

EMPOWERING WOMEN

GRACING OUR FACES WITH HEALTHY SMILES



STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ORAL & GENERAL HEALTH THROUGH PROJECTS BY DENTAL HYGIENISTS

"The empowered woman is powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond description."

Social changes and awareness in the past few years have uncovered a host of vulnerabilities among the female population. We have been exposed to the delicate, frail, and desperate women among us. Some of these women endure both physical and psychological damage. Their oral health is affected from lack of self-care or minimal access to professional care.

Empowering women by creating awareness of oral health is a vital and worthwhile mission. A healthy smile generates higher self-esteem and confidence. And since women are caregivers to both their offspring and aging parents, they influence their entire families. Helping women to achieve better oral health will hopefully have a domino effect for a brighter, healthier future for all.

The IFDH is encouraging its members to develop projects that empower women through better oral health

Are your members participating in a program focused on women?

- If so, please let us know.

- If not, we invite you to develop a project to share with colleagues.

- It can be a small project in a community or a nation-wide initiative, as long as it addresses the theme of empowering women. We will highlight three projects at a special session in Dublin, Ireland at the ISDH conference, August 10-13, 2022.
- To support you in your project, we have developed a factsheet on getting started and have an example of a current project to explain each step.
- We will also present an online webinar to assist you in planning and implementing your project.

Suggested groups of women to consider when developing a project:

- *Mothers
- *Prenatal groups
- *Refugees
- *Prisoners in female facilities
- *Prostitute outreach centers
- *Shelters for abused women
- *Young women's sheltered homes
- *Seniors, drug or alcohol abuse treatment facilities or out reach centers
- *Menopausal women
- *Other women's target groups in need of oral hygiene education

The first IFDH Social Responsibility program in Brisbane, Australia (2019), was highly successful and affected so many lives across the globe. We hope to see you in Dublin, where the impact will be just as big!



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