



womenwelcomewomen  
*WorldWide*

Women Welcome Women World Wide,  
88 Easton Street,  
High Wycombe,  
Bucks HP11 1LT, UK  
Tel /Fax: +44 (0) 1494 465441

<http://www.womenwelcomewomen.org.uk>

## Information Leaflet and Application Form



5W aims to promote international friendship by encouraging women of different countries to visit one another in their own homes. Members are of all backgrounds and ages, from many parts of the world. Any woman can become a member, regardless of nationality, Religion or home circumstances.

### **5W is about**

- \* international friendship
- \* learning how other women live
- \* helping women grow in confidence
- \* extending the vision of women and their families
- \* being part of the international community of one world

Joining the 5W world of friendship couldn't be simpler!  
Please complete and return this form to the 5W office, together with your membership donation and we will send you the latest membership directory. From there, the choice is yours - a 5W member can make new friends in foreign lands or just around the corner, travel to far-flung places or enjoy having guests in her own home.  
Or just sit back and let the world come you by post, phone or email.

## **The Membership List**

You will receive the most up-to-date membership list which contains information on every current member of 5W. There are almost 3000 members in over 80 countries, ranging in age from 16-90. They are housewives, students, single, professional, unemployed, retired; women who have one thing in common - a wish to make friends with other women around the world. It is up to you to choose how you make use of your list - how many members you contact, or where you travel.

## **To register as a 5W member**

Please return your completed application form to 5W's international centre in High Wycombe, UK. Your details will be included in the membership list and circulated to all members throughout the world.

## **Individual visits**

When you decide to travel, it is important to first write to or email the members whose names you select from the list. The best friendships are made when members have taken time to correspond before travelling. We recommend that the first visit should be short, in case it is not what you expect - lifestyles may be very different from your own! The visitor should fit in with the hostess and be prepared to entertain herself if necessary.

## **Get-Togethers**

Get-Togethers are informal meetings of members. In some parts of the world they occur regularly through the year when local groups of women plan a programme of events for themselves. They can also be spontaneous occasions, such as when a traveller comes to stay and the hostess phones round local members and invites them to coffee.

## **Gatherings**

Gatherings are arranged by a group of members together and can last from a single day to more than a week! Gatherings are announced in the Newsletter so that members from other parts of the world can plan to attend. Many 5W members have begun a visit to a far off continent at a Gathering and then arranged to stay with members they have met there.

There is always plenty of time to talk and get to know each other. Events might include learning a craft, working on a special project and visits to local places of interest. Costs vary according to the programme. Each Gathering has an individual character depending on country and organisers.

## **Email group**

You can join the 5W members' email bulletin group - a fun and informative way of keeping in touch! Members also communicate individually by email and as penfriends.

## **Newsletters**

Newsletters are sent out three times a year in January, May and September, with

- \* news of forthcoming Gatherings and events
- \* members' news and views
- \* members' noticeboard
- \* information from the office and Trustees

## **How is 5W financed?**

Only by its members. There is no set subscription, but we suggest that members donate a minimum of £35 to cover the cost of maintaining membership, and a small contribution to the costs of others. Annual renewal is then £25 for continuous membership. If, for bona fide reasons, you are unable to afford this, please write to the office - we realise that there are countries in the world where members cannot possibly afford £35 and we are enriched by their membership. If you plan to travel and stay with 5W members accompanied by a non-member, please make an additional £25 donation to the office. You will receive your membership list, three newsletters throughout the year and some tips on enjoying your 5W membership. Little is spent on publicity; the enthusiasm of the members is our best advertisement, and we have been reported on radio and television, in newspapers and magazines.

## **What is a Trust?**

The women who oversee the work of Women Welcome Women World Wide have formed a not-for-profit Trust and are called Trustees. They come from many countries and ensure the organisation works according to the "Deed of Trust". In 1998, they became a "Company Limited by Guarantee" (number 3682702). Their names are printed on the front page of the membership list. Moreover, it is appropriate that 5W should be constituted as a Trust, as every member needs to trust all the others. You, and every member, will have signed the pledge that you will not allow unauthorised access to your list. To give the names away is a civil offence in the United Kingdom; to sell them is a criminal offence. The Board of Trustees will take appropriate legal action if there is any abuse of membership. Each member is responsible for safeguarding the good reputation of 5W.

# Women Welcome Women World Wide Application Form

Please write clearly, in English if possible.

## 5W members say it all!

**Joyce, USA:** "In Stockholm I had dinner with a 5W group touring Sweden. Unexpectedly, there were familiar faces and joyous reunions. I looked at this gathering of women from so many parts of the world and I felt strongly connected."

**Sofía, Argentina:** "La amistad es el mejor pasaporte."

**Noriko, Japan:** "At the meeting in High Wycombe, I could realise the joy of 5W and become more confident. I learned that I come from a very different world from Europe, so it is difficult to understand each other, but very exciting."

