

MEDIA RELEASE

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BPW Lebanon Disaster Appeal Sewing machines to the rescue

The Textile, Clothing and Footwear Resource Centre of WA (TCF WA), Belmont Business Enterprise Centre (BBEC), and Business Professional Women WA & Australia (BPW WA and Australia) is calling for donations of sewing machines / overlockers (in good working order), Fabrics and textiles for BPW Lebanon and the women of Beirut to assist them in starting small sewing home-based sewing businesses.

Carol Hanlon, Founder of TCF WA and BBEC said, "The explosion that destroyed the Port of Beirut on 4 August 2020 killed almost 200 and injured 6000 people; 300,000 lost their homes and the oncoming winter will be very cold and lonely for many."

Ms Hanlon was alerted to the devastating situation in Beirut by Carmen Zogheib, President of BPW Lebanon. She wrote to BPW International & BPW Australia seeking funds and other functional supports for their economic empowerment project for women which aims to help homeless victims survive the winter and help women who have lost their jobs due to the blast to be able to earn a living again.

BPW Lebanon will provide sewing machines and fabric to women who can sew so they can make blankets, and then BPW Lebanon members will give the blankets to the homeless people to warm themselves with through the winter. The women who sew can later use their sewing machines to start a small business and earn a living.

"We are in the last stages of preparing a 40ft container for shipment to the BPW Lebanon. If you can assist, drop off your sewing machines & textiles **ASAP** to TCFWA & BBEC at Unit 3, 216 Belmont Ave., Cloverdale (car park next door)", Ms Hanlon said.

The plan is to despatch the container in late May 2021.

Our special thanks go our major freight sponsor from Perth to Beirut, the Ghossayn Group from NSW, local freight donations have also been received from BPW Belmont, BPW Harvey and BPW Clubs from across Australia. The storage unit of donated items during our collection time has been sponsored by Storage King Perth Airport which has been a key supporter to make this project a reality, shipping logistics assisted by LGF Logistics Perth.

Ms Hanlon said, "To help with this important project, we are also calling for further donations to directly assist with the sewing training skills in Lebanon, in any amount is appreciated, no matter how small,"

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About TCFWA

The Textile, Clothing and Footwear Resource Centre was established in 1998 as a not-for-profit community-based association that provides a valuable resource of support and assistance to small businesses in the fashion, textile, clothing, footwear, creative and manufacturing industries through business skills training, mentoring, support, and global trade opportunities. From its headquarters in Belmont, WA, TCFWA provides specialised resources, services and training and fosters networking to maintain and establish key partnerships for the national TCF industry. It is supported by TCFWA membership, sponsors, supporters, and volunteers. TCFWA has been recognised as a leader and role model organisation across Australia and overseas for delivering a helpline service and specialised fashion & TCF industry webinars, workshops & mentoring to better equip those operating in the industry.