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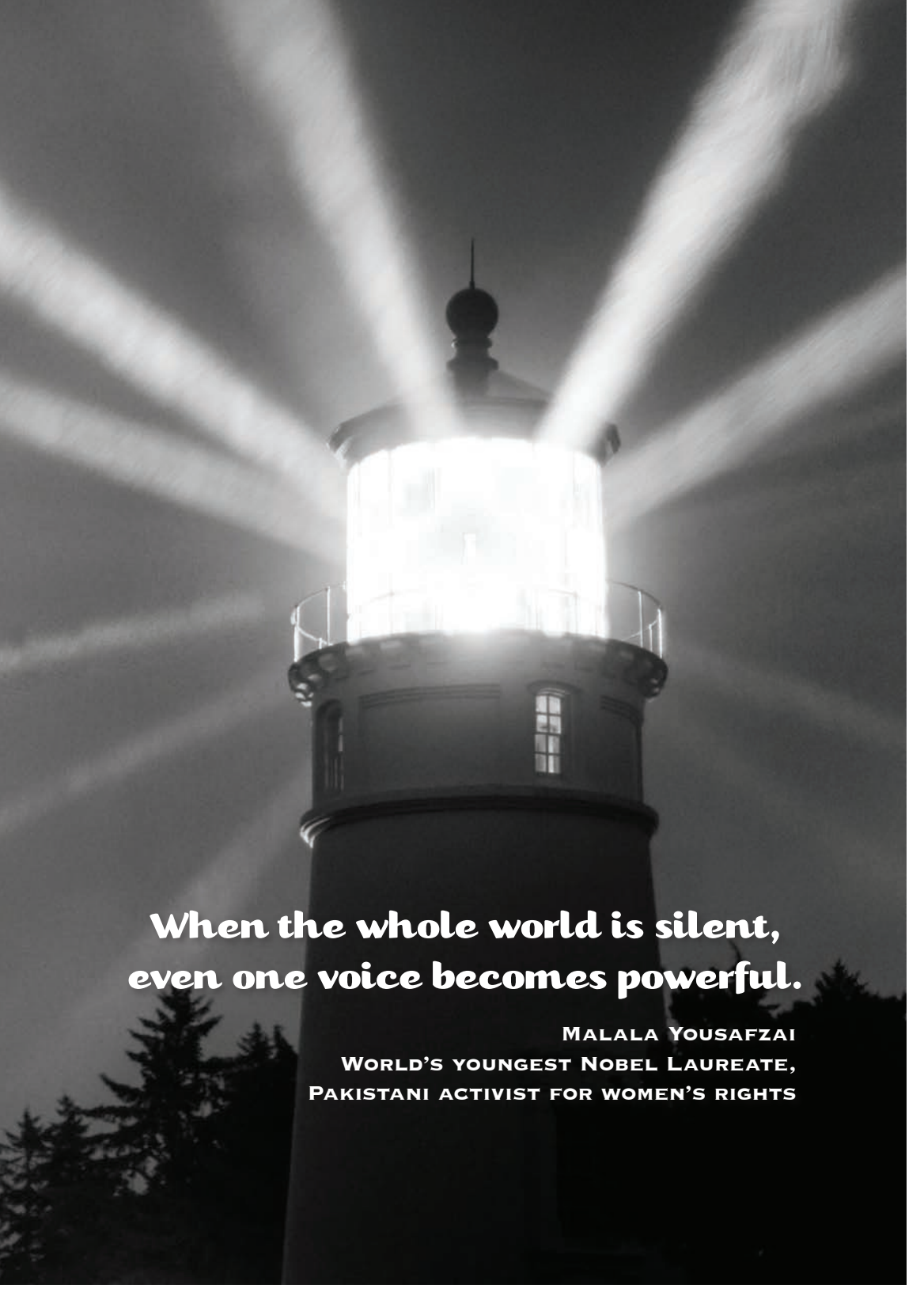
WARCRY

CULTURE & SPIRITUALITY

Unfinished business

Achieving a just and equal world for all





**When the whole world is silent,
even one voice becomes powerful.**

**MALALA YOUSAFZAI
WORLD'S YOUNGEST NOBEL LAUREATE,
PAKISTANI ACTIVIST FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS**



The Salvation Army is about giving hope where it's needed most.

