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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the October 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome everyone to our October edition.

The preparations continues for CSW71 event in March 2027 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. See the applications for a Scholarship Delegate and Self-funded Delegates. Applications close on 31 October 2026 for Scholarships and 16 December for self-funded delegates. SISEAP has submitted a Statement to CSW71 on the review theme to UN Women. See below for Statement

Our next Campaign '16 Days of Activism' commences on 25 November to 10 December. Toolkit is available on the website.

Club reports addressing the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially on line violence are to be submitted to SI UN Representative by 4 November. Read President Anthea's message below on promoting Orange Cafe as a means to highlight the 16 Days and the UNite campaign to end violence against women and girls by 2030.

Positive comments have been received from members regarding the 29 September Federation Database training. Keep your reports coming in. If clubs need assistance in developing projects please contact the Assistant Programme Convenors for help.

Congratulations to the two winners for the Brilliant Future Fund (BFF) for Round 13. Thank you for putting in the effort in applying. Read below and Round 14 is open.

Read about the very successful Federation "Power of my Voice" Public Speaking Competition held on 11 October aligning with SISEAP's campaign 'Day of the Girl Child' and theme Educated Girls, Empowered Futures. The competition attracted 19 students and 6 worthy finalists were announced. Congratulations to all and to the winner of each category.

The biannual meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) meets on 1-4 November 2026 in Antigua and Barbuda. Read update by Leigh-Ellwood-Brown's (SI Advisor for the Commonwealth).

Remember to register for President Anthea's Women's Health Forum on Saturday 24 October, presented as 'SISEAP's Her Health - Our Wealth Campaign' and chaired by Joanne Yeoh (IPP).

Save the date for the Best Practice Award information session by the Programme Team 18 November at 6.00pm AEDT.

Regards,

Pauline Glover,

Programme Convenor 2026-2028

programme.pauline@siseap.org



CSW71 (2027)

The seventy-first session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 8 to 19 March 2027.

- Priority theme: Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Review theme: Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes

- Critical area of concern or cross-cutting issue: Poverty and the economic empowerment of women

Preparation has started for our participation in this important annual event. In New York, Soroptimists are not bystanders. Our in-person delegation will ensure our advocacy message is loud and clear, and will transform our advocacy from a message into a movement. There will also be opportunities for members to interact virtually.

The energy from a group of SISEAP Soroptimists will ensure that gender equality issues from Asia Pacific will be front and centre and we will ensure that the Soroptimist voice is heard.

Applications are now open for a Scholarship delegate and self-funded attendees.

Scholarship applications close 31 October and self-funded close 16 December.

[INFORMATION SHEET](#)

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

We are proud to share that Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP) has officially submitted an organizational statement to the 71st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW71). Our statement represents our priorities and highlights our ongoing commitment to advocating for women and girls across our region and driving meaningful policy change on the global stage

[READ THE STATEMENT HERE](#)



SI Bangsar

SI Club of Bangsar aims to combat the pervasive issue of physical, psychological, social, and cyberbullying affecting children and youth in Malaysia. Aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), the campaign's core objective is to empower young girls and women to know their legal rights, speak out against tech-facilitated harassment, and cultivate safe, respectful campus cultures.

[READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT](#)

SI Aotearoa New Zealand

SI Aotearoa New Zealand (SIANZ), in partnership with health advocates like the Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ and Talk Peach, seeks to tackle the devastating late-stage diagnosis rates of ovarian cancer in New Zealand. Currently, 85% of cases are diagnosed at Stage 3 or 4, and widespread public confusion exists regarding detection (with 53% incorrectly believing a cervical smear screens for ovarian cancer).



[READ MORE ABOUT THIS PROJECT](#)



16 Days of Activism - 25 November to 10 December

The United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that runs from November 25 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10 (Human Rights Day).

Violence against women and girls affects one in three women. It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations worldwide, yet for many survivors, justice remains out of reach.

Each year, Soroptimist International takes part in 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls, running from the 25 November to 10 December and marking:

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November)
- World Human Rights Day (10 December)

The 16 Days of Activism Campaign, is a natural extension of our work to end violence against women and girls. This year your actions will address 5 areas:

- what online violence looks like,
- doxxing and digital stalking,
- false and misleading narratives that target women,
- bias in the automated systems meant to keep people safe, and digital consent and safer platform design.

Each one is covered through three post types — a definition, a myth versus fact, and a practical action step — so the series builds into a connected story rather than 16 standalone posts.

Please refer to the 16 Days of Activism toolkit to assist you and your club in your endeavours.