**June, Australia:** "It only takes a second and suddenly after a lifetime, I am a widow. No longer half a couple, but on my own. Then I received some advice which changed my life ... things only happen if you make them happen! I got lucky and heard about 5W; any woman can join - no boundaries (age, marital status, religion, race, country, politics, etc). I wrote to members overseas and arranged to stay - no more lonely hotel rooms. Now guests in my home come from everywhere. No strangers here, just friends who have not met."

**Beatrice, Kenya:** "Susan from Belgium visited recently. I was proud to hear her admit she had never dreamed Africa to be what she saw. We have rich cultures and traditions."

**Ana, Cuba:** "Through 5W I had known very interesting women, they are now my friends. When I'm sad about something or have a problem, a friend's letter comes and brings back rejoicing. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet nice friends all over the world."

**Shirley, England:** "It is the people I've met - friends now - from across the oceans, over hills, in valleys, beside rivers; the conversations I've had. I've learned to listen and to understand. Frontiers, borders mean nothing when women get together. I have gained the confidence to say what I feel - without embarrassment; to stand tall."

**Maria, Italy:** "I think that 5W makes the world become a small village in which to build peace and tolerance in a very easy and simple way; just by knowing each other, by writing to other members, meeting in small gatherings and trips. This is possible - peace passes through us."

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please write twice for clarity) \_\_\_\_\_

Year of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation (job,etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Delete the following as necessary:

**I wish to be listed as Hostess/Day**

**Hostess/Travelling at present** (Day Hostess indicates you cannot provide accommodation but are happy to meet and show visitors around)

**I live in a flat/house/cottage/other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Situated in a city/town/village/suburb/other**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Nearest town/city** (if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

**I live with my husband/partner/female partner/parents/friends/children, if aged under 16 years** (how many) \_\_\_\_\_

**Religion** (if important to you) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mother tongue** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other languages spoken** \_\_\_\_\_

Designate (A) moderate to fluent (B) only a few words

I would also welcome (*delete as necessary*)

- a member with her husband/partner YES/NO
- a member with her children YES/NO

I am: smoker / non-smoker  
I have a non smoking house

Interests and other relevant information \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(There is no need to include "travel", "people" or "other cultures". As you wish to join 5W, we assume these are amongst your interests!)*

I heard about 5W from \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you were introduced to 5W by a member, please give us her name and she will receive one month's free membership).*

An up-to-date membership directory is produced every 4 weeks. You can choose to receive a copy of the latest directory immediately - in which case it will not include your details. Alternatively, you can choose to wait 2/3 weeks to be mailed a list which does include your own membership details.

**Tick appropriate boxes:**

**Please send my directory immediately**

**Please send my directory on CD**

**Please send me a directory which includes my details (*allow an extra 2-3 weeks for receipt*)**

**I would like to receive newsletters by email**

### Membership Pledge

I understand that the data from my application form will be put on the Women Welcome Women World Wide computer and that it will be given only to other members of 5W. **I will not allow unauthorised access to my list and I understand that any proceedings arising from breach of this condition will be governed by UK law.**

*Women whose first language is not English are advised to obtain a translation of the above before signing.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete the application form and membership donation form and send, together with your donation, to: Women Welcome Women World Wide  
88 Easton Street  
High Wycombe  
Bucks HP11 1LT, United Kingdom**

### How did 5W start?

When Frances Alexander's children were teenagers, they exchanged hospitality with other young people throughout Europe. She thought that women could have this opportunity too and wrote a paper about her idea.

Dr Patricia Niedzwiecki, then editor of *Women of Europe* - the EU information bulletin on women's affairs - assuming *Women Welcome Women* (as it was then called) was functioning, wrote a paragraph for the spring edition of 1984. *WoE* circulated all over the EU in each language. By the end of an influx of letters, there were 40 members in 5 countries. Frances circulated their names and addresses to all the new members. This has continued ever since, as the numbers near 3000 in 70 countries.

A leaflet was drafted and printed; a bank account set up; the leaflets were translated into several languages by the members. A constitution made Women Welcome Women into a Non-Profit Trust. Frances Alexander chaired the Board of Trustees for 12 years.

WWW moved from Frances's spare bedroom to a small office in High Wycombe in October 1995. In 1996, Jill Hilford from Sweden took over as chairwoman. In October 1998, the Trustees held an international telephone conference to accept the recommendations of a working party and became a Company Limited by Guarantee, adding *World Wide* to *Women Welcome Women*. Asta Cebulla from Switzerland was elected the first chairwoman. Almuth Tharan from Germany is the current chairwoman.

*"Experiencing a different lifestyle is interesting, enriching and mind-opening. There are still people who regard different as threatening. Women have a gift for making friends and I know that 5W has, in its own way, made the world a smaller place. It pleases me that ordinary women travel the world, discover the joy of befriending people from very different cultures and learn about themselves at the same time in our web of international friendship."*

**Frances Alexander, Founder**