What is The Salvation Army?

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church.

Vision Statement

Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live, love and fight alongside others to transform Australia one life at a time with the love of Jesus.

Mission Statement

The Salvation Army is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus by:

- Caring for people
- Creating faith pathways
- Building healthy communities
- Working for justice

WARCRY

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From the editor

“An equal world is an enabled world” is the theme of International Women’s Day on 8 March, with the hashtag #EachforEqual. As we read the national and global statistics around women and sexual assaults, domestic violence, harmful cultural practices and lack of access to education, employment and other opportunities, it is painfully clear that women and girls are not equal.

Significant advances have been made through the decades, but progress is slow and, in many nations, almost non-existent. Women’s rights are human rights and, for the status quo to change, the mobilisation against patriarchy, misogyny, sexism and entitlement has to continue.

At the time of Jesus, women were not equal with men either. However, he included, enabled and empowered women, treating them in a way that was radical for his time. This leaves an example for us all today.

We are all on this journey together, and together we can make it a better place for everyone.

Simone Worthing
Assistant Editor

Unfinished business

Achieving a just and equal world for all

BY CHRISTINE FARAGHER

Many of us know the experience of having an unfinished project lurking somewhere in the back of our consciousness, if not in our immediate field of vision. Whether a household repair or renovation, a craft project, a car or bike restoration or a jigsaw puzzle gathering dust in the corner, the things we start don't always get finished.

This is true not just for our individual lives, but for whole communities. We could easily see the project of gender equality as one such unfinished project both here in Australia and throughout the world. We have started the project, and in some places, we are moving along quite well, but in others, we are quite stuck. We have not yet achieved genuine equality in any universal sense. The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, has said that, "Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world."

International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March, is a reminder of our big unfinished project. It's a day on which

we are invited to celebrate the many achievements of women in diverse spheres of activity, whether social, political, economic or cultural. It also creates an opportunity for us to consider how we can take action to create a more gender-equal world both here in Australia and around the globe.

This year's International Women's Day campaign theme is #EachforEqual and focuses on the idea that an equal world is an enabled world and that all of us, individually and collectively, can help create this world. The world-renowned feminist activist Gloria Steinem has said that, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights." If we care about human rights, we must care about gender equality and act to bring it about.

Together, we can promote the equal rights of men and women in our offices and boardrooms, in the media, in sports coverage or government representation. Individually, how we think, speak and



Bridging the ongoing gap in the gender divide is the focus for International Women's Day with its theme #EachforEqual.

act in our own lives can reinforce gender stereotypes or challenge them; can enact or fight bias; can narrow or broaden perceptions; and limit or improve life for individuals and communities. Are we for equality or for the status quo?

In Australia we have collectively made hard-won progress over many years in areas as diverse as giving women the right to vote and stand for parliament; the right to continue working after marriage; and legislating for equal pay. However, Australia currently ranks 48th in the world in terms of the representation of women in politics; one in two mothers report experiencing workplace discrimination as a result of their pregnancy, parental leave or on return to work; and the average full-time weekly wage for a woman is 15.3 per cent less than a man's.

Tragically, one in two Australian women has experienced sexual harassment

during their lifetime, while one in three has experienced physical or sexual violence. On the domestic scene, women spend almost twice as many hours each day performing unpaid care work compared to men and account for 68 per cent of primary carers. Inequalities remain.

Worldwide, as the United Nations Human Rights Office reminds us, millions of women continue to experience discrimination through laws and policies that prohibit equal access to land, property and housing, while gender-based violence affects at least 30 per cent of women globally. Economic and social discrimination results in fewer and poorer life choices for women, rendering them vulnerable to trafficking.

We could go on to talk about the risk of girls marrying in childhood, the 200 million girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation, or that only 52 per cent of women who are married ►

or in a union can freely make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

We have a way to go to create a just and equal world in relation to gender. So, the question remains, what shall we do about our unfinished project, the unfinished business of our time?