[LINK TO THE TRELLO BOARD FOR RESOURCES](#)



Why not start an Orange Café on 25 November?

Be visible and vocal on the 25 of November and each and every month. Convene an Orange Cafe. This involves meeting in a local café on 25 of the month to raise awareness of violence against women and girls. The initiative commenced in 2022 by SI Edinburgh and has since spread across the world.

Orange Café

Including our Federation Orange is the colour of the UN Women's UNite Campaign to end violence against women and girls by 2030 and symbolises a bright future free from domestic abuse and coercive control.

Why not join the campaign by starting an Orange Café in your area and encouraging other local groups to do the same? Let's raise awareness of the UNite Campaign to end violence against women and girls by 2030 by wearing orange on 25th of every month! The 16 days of activism in November would be the ideal month to start.

As well as raising awareness of the UN campaign, holding Orange Cafes can also give Soroptimists a higher profile in your communities and help to recruit new members, so why not give it a go? You could even hold an Orange Café in your own home and invite friends and fellow Soroptimists to discuss how you could help the campaign.

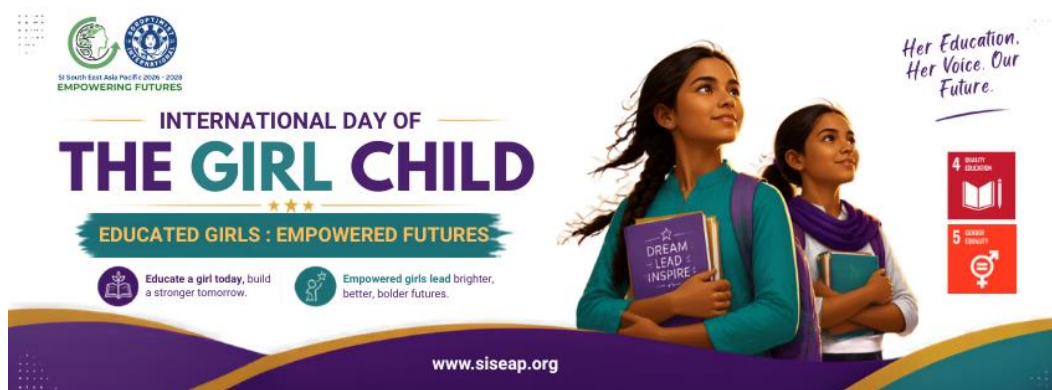
Look out for the Orange Café survey!

In early November SI South Perth and SI Edinburgh will be sending a survey to all clubs in our two Federations (SISEAP and SIGBI) to find out about the spread and impact of Orange Cafes. A link will be sent to all club secretaries to complete the survey, please pass it on to the most appropriate person in your club to respond. If your club hasn't started Orange Cafés yet or has decided not to, please complete the survey anyway, as you will be providing valuable information to help improve our impact.

For further information about the survey contact Clare Lardner, SI South Perth, on clarelardner@gmail.com

For more information about the UN Women campaign:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/unite>



International Day of the Girl Child - 11 October

SI Theme: Educated Girls. Empowered Futures.

Education remains one of the most effective ways to break cycles of inequality. When girls have access to quality education, they gain the tools to shape their own lives and influence their communities.

SISEAP President, Anthea Penny:

"Across the [South East Asia Pacific Federation](#), Soroptimists are committed to improving the lives of women and girls through education, empowerment and

opportunity. Together, we continue to advocate for girls to have the knowledge, skills and opportunities they need to build brighter and more empowered futures."



SISEAP President Anthea Penny's Day of the Girl Child address

2027 CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting)

A biannual meeting, this year CHOGM to be held in St John's, Antigua & Barbuda will take place from the 1-4 November. Antigua and Barbuda will bring together Heads of Government, Ministers, representatives from Business, civil society and youth organisations. The Theme being "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth".



READ MORE

FEDERATION PROJECTS



Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026

"The Power of My Voice" final was held on the 11th October. We are pleased to announce the winners of each category

Category 1: 12-15 years old. Topic : "Describe one change that would help make life fairer for girls—and explain why this change benefits your community"

First Place : Eliza Oznur Zainal Abidin from Malaysia

2nd Place: Wendy Sue from Australia

3rd Place: Trần Vũ Thảo Ngọc from Vietnam

Category 2: 16-19 years old. Topic: "Why a girl's opinion matters in creating change for the future."

First Place: Kaylah Kemp from Australia

2nd Place: Hannah Kok from Australia

3rd Place: Joelle Chan from Malaysia

The final is available to watch from the SISEAP youtube channel.

[VIEW THE FINAL](#)



Brilliant Futures Fund Round 14 is now Open!

