

**The past year** has seen significant changes and this reflects the huge amount of work done: starting with the name change to **Woman Within UK** as all the regions realign in supporting the development of WW as a global brand. Followed by opening Circles and creating new Circles for women who have not yet done to Weekend as a stepping stone into the community.

**Women Within UK** is a collective of amazing, dynamic and empowered women with the desire to continue to empower others. All of us who have chosen to be part of this organisation are making a difference to our community, our own lives and the lives of others.

To make sure that Women Within UK is able to offer the training and support its growing community takes a huge amount of energy, commitment and determination.

I would like to acknowledge and celebrate all the women who have taken on roles in the organisation that have been essential for its survival and growth. None of us would have this community of women in our lives without the commitment and dedication of each and every woman who has invested themselves in enabling Women Within UK to be here today.

There are many unsung heroines in our organisation who have been willing to step into roles behind the scenes, booking venues, looking after registration, promoting, organising and essentially providing a base for female empowerment to happen. This includes those of us who have committed to take the long journey to develop our facilitation skills to deliver our workshops, and those of us who have staffed.

I also want to acknowledge that sometimes the hard work and dedication that has been given, so generously and so selflessly, has not always been recognised or adequately supported in our community.

There is now an important need to re-examine our organisational structure so that Women Within UK is able to connect with more women, to be more available, to increase the accessibility to our community and to ensure it is able to nurture and support itself effectively.

To do this our organisation needs to be as healthy on the inside as it is on the outside so that it can grow safely and consciously.

In May a strategic planning day took place to look at the direction of travel for Women Within UK.

The aim was to identify positive changes that will support and sustain the organisation and create a clear, cohesive and focussed Vision, Mission and Values to lead from.

I wanted to share with you some of the core objectives that came out of a really passionate and productive day and whilst nothing has been agreed we will be sharing our findings with Women Within International.

Here are some of the areas that we examined and identified as important:

To identify and create a support structure that provides empowerment and guidance to women who are actively supporting our organisation, no matter how big or small their contribution.

To allow women to be able to develop the important facilitation skills more accessibly and still deliver the quality of training that we aspire to.

To work in partnership and cooperation with other like minded organisations such as Red Tent, Women In Power, Mankind Project, Journeyman UK, Band Of Brothers, Celebration of Being, all of which can give us access to a wider community that will enhance our community and provide mutual support.

To listen mindfully to the communities that we live in and hear what is really needed, developing a brand that is globally recognised and respected.

To create an organisation that delivers at a local level and provides the support and empowerment for women to really create community on their own doorstep.

To engage with inspirational female ambassadors from all walks of life that will help to fund bursaries and promote 'ordinary women doing extraordinary things.'

To have women's circles across the UK that are empowered and safe to open their doors to uninitiated women that may wish to join.

To provide a menu of engagement workshops so that women can make connection with an empowered community more accessibly.

To achieve all this, we need the active participation of as many members of our community as possible. The new management team will need leaders in areas like project management, finance and governance, training and development, sales and marketing, communications and community liaison and they will need team members to support them in roles as diverse as event administration, website content management and technical support, Twitter, blogging, fundraising, community celebrations, supporting Circles and many others. If you have a skill of any kind, or if you simply love sitting in Circle and want to help women start a Circle, we will be able to find a place where you could support the work of Woman Within UK, whether you have just an odd hour available or whether you can commit to offer more time to the task.

Those of you working heroically hard right now, thank you, don't lose heart with all the changes - we want to hear from you - to ensure you are in the role that best suits your skills and have the support you need and deserve.

We are creating a new fully functional website with the financial, technical and creative support of WWI, that will enable you and the women yet to come to easily and efficiently register for courses, apply to staff, find a Circle and more. This work is leading the Woman Within worldwide community as we seek to create a global brand known for its work empowering female leadership and self-awareness...enabling us each to be supported on our journey to become the best we can be. You will be advised as soon as the new website on [womanwithin.org.uk](http://womanwithin.org.uk) goes live - hopefully August this year. We will encourage you to look at it, sign in, create your own password and start to manage your account and history with WW.

We will provide materials once the website is completed to help you pass on what YOU get out of Woman Within so you can more easily spread the word amongst your family and friends.

**This time next year we will be celebrating 20 years in the UK. Together let us make the next year very special....let us be the change we want to see in the world**