

## 賦權女孩不僅僅是創造平等

**最**近，我到烏干達的納基維爾 (Nakivale) 難民安置區待了一段時間。如同名稱中的「安置」一詞所示，住在那裡的人可以自由移動，盡其所能融入——這是讓該地與眾不同的一點。

我有機會和十餘個國家的男孩及女孩一起踢足球，並與逃離衝突區域的女性交談。這裡交織著各種人類透過笑聲與淚水所獲得的共通經驗。

當我與一名教師走過安置區的一處校園，她跟我分享女孩教育的悲慘統計數字。大多數的女孩無法讀完小學。許多人被迫進行童婚，以換取家人的食物。當我環顧這些小女孩，難過不已。

我們致力於賦權女孩及女性，遠遠不僅要創造平等而已——有時候，重點在健康及教育。有些時候重點在提供安全。不管選擇哪一個，重要的一向都是基本人權。

我們可以做更多來賦權女孩及女性，我們可以增加分享扶輪社員及夥伴達成這個目標之進展的方式。

要從我們的工作找到激勵人心的例子絕對不虞缺乏，從提供給奈及利亞女性的無息小額貸款，到印度提供女孩生理期衛生用品的

計畫。在扶輪各焦點領域都有數百項計畫在進行，發揮著有意義、且往往救人性的影響力。

攜手同心，我們可以解決世界各地女孩每天所面臨的需求及不平等。可是我們也必須監督這些計畫的影響，增進對扶輪資源及主題領域專家的認識，包括扶輪行動團體、扶輪基金會顧問團、扶輪和平中心獎學金受獎人等等。

特別重要的一點是我們要宣傳我們對女性及女孩生命發揮正面影響力的故事。我對最後一點尤其心有戚戚焉。這意味著在社群媒體、透過地方新聞媒介、在本月刊，以及任何我們能啟發他人的地方，都要大力分享我們的故事。

在各位這麼做的同時，記得提供資訊來協助我們扶輪家庭與其他在各自區域及世界各地推行活動的人串連在一起。讓我們分享我們的成果，向彼此學習——然後再向更廣大的受眾宣傳我們的故事。

這些是扶輪的精彩時刻，世界正在關注。當我們努力賦權女孩及女性，讓她們發揮潛能時，我們也開創新的道路來促進社員成長及與夥伴合作，以創造正向、持恆的改變。感謝各位在此重要工作的持續行動。

**珍妮佛·瓊斯 JENNIFER JONES**

國際扶輪社長



攝影：Esther Ruth Mbabazi

瓊斯與辛巴威演員希朋吉爾·姆蘭波 (Sibongile Mlambo) 在納基維爾安置區觀賞足球賽。這是在不同國籍的住民中建立向心力的其中一項行動。

## Empowering girls is about more than creating equity

**R**ecently, I spent time in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda. As the “settlement” in its name suggests, the people living there are free to move around and integrate as best they can — one thing that makes the place unique.

I had a chance to play soccer with boys and girls from about a dozen nations and talk with women who had fled areas of conflict. It was a tapestry of human experience shared through both laughter and tears.

As I walked across a school campus at the settlement with a teacher, she shared with me the dire statistics on girls’ education. Most don’t get through grade school. Many are sold into child marriage to pay for food for their families. As I looked around at these young girls, I was gutted.

Our work with empowering girls and women is much more than creating equity — sometimes, it’s about health or education. Other times it’s about providing safety. Regardless of the path, it’s always about basic human rights.

We can do more to empower girls and women, and we can expand how we share the progress Rotary members and our partners have made toward this goal.

There is no shortage of inspiring examples of our work, from interest-free microcredit loans for women in Nigeria, to projects in India that provide girls menstrual hygiene products. Hundreds of projects are taking place across all Rotary areas of focus and are

making a meaningful and often lifesaving difference.

Together, we can address the needs and inequities that girls throughout the world face daily. But we must also monitor the impact of these projects and create awareness of Rotary resources and subject matter experts, including Rotary Action Groups, The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, Rotary Peace Fellows, and others.

It is especially important that we tell the stories of our initiatives that have a positive impact on the lives of women and girls. This last point is near and dear to my heart. This means sharing our stories on social media, through local news outlets, in this magazine, and wherever we can inspire others.

As you do so, it’s important to provide information that helps our Rotary family connect with others who are implementing activities in their regions, as well as across the world. Let’s share our successes and learn from one another — then proudly tell our stories to a larger audience.

These are exciting times in Rotary, and the world is taking notice. As we work to empower women and girls to step into their full potential, we create new pathways for membership growth and greater collaboration with partners to create positive, lasting change. Thank you for your continued action in this vital effort.

**JENNIFER JONES**

*President, Rotary International*



Photograph by Esther Ruth Mbabazi

Jones and Zimbabwean actor Sibongile Mlambo watch a soccer match in Nakivale settlement. It’s part of an effort to build community among residents of different nationalities.