The International Women's Day theme, #EachforEqual, is not just for one day, it is a year-long campaign in which we can participate through individual and collective action. Actions as simple as calling others to engagement through sharing on social media (see suggestions on the International Women's Day webpage www.internationalwomensday.com) or organising a discussion about gender bias in the workplace. It could be providing training for people on how to identify and

address various forms of bias; or conducting an audit of behaviour in the home and family. What tasks get automatically allocated based on gender? Who is doing the emotional work of family life? What barriers prevent women and girls from achieving their full potential?

In terms of the global situation, we could ask how we can learn more about the plight of women and girls around the world, and how our actions might help them — for example, evaluating our support for aid and development programs based on their gender equity credentials or directly sponsoring projects that focus on girls' education and empowerment.

Our gender equality project is a human rights issue that needs finishing, or at least significant progress. Let's get on with it.

Made in the image of God

The Salvation Army international position statement on sexism states that:

Sexism is discrimination based on sex or gender, most often against women and girls, and is increasingly understood as a fundamental human rights issue. Sexism often includes a combination of prejudice plus power. It is expressed through systemic, structured prejudice and cultural discrimination and can be present in a family, communities of faith, and societal and national cultures.

The Salvation Army believes that both male and female are made in the image of God and are equal in value,

and therefore is opposed to sexism. We reject any view that subordinates women to men, or men to women.

The Salvation Army believes that our world is enhanced by equitably valuing, equipping and mobilising all human beings. While valuing gender equity, The Salvation Army acknowledges with regret that Salvationists (members of The Salvation Army) have sometimes conformed to societal and organisational norms that perpetuate sexism. We are committed to model the equitable valuing, equipping and mobilising of men and women, and will speak into societies around the world where sexism exists.

Salvos launch anti-slavery program

BY LAUREN MARTIN



PHOTO BY JIM THATCHER

The Governor-General of Australia, David Hurley AD DSC (Retd) (second left) was part of the launch last month.

The Salvation Army will partner with the Sisters of Charity Foundation to operate an innovative housing program for survivors of modern-day slavery in Australia.

The program was launched on 20 February in the presence of Australian Governor-General David Hurley, who is also the Sisters of Charity Foundation patron.

A first for Australia, the program will see the Sisters of Charity Foundation and Salvos Housing deliver transitional housing for survivors of modern slavery based on a new model aimed at transitioning people to independent living.

The Global Slavery Index 2018 estimated that on any given day (based on research done in 2016), around 15,000 people were living in slave-like conditions in Australia. Precise figures are difficult to

obtain because of the secretive nature of the problem.

“They might be migrant workers being paid minimal wages and working long hours, a child bride being forced to marry by her father, fruit pickers isolated and underpaid on rural farms or child labour in its worst forms — but there is growing evidence that modern slavery is alive and well,” a joint statement released by the two organisations said.

The Sisters of Charity Foundation has provided seed funding for the program, as well as brokerage to help clients set up a home. Salvos Housing will work with people impacted by modern-day slavery to find suitable accommodation that is affordable as well as accessible for work and transport, and The Salvation Army will provide ongoing case management and support.

Eventually, the lease will be transitioned to the resident, so that they can live independently.

Sisters of Charity Foundation CEO Reba Meagher said the model had the advantage of providing accommodation that is tailored to the individual's needs and overcomes the barrier of entering the rental market experienced by people who have no previous rental or employment history.

In his image, God made her...

The God who goes beyond gender stereotypes.

BY STAR CONLIFFE

On Sunday 8 March, International Women's Day will be observed around the world. This annual occasion celebrates women's achievements, but it also reminds us that many women and girls around the world still suffer from high levels of discrimination and violence, simply for being female. Their lives are less valued than those of men and boys, they are excluded from economic, social and religious opportunities and resources, and they don't know what it's like to be free.

