

Dear President Mary,
your Excellency,
dear Business and Professional Women,
dear guests,

in the name of BPW Basel I would like to thank you with all my heart for the overwhelming welcome here in Nicosia.

It is a great pleasure and honor to be with you tonight to officially confirm and celebrate the twinning between BPW Basel and BPW Nicosia.

Gabriella already explained the purpose of the twinning. This is a unique opportunity for cultural and professional exchange, to learn from and encourage each other.

As expression of our friendship we would like to present you our gift: the statue of **Helvetia**.

Helvetia is the national figure of Switzerland, we see her on our coins.
Helvetia wearing a robe, a spear and a shield with the Swiss cross.
She is the mother of the nation, role model and protector of all Swiss citizens.
With her diplomacy she secures peace, but she is ready to fight for our sheared values, if necessary.
Even today, Switzerland is the country of neutrality and the seat of several international organizations (UN, CERN, International Red Cross, and others)

In Basel, we have a special version of Helvetia, **Helvetia on the journey**.

The story says: "One day Helvetia leaves the coin and travels through the country. Along her way she comes to Basel. After a walk through the city she takes off her shield, spear and case, puts her coat over the parapet, takes a rest and looks pensively down the Rhine."

This statue was created more than 30 years ago by the Basel sculptress Bettina Eichin, we are already looking forward to introducing this special Helvetia to you during your visit in Basel.



Today, Helvetia makes a trip to Cyprus to meet her friend **Aphrodite**.

Here in Cyprus Aphrodite rises from the foam of the sea, we saw her today in the Archeological Museum.

Aphrodite is naked, she is showing us her bewitching beauty.

She is the goddess of beauty and love, the all-embracing and unconditional love for life.

The message of Aphrodite is: Show your inner feminine wisdom and beauty to the world.

Tonight, we have the pleasure to welcome the president of BPW Athens, her representative is **Athena**.

Athena is wearing helmet, armor, lance and shield, her companion is the owl, the symbol of wisdom.

She is the goddess of war and peace at the same time, a strategist who turns unnecessary wars to peace.

She solves problems with her intelligence, she is the archetype of the modern business woman.

Dear Business and Professional Women, dear friends,

we are all daughters of the Goddess, she appears in different guises, her divine spark is in our hearts.

Helvetia, Aphrodite and Athena are calling us to focus on our unique female talents and strengths,

and use to them for the benefit of our families, the economy, politics, culture and society.

The world needs us and our female leadership.

I would like to thank all men, and especially the men who are with us tonight, who are supporting us in our every-day life, with love and respect, as family members, friends or business partners.

Tonight, I see so many wonderful women, so much competence and various abilities, friendship, warmth and cordiality, so I am fully convinced that we can make the world a better place.

Georgia Bross, 11.September 2014