

BPW Cyprus

Limassol



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- ▶ Strategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea . Cyprus bridges the gap between Europe, the Middle East ,Africa,Asia.
- ▶ Over the centuries Cyprus has been occupied by various foreign countries.After the Trojan war the Greeks arrived and we have proof of continuous Greek presence since the 11th century BC.
- ▶ The last occupiers were the British .After a short independence uprising Cyprus became an independent State , the Republic of Cyprus, in 1960 , under the Zurich Agreement .
- ▶ The population was 70% Greeks , religion Greek Orthodox , and 30% Turkish Cypriots., religion Moslems. We also have communities of Catholics ,Armenians, Maronites all represented in Parliament.



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- ▶ Weather : Mild winters with limited rain and snow , long hot dry summers
- ▶ Beautiful beaches, clean sea waters, nice hotels, good food, good life.
- ▶ Cyprus being a small country has no natural resources / raw materials .We produce fruits, vegetables, flowers, dairy, meat, fish and have light industry, juices, drinks, beer, wine, pharmaceuticals, spare parts, light machinery etc.
- ▶ Most of all we offer **services** : fund managing, financial institutions , banks , investment banks , professional service providers , real estate .
- ▶ We are strong in shipping with competitive advantage as a ship management hub. With an attractive flag we are number 3 in the EU in merchant and commercial shipping fleet and number 6 in the world.
- ▶ Tourism is very important , 3 plus million tourists with a population of 1 million.



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- ▶ UN member since 1960 and EU member since 2004 with the Euro as currency since 2008.
- ▶ Today after the Turkish invasion and occupation of 40% of the land by the Turkish army the Turkish Cypriots have been moved in this self declared state that is only recognised by
- ▶ Turkey. We do not know the number of inhabitants as a lot of Turkish Cypriots have immigrated to other countries and a large number of immigrants from mainland Turkey live there .
- ▶ Today the population of the Republic of Cyprus is about 1 million including communities of expats and business people who have brought their companies to operate and their families to live in Cyprus .



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- ▶ Education in Cyprus is free and obligatory from 5 to 15 years .
- ▶ We have 1282 educational institutions at all levels.
- ▶ We have 2 public and 44 private Universities.
- ▶ 24,000 students studying in Cyprus , 55% women 45% men .Also 20,000 students studying abroad.
- ▶ Women often outperform men academically. While before they preferred to study humanities now the trend is to turn to STEM education as this secures well paid jobs.



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- ▶ In the public sector women are in education, health, social work, justice, diplomatic service , administration.
- ▶ In the private sector women run businesses in services, tourism, retail, arts, entertainment , shipping, aviation, health, fashion, manufacturing, agriculture.
- ▶ Women own about 25% of the total enterprises
- ▶ 80% of them are of small or micro size
- ▶ 38% are part timers – they have to care for the family
- ▶ Women in leading positions in business are 20% , similar to Sweden and Norway , only 10% appointed on boards.



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Problems women face :

- Funding
 - Gender pay gap 15%
 - Gender equality
 - Equal representation in decision making
 - Balancing professional and family life
 - Harassment / violence
 - Unemployment now at 7 %
 - Women are 18% in Parliament of 56 MPs
 - Only 3 Ministers and 1 Undersecretary
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- ▶ BPW Cyprus :
 - ▶ The first club was BPW Limassol founded in 1988 by Claire Angelides a literature professor , a writer and a poet , an ex Education Minister, inspired by a visit to Sorrento.
 - ▶ In 1996 at the BPW International Congress in Vancouver, Canada , BPW Cyprus applied and became a Federation with 5 clubs x 20 members .Today we have about 270 members including Young BPW members. The Young are represented at the BPW Councils.
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- ▶ I was President of BPW Limassol for 2 terms 1996-2000
 - ▶ and President of BPW Cyprus 2013-2015.
 - ▶ Today I am the ECC Secretary (European Coordination Committee).
 - ▶ Projects : Equal Pay – informing people with leaflets and the press supported by the Equality Commissioner and the Ministry of Employment
 - ▶ Equal representation with in decision making , on boards of Directors of Public and Private Companies , on voting tickets for elections (Parliament , European Parliament , Local Authorities , Boards of Universities etc).
 - ▶ Improving female entrepreneurship with seminars , training , mentoring , lobbying .
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- ▶ We completed successfully 2 Leonardo Da Vinci programs with 4 European partners each on female and young entrepreneurship
- ▶ We organized the 2015 Young Symposium in Limassol with much participation from European young members
- ▶ We saw MPs , high officials , even the President of the Republic to press on equality
- ▶ We participated in all Presidents meetings , European + International Conferences , Leaders Summits , CSW Congresses at UNHQ New York



BPW Cyprus

BPW Cyprus is organising for the first time the BPW Mediterranean Symposium in Nicosia 23-24 November 2018. The purpose is to identify the common challenges faced by women entrepreneurs of all the countries of the Mediterranean region , discuss them and try to find solutions. The International President Dr.Amany Asfour will be present accompanied by a team of top officials from the International and European Councils. There will be Country Presentations and the issues will be discussed in Panel discussions. The program is already on the Symposium' s website .



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