In different parts of the world The Salvation Army, as a global leader in community development, is breaking cultural boundaries to help change the lives of women and girls. In India, for example, programs give women access to healthcare and education and help to establish their own businesses. In Malawi, a water, sanitation, hygiene and food security project is transforming the lives of women, children and communities.

Closer to home, women in Australia impacted by domestic violence, homelessness and addiction are being empowered and resourced to rebuild their lives.

Through these practical actions The Salvation Army is showing generations of women and girls that they are children of God, made in his image and of equal value in his eyes. We do this because as a movement we recognise the biblical truth



of equality between genders, that God made both men and women in his image. God intended men and women to share equal rights and responsibilities, to be equal partners in looking after creation.

When Jesus lived on Earth, women were not equal to men. It was definitely inappropriate for a Jewish teacher to eat with women, allow them to touch him, and have women in his close circle. But Jesus did all of these things and more. In the Bible's book of Luke in particular, we can see that Jesus was radical and inclusive in his encounters with women

He restricted nothing from women. He empowered women to work with him, he stood up for women, healed them and listened to their stories. He taught them, lived alongside them and gave them a voice in his church. But in the Christian

church, these stories are often glossed over or never heard.

The Church should be a reflection of how God intends humanity to live. We should be showing the world that God created men and women equally in his image, and that Jesus welcomed women into teaching and preaching roles in his church. Unfortunately, we sometimes get this wrong and our failings on gender equality have impacted many people.

The Salvation Army isn't perfect on gender equity and steps are being taken to rectify that. But from the Army's very beginning in 1865 in London's East End, it has been a movement that recognised the equal calling of women to preach and minister. Both its founders, William and Catherine Booth, encouraged women to preach. William Booth once wrote: "I insist on the equality of women with men. Every officer [minister] and soldier [member] should insist upon the truth that woman is as important, as valuable, as capable and as necessary to the progress and happiness of the world as man. Unfortunately a large number of people of every tribe, every class and nationality think otherwise. They still believe woman is inferior to man."

God is not a man. God is not a woman. God is bigger than the gender stereotypes and restrictions we apply to both men and women. But God is beautifully reflected in both men and women who were both made in his image. Gender equality is essential inside and outside the church, and The Salvation Army will continue to stand up for gender equity both in Australia and around the world.

Star Conliffe is a Salvation Army officer in Victoria.



If tears could talk

Throughout life's journey we all shed tears, but we never cry alone.

BY DEAN CLARKE

I'm actually not one for tears. Well at least, I pretend I'm not. Like when watching *Toy Story 3* and Andy gives his toys to Bonnie. My viewing companion asks, "Papa, is that a tear in your eye?" and I try not to answer in case my voice cracks. Or when the *Titanic* goes down, followed by Jack slipping under the water, even though we know he could have fitted on a lifeboat. I may have turned my head a little and wiped my cheek, hoping that no one was looking. *Avengers: Infinity War* was harder. With the loss of Spiderman, I lost it.

Movies aren't the only cause of crying. I've conducted lots of weddings where people are shedding tears.

Parents are emotional about their little girl moving on, or crying over how much it is costing! Young people are happy for their friend, but hoping or despairing about their own 'happily

ever after'. My kids are all married now and I went through the tears stage with them each. Their beauty. The changing of relationships. The extra space at home. Then there is the arrival of grandchildren, and the wonder of new life that stirs up another set of emotions, hopes, cares and tears.

I've also conducted funerals. Sometimes we find ourselves 'rationalising' death — they lived a long life, or they've been sick a long time. Although sad, it somehow makes sense. Then there are those occasions where no answer is sufficient. No words are adequate. Tears are the only appropriate response.

Tears are just a drop of liquid. Similar to human saliva, but functionally designed to lubricate, nourish and protect our eyes. Naturally formed to wash away irritants such as dirt, dust or smoke. You can even buy artificial tears in a bottle if your body doesn't produce enough.

