

F.R.E.E. Woman emerged from a group of young women living in one of Lusaka's compounds who had no previous jewelry making skills. The group was founded by Dawn Close, an American who lives in Lusaka. Together they have developed a line of jewelry that is gathering demand from around the globe. There are ten women currently in the group with plans for expansion as markets increase.

Our Mission: Empowering disadvantaged women through value addition of Zambia's natural resources. We are using trade and not aid to lift lives.

Process: All our copper jewelry is handmade from copper sheet or electrical wire using simple tools like pliers and hammers. We have skills in soldering, fold-forming, rolling, etching, enameling, riveting, and patination.

Two women have completed a course in silversmithing under an Italian jewelry company and are making fine silver jewellery. We incorporate semi-precious gemstones into our designs in rough or processed form.

Quantity Manufacturing and Delivery Time: We have the capacity to produce in quantity. We transform our individual style of production into an assembly line, with all the women participating in the manufacturing process. Most orders can be filled in two to four weeks, depending on size.

Recycling, Fair Trade and the Environment: Our copper sheet is from recycled hot water heaters. The electrical wire is locally manufactured from recycled copper and locally mined copper. The silver is locally mined by small scale miners. We follow fair trade practices and the women who produce the jewelry are the ones who profit. We are teaching environmental consciousness to the women.

Export: Our first exportation was to Finland in 2012. Since then we have exported to many countries. Our jewelry may be found on several U.S. online retail sites.

Shipping: We have a U.S. distributor in Pittsburgh, PA. Large orders will be filled in Zambia and shipped via FedEx or other courier services.

Value Addition: Adding value to Zambia's natural resources prospers the nation. Zambia has an abundance of copper and semi-precious stones. In addition to the well known emeralds and amethyst; citrine, tourmaline, rhodolite, garnet, and aquamarine are available. F.R.E.E. Woman jewelry features a nontraditional look with natural rough gemstones as well as more traditional faceted gems and cabochons.



Foundation for the Realization of Economic Empowerment (F.R.E.E.)

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