

Celebrating International Women's Day 2019 with The SWAP Women's Group

The theme of 'Remarkable Women' underpinning this year's International Women's Day complimented our recent work on 'Identity'- both as individual's and as a group, having given consideration to who we are and the gift's we both give and receive within the group – what makes us who we are and indeed, set's us out as 'remarkable'!

The countries represented this International Women's Day were: Eritrea, Albania, Guinea, Palestine, Syria, Sudan , Iraq and Kurdistan – but in fact the bonds of support make us one with each other.



We began our reflections by considering the remarkable contributions of a few women (both contemporary and historical): Billy Jean King, Florence Nightingale, Malala Yousifzai, Helen Keller and Rosa Parkes- what was it that made them stand up and campaign for their beliefs against the odds and who, in their own countries, were remarkable women, making a difference now or did so in past times, women

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marriage and for girls to be allowed an education.



inspire them.

women spoke fiercely of their admiration for women in their own countries, unafraid to be in the public trailblazing for the rights of women where women are largely unseen.

spoke of her great grandmother, married at 13, and who, throughout life, campaigned against forced



In Albania, The People's Heroine, Shote Galicie, fought for the right to have the same opportunities in life as men, which included fighting alongside her compatriots.

The



women of Syria spoke passionately about the need to : Be Brave: Be Strong.

But being a remarkable woman was tangible within the group in the esteem the women had for each other, their friendship, support, love, camaraderie, in hard times and good- that being there for each other was remarkable enough in itself- when you leave your home and family, and set out into the unknown because you believe in a better future for your children- surely counts as REMARKABLE?