

The Salvation Army

International Headquarters



101 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET
LONDON EC4V 4EH
Telephone: +[44] (20) 7332 8009
Fax: +[44] (20) 7332 8010
Email: IHQ-WM@salvationarmy.org

OFFICE OF THE WORLD PRESIDENT
OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

A Christian church and registered charity

Dear Sisters,

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be salt and light in our communities, bringing hope, healing and transformation wherever we go. Battle Cry is a movement that seeks to empower and mobilise women to engage in local acts of social justice; it is our response to the call of Isaiah 1:17: 'Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed.'

The Salvation Army has always been home to women involved in social justice and action that positively impacts the world. I think of my friend in New Zealand who, having recently retired from a long nursing career, is seeking a space to continue her ministry of care among those in need of judgement-free guidance and medical attention. I consider the 19-year-old who combats period poverty among peers through fundraising events that partner local stores with community centres. Her thoughtful intervention has helped many female students. These examples remind us what is possible when women use their gifts and skills for the greater good. This is nothing new for Salvation Army women, but we have a responsibility to intentionally nurture, tend and guide this organic, missional work for all generations. This is where Battle Cry comes in!

To engage in Battle Cry is to identify a social need – no matter how big or small – and to feel released to respond to it. It is an invitation to rally your team of friends, colleagues, mums, daughters and granddaughters together, and consider how to serve as a uniquely placed and gifted group of women. Work to your strengths – if you can sew, then sew; if you can teach, then teach; if you can cook, then cook; if you can network, then network. Use your skills to connect with people beyond your usual corners. Step outside your church building and do something beautiful for others, in the name of Jesus!

Globally, The Salvation Army recognises the role of women in addressing social justice issues. Our desire is that, through these first Battle Cry resources, we will see more women stepping confidently into their calling as agents of social justice. A devotional plan will be released over the coming months and, later in 2025, online courses will educate and equip those who are interested in exploring informed justice response. Please follow us on social media and visit our webpage: <https://salvationarmy.org/ihq/womensministries>

Though we may doubt that our offering will make much difference and it might seem easier to leave things to the professionals, we must remember that, as is the way of the Kingdom, we each have a part to play. Start simple. Start small. Start with what you know. There will always be a place for high-level, trained and coordinated responses, but your contribution to creating a better world is also needed. We are stronger together.

My prayer for you is this: 'May God bless you with discontent with easy answers, half-truths, superficial relationships so that you will live from deep within your heart. May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, abuse, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, equality, and peace ... May God bless you with the foolishness to think you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done' (Sister Ruth Fox, 1985).

I invite you to join us in this important work. Together, may we be bold in speaking out with wisdom and grace, and may we be courageous in our pursuit of justice.

Grace and peace to you,

Bronwyn Buckingham

Commissioner
World President of Women's Ministries