

STAND UP and make a difference

In a refugee camp on the **Thai-Burma border** there is a school very unlike your own. It is called the Karen Young Women's Leadership School. The young women who study there are from the Karen ethnic minority and are refugees, having fled their homes to escape the ongoing conflict in their native Burma. They learn about **human rights, women's rights and leadership skills**. They take their knowledge back to their communities, continuing the **work for equality and democracy** for their people and country.

By participating in **IWDA's silent-a-thon** your school can raise vital funds to keep this valuable school going. Students get sponsored to **stay silent during the week of International Women's Day – March 8**. It can be an hour, a lunch-time or a whole day. IWDA will provide your school with great materials including sponsorship forms, posters, speaking cards, letter templates and 'how to' instructions. **Participating schools will also receive a speaker from IWDA** to inform the students about the projects that they are supporting and to **energise them to silence greatness** - and there are prizes (made by the Karen people) for students who raise the most on the day!

SHUT UP
so that young
refugee women
have a voice



About International Women's Development Agency

iwda

IWDA is an Australian non-profit organisation that promotes positive change for women and their communities in the Asia-Pacific region. Our practical and rights-based projects directly address poverty and oppression in developing countries.

Our projects focus on five key areas of well-being for women:

- livelihood and economic empowerment
- freedom from violence
- participation in leadership and decision-making
- sexual and reproductive health and rights including HIV/AIDS
- environmental and natural resource management.

We work in direct partnership with women from local communities, supporting their innovative solutions to the issues they identify as most critical.

All the evidence indicates that sustainable change requires the active inclusion and participation of women. When women benefit, they share it with their children, families and communities.

Stand up! Shut up!
And know that your silence
is creating a positive change
for young refugee women this
International Women's Day

Head of LOTE Department Ferry Grove High School ...

The **silent-a-thon** has had a profound effect on a large number of students in realising how difficult life could be if their requests, needs, likes or dislikes were not met... Students have embraced this activity and look forward to participating in it annually - the teaching staff have also commented that they appreciate the 'silence' for a change!...

Year 9 boy Ferry Grove High School ...

I chose to do the **silent-a-thon** to give these people a voice, to make their lives easier. These people live in poverty and neither Thailand nor Burma will accept them. So by just not speaking for one day I was able to make their lives easier. To be able to give them schooling, food and hope for the future...

This is what other schools have said about participating in the silent-a-thon..

Year 11 girl University High School ...

Our Charity Action Group decided to hold a **silent-a-thon** for IWDA. The aim was to sacrifice something we take for granted - free speech - and to recognise that many people world-wide (especially women) do not have this right...

Register your school today!

email silent@iwda.org.au
or return the enclosed
request for more information.