But then there are emotional tears. The tears that are shed in times of joy or sadness. Our crying in movies and at

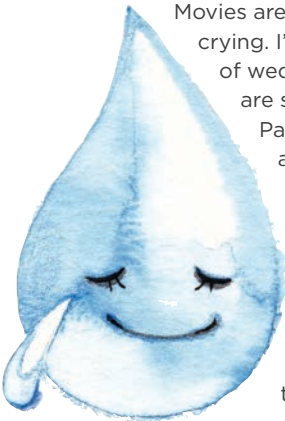




PHOTO BY LEVI XU ON UNSPLASH

ceremonies. When our tears flow as we experience emotional or physical pain. Biologist Charles Darwin described weeping as ‘purposeless’, yet I find that our emotional tears often reflect the journey of life. Those moments of excitement, victory, joy, struggle, challenge, loss, relationship highs and lows and our coming together and moving apart can all bring tears.

I’m still learning the purpose of tears through the journey of life — both my own life and through shared experiences with others. I’m gaining deeper understanding regarding the value and power of tears to express emotions when there are no words and to come alongside others in their pain. Even at times for the celebration and ecstatic joy of achievements and relationships, tears of happiness have flowed.

If our tears could talk I’m sure they would tell the story of our life. Or maybe our tears poured out onto a canvas would flow and paint a picture. Darwin may not

have given much value to our tears, but I know another who does.

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book” (Psalm 56, verse 8, *New Living Translation*).

God pays close attention to our tears. He doesn’t just watch them fall. He doesn’t pass a tissue with the hope we might stop. He honours them by gently collecting each one, paying attention to what we are experiencing in life. God cares when we cry.

It helps me to know that in my life journey I never cry alone. My tears aren’t wasted or purposeless. God pays attention to each one.

But next time I watch *Toy Story 3*, I’m keeping it all together!

Dean Clarke is a Salvation Army officer (minister) in South Australia.

In every face there is a story

Hearing God's voice through the lives of others.

BY NICOLE VILES

Growing up in a family where being an active member of the Christian church was part of our family rhythm, I knew God was real from the time I was a young child.

I heard him speak to me. Not as an audible voice so much, but as waves of distinctive emotion that would wash over me, compelling me to respond. Sometimes it happened in church when an open invitation was given to stand and pray. Other times it was at school when the girl with the translucent skin, thick glasses and sandwiches made from crusty multigrain bread was made fun of and sat alone.

Often it happened through music, or art or movies, where a lyric or a line would be the gateway to this unspeakably distinct voice of the supernatural revealing his character and calling me to engage with his heart for the world — to make him known. It was always about making him known, either in greater measure in my life, or in the spaces I found myself engaging in.

Once it happened as a teen, convicting

me that becoming a Salvation Army officer (minister) was the way I would choose to make God known, and this I have done for the past 20 years.

As the years have passed and the cost of obedience to the voice of God has included deep personal pain and left me with more questions than answers, I have found myself conflicted with who this God really is and hungering for a new and deeper revelation of him in my own life.

Then came the opportunity to go to southern India on a trip of discovery with two nurses, one midwife and two Indian missionary saints.

It was in India that I learnt that behind every face is a story and every story reflects the voice of God.

I met Anam, a 70-year-old spinster with paraplegia who first came to live at The Salvation Army training centre 50 years ago when it trained women with physical



Nicole (left) with the nurses and midwife who travelled to India together.

disabilities in employable skills. Anam never left. She lives independently in her room, spending her mainly solitary days joyfully embroidering, tending to her two potted plants and chatting to whoever walks by.

Anam is wheeled to church on Sunday — her only outing each week. She asked us to come and pray for her before we left. Bowing her head and putting her hands together like a child, she earnestly listened as we prayed in a language she couldn't understand, before she took her turn. Her prayer was desperately raw and filled with gratitude and deep, deep faith.

I also met a group of women who are HIV-positive, many now business owners, all supporting their families because of the empowerment from a Salvation Army self-help group and hospital. I heard their stories of rejection and watched as they wept, remembering how they had considered that their only option was to take their life and the lives of the children. Then they shared their thankfulness and joy toward the God of The

Salvation Army that their lives had been brought back from the clutches of death.

