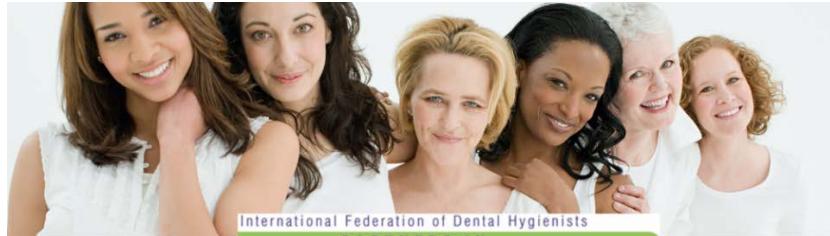




INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS



## EMPOWERING WOMEN GRACING OUR FACES WITH HEALTHY SMILES

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



### 2019 – 2022 Social Responsibility Committee Report

**Chair:** Sharon Friedman Yaniv

#### **Members of the Committee**

1. Jill Rethman 2. Veronica Montabello 3. Jacqueline Boss 4. Elaine Johnson 5. Carmen Lanoway

#### **Plans for the 2019 – 2022 Term**

The current Social Responsibility committee was formed in August 2019 at the IFDH business meeting. Sharon Friedman Yaniv was appointed as Chair of the committee.

We all know the importance and key role hygienists play in the oral health field in different settings.

Our mission is to make countries aware of the realm of possibilities involving dental hygienists in promoting oral health to target groups either in or outside their country.

As the world was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic in the beginning of 2020, it seemed to take a toll on every aspect of our lives. As this proved to be a challenging time for all of us - our actual work in the committee began later that year as the situation began to clear a bit. Once we began, we all felt the importance of our mission especially during the complicated period and we all participated with great motivation. It just felt like the right thing to do.

As chair of the committee, I had contacted each delegate joining the SR committee and engaged in meetings and correspondence through the 2019 – 2022 term.

## **Actions taken / completed**

- Forming a WhatsApp group to communicate, send messages, and delegate tasks more efficiently
- Choosing our theme - This term we chose the theme "Empowering Women and enhancing their oral health". This comes at a time when The Me-Two movement has risen, and the awareness of a whole range of vulnerabilities of women's target groups has come to focus. Our aim was to promote their oral as well as general health.
- Creating a graphic banner that specifies the theme of the committee
- A newsletter stating our committee's stand was prepared and sent to HOD
- The committee's document was also sent to the social media group to promote initiations of SR projects.
- On-line meeting among the committee members – Since the committee was established, we had 7 committee meetings on-line. We had good discussions with decision making outcomes on promotion of the idea of countries participating in SR projects, assisting in initiating projects and, once we had projects submitted judging templates and final announcements of awarded projects.
- On-line meetings between chair of the committee
- Creation of a short promotional video to promote initiations of projects
- IFDH website – updated regarding the Social Responsibility
- Press release – We have had a press release made and published in different platforms
- A worldwide special webinar was given by Wanda Fedora, Jill Rethman and Sharon Friedman Yaniv explaining our mission and assisting with tools to help with initiations and formations of various projects
- Podcast by the ADHA – The American Dental Hygienists Association had a podcast with the participation of Jill Rethman, one of 2 U.S.A delegates from our committee, who described our committee's work and mission, as well as the importance of SR projects especially the empowerment of women's oral health as part of their general health.
- Providing response and support to those interested in submitting SR projects
- Forming the judging template and criteria to awarded projects. Only committee members that their countries did not submit projects were on the judging panel – thus Sharon Friedman and Wanda Fedora were excluded from the judging panel.
- Announcements of awarded projects
- Forming an SR mini site for the Social Responsibility committee and projects
- ISDH social responsibility session planning
- Holding an on-line meeting for committee members and recipients of the awarded projects

## **Final Comments**

As stated above, even though times were very complicated, we had fantastic teamwork. We all had a sense of mission as the joint work progressed. Each of the committee members contributed uniquely to the success of the committee and the realization of its goal. We were completely "in it" as professionals, and as women. The result is the submission of 8 wonderful projects that have undoubtedly given their impact on female populations around the world and improved their oral and general health. A warm thank you for the work and dedication to each and every one of the committee members. A special thanks to all those who presented projects, not only to the recipients of the awarded projects – every project is a winner. To our communities and future generations to come.