 2017, but I strongly believe that respecting each in sisterhood, understanding and friendship will be important steps towards a more peaceful world. MWIA and its members are needed as *ambassadors of change* through advocacy, being role models, by fighting violence against women and children, by improving the health and living condition of women and children and by mentoring.

I reported already in the last December 2016 MWIA newsletter: <http://mwia.net/mwia-newsletters/> on our MWIA past and planned activities. 2017 will be an active year for MWIA!

I just received the update of the young yMWIA <http://mwia.net/young-mwia/> a few days ago and the plan is to send out a questionnaire together with the MWIA members and strategy committee to the MWIA membership in 2017 to learn more about the needs and interests of you to serve you even better. The yMWIA will be active on social media and they just started a LinkedIn and Twitter page. Please follow them!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/youngMWIA/>



@youngMWIA



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/young-mwia-09198a12a>



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I want to close with my favorite quote of 2016 by a very inspirational young woman:
Malala Yousafzai:

"I raise up my voice - not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard... We cannot succeed when half of us are held back."

In that spirit I wish you and you families a peaceful and blessed New Year 2017

I am looking very much forward to staying with you in touch!

(MWIA president)