And then there was Benny, whose innovation and dedication to meet the needs of his region's most vulnerable and his vision to start a college of nursing, had him falsely arrested by a corrupt superior.

In India I heard story after story, too many to tell, and rediscovered that, in spite of the world's brokenness, it doesn't change God's character. He is good, generous, sustaining and the giver of joy and peace. He demonstrates this to me in countless ways if I take time to look.

I was reminded that being a Christian is about generously, passionately and joyfully loving God and loving others, using what's in our hands — nothing more, nothing less — and that this is where real 'life' is found.

I rediscovered what it looks like to "be still and with deep faith *know* that he is God".

Nicole Viles is a Salvation Army officer in New South Wales.

Baked chicken meatballs



Ingredients

500g chicken mince, 1 egg, ½ cup panko crumbs, ½ cup grated parmesan, 1 tbsp olive oil, ½ tsp garlic powder, ½ tsp onion powder, ½ tsp salt, black pepper to taste

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a baking tray with foil and lightly coat with oil spray. Combine all ingredients in a mixing bowl. Roll mixture into small balls (makes around 25-30). Place on baking tray. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden and cooked through. Serve with your favourite dipping sauce.

Tip for the race of life

“So God ... created humanity in his image, created them male and female.”

Genesis chapter 1, verse 26
(*The Voice Bible translation*)

Instagram angel



Like many young people, Jasmine is a frequent Instagram user — but for reasons different to most. Jasmine prefers other social media platforms, but when she learned that troubled young people from the large youth group she led were meeting via Instagram to discuss their mental health struggles, she joined.

Jasmine, who had received treatment for her own mental health issues, that had helped her turn her life around, wanted to be there for the young people and help them wherever she could.

Relationships were built and, over time, many of the youth opened up to Jasmine and shared their struggles with her. Several also told their friends about Jasmine and they joined the group as well.

Jasmine was able to encourage the young people, listen to them, refer them to specialist help as needed, and be the trusted safe adult that many of them didn't have in their lives. She also undertook studies in mental health first aid, counselling, and trauma-informed care to help her in her entirely voluntary role.

One of the young people said, “Jasmine is always there for me. Having a caring and non-judgmental friend to just talk things through with has been invaluable.”

Wordsearch

S P V Y T I R A P K A T L A S
 N T E I W D T V G N N S C A S
 O Y N V S S T E R E O T Y P E
 I S B E I I T N M M I Y C I N
 T E N X M T B E G O L I E N E
 P E G O W E C I N W F A L N R
 M D Q N I N V E L Q I T E O A
 U I I U A S T E L I D F B V W
 S U P V I H S K I L T I R A A
 S A D E X T C I P H O Y A T G
 A A B I A S Y G M S C C T I E
 S E C A L P K R O W C A E O N
 L A N O I T A N R E T N I N D
 Y T I L A U Q E N A B L E D E
 P M L V D E D U C A T I O N R

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| INTERNATIONAL | WOMEN |
| EQUALITY | INNOVATION |
| EQUITY | WORKPLACES |
| ENABLED | EDUCATION |
| GENDER | ACTION |
| AWARENESS | PARITY |
| STEREOTYPE | COLLECTIVE |
| VISIBILITY | BIAS |
| ASSUMPTIONS | CELEBRATE |
| MISSIONS | ADVANCEMENT |
| ACHIEVEMENTS | CHANGE |

Quick quiz



1. When is International Women's Day (IWD)?
2. What is the theme for IWD 2020?
3. What notion is the #EachforEqual theme drawn from?
4. What are some benefits of a gender-equal world?
5. What does the Bible say about equality?

Tum-Tum



On which page of this week's *Warcry* is Tum-Tum hiding?

Answers: 1. 8 March 2. #EachforEqual 3. Collective Individualism — we are all parts of a whole.
 4. Healthier, wealthier, more harmonious communities.
 5. Men and women are equal.
Tum-Tum: Is behind a concrete block on page 13.

Want to know more?

Visit warcry.org.au/want-to-know-more or return the coupon to **Warcry, PO Box 479, Blackburn VIC 3130.**

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