

15 August 2014

## Shining a light on gender based discrimination and abuse

Expressions of interest for *100 Women's* inaugural grants are now open, with three organisations standing to gain up to \$40,000 to fund programs that support a world where all women and girls can live safely with access to health, education and economic freedom.

*100 Women* has attracted 65 members that have donated \$1200 each. It needs another 35 philanthropists to join their ranks to reach the target of \$120,000 by September.

The good news was announced at a sell-out screening of the documentary *Half the Sky* at the State Library of Western Australia, when 200 people watched the harrowing yet inspiring stories of women and girls who endure horrific gender discrimination and abuse.

*100 Women* Chair, Alicia Curtis, said, "You don't have to be rich to be a philanthropist; our model allows ordinary people to join a giving movement that is bringing about meaningful change to vulnerable women. I am confident that Perth has 35 more people who are ready to commit and have the privilege of being among the first *100 Women*."

The screening was followed by a lively discussion by panel members Rabia Siddique, retired British Army officer, former terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, professional speaker and *100 Women* Ambassador; Rachelle Towart, CEO of the Indigenous Leadership Centre; Professor Alison Bartlett, Chair of Gender Studies, University of Western Australia; and Conrad Liveris, writer, researcher and advocate.

Rabia Siddique confirmed that abuse is on our doorstep, with one in two Australian women being exposed to it, while Rachelle Towart, summed up *100 Women* movement's spirit as she encouraged the audience to "Get off the island called someday and be specific about what you want and how you will achieve it."

*100 Women* is a Perth based giving circle which launched in March this year. It enables everyday people to be involved in creating a world where all women and girls can live safely with access to health, education and economic freedom. They do this by combining member donations to provide impactful grants to causes that support the *100 Women* vision.

All donations to *100 Women* are fully tax deductible and 100 percent of donations received will be given out in grants. For more information, visit [100women.com.au](http://100women.com.au) or email [info@100women.com.au](mailto:info@100women.com.au)

For more information on the grants or the expression of interest process that closes on 1 September, visit [100women.com.au/grants/](http://100women.com.au/grants/) or email [grants@100women.com.au](mailto:grants@100women.com.au)

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### **About 100 Women**

Program founder [Alicia Curtis](#) explains how the concept of *100 Women* was formed: "The idea was first inspired by reading the book [Half the Sky](#), a book which raises awareness of the continued plight of women and how through investment and empowerment, real change can be achieved," Alicia said.

100 Women is a giving circle which enables everyday people to be involved in creating a world where all women and girls can live safely with access to health, education and economic freedom. We do this by combining donations and knowledge to provide impact grants.

The uniqueness of *100 Women* is that our donors are responsible for choosing the projects who receive funding. All members are encouraged to learn about the issues through educational events, and engage with the successful projects to help promote change.

### **Ambassadors for 100 Women**

The concept has already attracted the support of high profile Perth women who have become Ambassadors for *100 Women*:

Rabia Siddique: *"To have the opportunity to play my part in inspiring and empowering girls and women to be the best version of themselves and realise their dreams is a joy."*

Erica Smyth: *"It is easy for us living in Perth to forget that many women still live in fear of abuse, poverty, cultural barriers or lower educational opportunities. 100 Women gives us, collectively, a chance to assist such women and to show them they are not on their own."*

Maria Saraceni: *"Holding out a hand for guidance and support is a direct and effective way to bring at least one other woman on the journey to achieve her true potential. But walking alongside that woman gives her palpable inspiration and courage."*