



Corona in the 21st Century

With the decline and final end of the Empire, the numbers of women going overseas to Third World countries inevitably declined. However, these women were replaced by a new generation, whose lives overseas were in very different places from those that the Society was initially set up to help. Corona, therefore, changed its focus to help those women, and its network of branches overseas has changed to reflect the places where members are now working. A multi-racial Society, Corona welcomes all those in sympathy with its aims. In addition, Corona is affiliated with other international women's societies, many of which also have branches overseas; contacts with these organisations can easily be made.

Whilst some services are no longer in demand and have lapsed (e.g. the Children's Escort Service) there remains a need for education and support of women going overseas, or returning to live in the UK. To this end, Corona still offers briefing services to those requiring this information, as well as giving friendship and support overseas and at home



What next?

If you are interested in finding out more about what Corona can do for you, please contact the office. You may perhaps consider becoming a member. It is not essential that members in the UK have lived overseas, just that they should be in sympathy with the aims of the Society, which are to promote friendship between women of all nations.

In the Information Pack you will find some information about educational services offered by the Society, services to members, a list of branches and where they are based, and an application form to join the Society.

There is also a programme of visits in the capital organised for members, and to which their friends or spouses are welcome as well. There is an annual lunch, usually in the summer, and a short UK break organised for members.

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CORONA WORLDWIDE

What is it all about?

Registered Charity Number 204802



The beginnings

The Women's Corona Society, later Corona Worldwide, was founded in 1950. It had its beginnings in the Women's Corona Club, a companion dining club to the Men's Corona Club for senior officers in the Colonial Service. After the Second World War the numbers of women going overseas with their husbands increased dramatically. Conditions, particularly in Africa, were difficult. One or two more enlightened senior members of the Service in London appreciated the need for women to have some sort of preparation for their life overseas, and turned to the Women's Corona Club for help. The Society, as it then became, quickly developed a more serious purpose. It aimed to provide support and education for women going overseas, as well as a range of services in the United Kingdom. To this day it remains a registered charity with the Charity Commission.



Expansion of Membership

Although initially very much a government organisation, whose offices and staff were paid for by government, Corona soon expanded to offer its services to those women who were not going overseas in the service of HMG, but who were working or whose husbands were working for commercial enterprises of all kinds.

The first overseas branch was established in Aden, after which many overseas branches were formed. These enabled women already in the country to give active support to those newly arrived, to ensure that they settled in to their new life with the minimum of disruption.

As the British Empire gave way to the Commonwealth, some of these branches closed. However, with commercial enterprises starting up all over the world, many new branches were set up to support those women.



Charitable Status and Affiliation with other Organisations

Corona Worldwide was registered as a charity in 1962. It is a very small charity which is run principally by its volunteers. Because it has members and branches throughout the world, it maintains a small Headquarters in London. A part-time Administrative Secretary is employed to run the office and deal with enquiries from both members of the Society and members of the public.

Corona Worldwide is affiliated to the Federation of International Women's Organisations in London (FIWAL). It also maintains links with the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Royal Over-Seas League, the Commonwealth Countries League, Commonwealth Affairs, the British Council, the Diplomatic Services Families' Association, and the Department for International Development. It is a member of the Council of Commonwealth Societies.