



Welcome to Rosa's December 2008 update.

It's been four months since I started and I would like to thank you for showing an interest in Rosa during our first year. In this update you'll find out what we are up to and why people think we're worth supporting.

Rosa's Board - Maggie Baxter (Chair), Vivienne Hayes and Marilyn List - have been developing our strategic direction to meet our vision of equality and justice for women and girls in the UK, and our mission to raise and distribute money to women's projects and influence others to do the same. They are also looking at the broader skills we need so if you might be interested in joining the Board look out for further details in our March newsletter.

Why do we need Rosa and why do women's issues still need dedicated funding? This month sees the 80th anniversary of women gaining voting rights - yet although we've seen improvements, fewer than 20% of today's UK Members of Parliament are women. 2008 has also seen the pay gap between men and women widen and the number of women attaining top jobs fall. Appalling statistics around domestic and sexual violence and trafficking show issues need tackling.

Women are also facing a crisis in the way they see themselves. Research shows a higher number of women than men (8 out of 10) are unhappy with the way they look. This is partly due to standards of female beauty being considerably higher and more inflexible. The trend for ultra-thin women has been linked to increases in mental health problems, depression and



eating disorders as people try to achieve a body shape that is normal for less than 5% of women.

With this in mind Rosa has decided to focus on **Body Image** for its first set of grants. We will have a minimum of £25,000 in total to award. Grants will be made to projects with at least two partners, who are engaged with the media and who address the question 'How can you support women and girls to develop a positive body image?' The full criteria and application details will be announced in early February.

We will be hosting an event in Spring to introduce our grantees and celebrate Rosa's first year - look out for an invite soon in your inbox.

I hope you find the articles on giving to Rosa of interest. If you'd like to celebrate a woman or girl in your life this Christmas or New Year, plant a rose for her and let her know how special she is through our **Celebrate Her** campaign.

If you have any comments or ideas we'd be pleased to hear from you - please email info@rosauk.org or give us a ring on 020 7324 3044.

Until the update in March - **Warm wishes from us all.**

Dinah Cox
Executive Director

Celebrate Her

Gillian Egan shares why she celebrated

I celebrated my very good friend, Karin. It was her birthday, and seemed like the perfect thing. I feel lucky to have Karin in my life and celebrating her in a public way appealed to me.

Over the years working together, I've learned a huge amount from Karin and I admire her enormously. It's so enjoyable spending time with her - whether trying to crack a tricky work problem or gossiping over a glass of wine.

She's the kind of woman who, no matter what's going on in her day, will always make time for you.

I was also celebrating a woman being herself and sharing her talents. That's what Karin does and what Rosa is all about too. I love the fact that in celebrating Karin, I'm also helping Rosa raise money for projects that will support more women.



Donor Profile

Anne Donaldson on supporting Rosa

I decided to be one of the first supporters of ROSA because I feel passionately about the need to support vulnerable women in so many areas. Whether it is domestic violence, drug related problems, poverty or so many other problems facing women in today's society. Women in the UK need a voice and somewhere to go for support.

There are a large number of organisations doing excellent work to support women and girls at risk but ROSA provides one organisation specifically focussed on getting resources in place to enable these organisations to meet the needs of women.

The small team of Dinah Cox and Ann-Sophie Morrissette supported by founder Maggie Baxter have demonstrated huge energy in moving ROSA from an idea to reality. This wonderful organisation will hugely benefit women in all walks of life. I am very proud to be involved.

