

Building hope and confidence:

Being confident about Mothers' Union

Creating a collage to focus on all that our organisation does

With a theme of building hope and confidence, it is important for us to recognise all that Mothers' Union, through its members and supporters, does to care for families both locally and globally. Knowing what is being achieved, and what we can do to further those achievements, allows us to be confident that other goals can be attained – and also to promote the outreach of Mothers' Union to a wider audience.

This activity is aimed at helping members to focus on what Mothers' Union does – and does well.

Creating a collage

You will need:

- A number of old general interest magazines such as *Good Housekeeping*, *The People's Friend*, etc. as well as back copies of *Families First* and *Families Worldwide*.
- A supply of scissors (or ask members to bring their own)
- Some glue sticks or PVA glue
- A large piece of card

Ask everyone to:

- Browse through the magazines to find pictures that represent what Mothers' Union does well (apart from making tea!). Each person can find as many pictures as they want.
- Cut the pictures out.
- Stick the pictures on a large piece of card to make a collage.

Allow about 10 – 15 minutes for this.

If it's difficult to get everyone sticking, you could ask one person to do all the gluing. But it's better (and more fun) for everyone to choose where to put their pictures and this also allows everyone to make an active contribution to the collage.

Once all the pictures are stuck on the card, display this so everyone can see – either by propping up on a table, or putting on the floor or a low table in the centre of a circle of chairs.

If there are more than about 10 – 12 people, it may be better to divide into smaller groups and create separate collages. You could either bring people back to the full group for the rest of the activity or continue in separate groups, sharing the outcomes of discussions at the end.

Naming what we do well

Ask people to make suggestions of what they think the pictures represent about Mothers' Union – not just the person who has chosen the picture. The same picture could represent different aspects of our organisation to different people.

Don't expect everyone to have thoughts about each picture, but do make sure that everyone has a chance to offer their thoughts and try not to let one or two give their suggestions first every time.

Next steps

As a group, consider:

- Is there anything missing from the collage? Some of what we do might not easily be identified in a picture from a magazine.
- What are the aspects of Mothers' Union on the collage that you are already involved with? Is there more that you could do? Do you need to change what you?
- What aspects of Mothers' Union would you, as a group or individually, like to be more engaged with? What ideas do you have for this? This could be volunteering to help at a Toddler group, holding a local event to raise funds for AFIA, finding out more about those areas where you don't know a great deal but consider to be important, such as Modern Day Slavery.
- Having confidence in the work of Mothers' Union, how could you promote this to your church congregation, or to your local community?