Does your club have a project ready to implement but lacks the funds to proceed? If so, please read the guidelines and application process for your club to nominate a project for funding of up to \$10,000 AUD, available through the Brilliant Futures Fund.

Join the latest round of successful clubs SI Bangsar and SI New Zealand as they prepare to commence their winning projects.

[BFF APPLICATION](#)



Her Health - Our Wealth

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific (SISEAP) President Anthea Penny has announced her Presidential campaign, Her Health – Our Wealth.

The campaign brings Soroptimists across South East Asia and the Pacific together around a shared commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of women and girls. Through awareness, prevention, support, advocacy and community-led action, the campaign aims to address some of the significant and uneven health challenges experienced by women and girls throughout the SISEAP region.

With the message “Women’s Health Matters,” Her Health – Our Wealth recognises that better health outcomes for women contribute to stronger families, stronger communities and a stronger future.

Join the campaign launch on Saturday, 24 October at 2pm AEDT, or read all the information on the SISEAP website.

[HER HEALTH OUR WEALTH FORUM - REGISTER TO ATTEND](#)

[FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION](#)

2026 Best Practice Award Information Session

Join the programme team as they take you through the process of completing nominations for Best Practice Awards in the following Categories:

- Best Practice Awards- Projects
- Best Practice Awards- Advocacy
- Best Practice Recognition Award- Long Term Project



Wednesday, 18 November 6pm AEDT
(Sydney). Register below.

REGISTER FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION

PROJECTS & APPEALS

Learn more about our projects and appeals, or make a donation, by clicking on the image below. SISEAP values and encourages you to support our projects and appeals. Your donation makes a huge difference to the lives of women and girls.

Investing in this fund is a direct investment in the collective power of Soroptimists to fundamentally improve the lives of women and girls across the South East Asia Pacific region.



FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



Transforming Lives: SI Foundation in Action

The Soroptimist International Foundation is actively delivering life changing support to women and girls around the world. By focusing on education, poverty relief, and human rights, their latest initiatives tackle critical issues head-on.

Current projects span the globe, from providing leadership and mentoring in Kenya and supporting displaced women in Mali, to building essential school infrastructure in Sierra Leone and advancing environmental leadership across Africa.

Each project delivers practical solutions, empowering women to uplift themselves and their wider communities. See how your support is turning hope into tangible action across our key global programs.

Use the link above in Projects and Appeals to donate to the SI Foundation

[READ THE LATEST PROJECTS UPDATES](#)

SI Convention 2027

Soroptimist International announces that registration for the SI Convention 2027 is now open

Visit the dedicated SI Convention website for more information about the upcoming event to be held in Prague, 28 September



- 1 October 2027

SI CONVENTION WEBSITE

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Project - Reach or Impact

≡ TYPES OF IMPACT ≡



10 Years For Asia-Pacific 2014-2024
EMPOWERING FUTURES

0 no of women and girls impacted

Report the no of people at the rally or event in the narrative of your report

Enter in the Attendees at the event.

Measurable, hands-on participation where individuals directly benefit from training, services, or targeted activities.

Tailored, one-on-one or targeted professional care, guidance, or referral provided directly to a woman or girl.

It is essential that our data is accurate. To assist you in how to respond to the question "How many women or girls were helped", this following explanation around Indirect Reach, Direct Engagement, and Direct Assistance may assist you in recording how many women and girls were impacted/helped.

Indirect Reach: If your project incorporated a rally, march, public gathering in an open space, the women or girls who attend heard about the issue, but you are unable to assess if they were directly assisted, so you should report zero in how many women or girls were impacted, and report in the narrative of what you did the number of people at the rally, march or event.

Direct Engagement: Use this if you have held a survey, workshop or event, you are able to confidently enter the number of women or girls impacted/helped by verifying the data using official attendance registers, headcounts, or survey submission logs.

Direct Assistance: Is Tailored, one-on-one or targeted professional care, guidance, or referral provided directly to a woman or girl. You are able to enter in the total number of women or girls to individual consultation, or total number of a women or girls who spoke with the clinician, or the number of women and girls who received dedicated individual aid (e.g., scholarships, emergency shelter vouchers, specialised care packs).

Programme Database Training

The recent programme database training was recorded.

[VIEW THE RECORDING](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE PRESENTATION](#)



Her Health: Our Wealth, With Women's Health Matters. Saturday 24 October 2pm AEDT. **Register to attend this launch of the campaign.**

[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

AROUND THE FEDERATION

The Programme team wishes to advise that club or region newsletters will not be shared in eSPAN. In this section individual projects and activities are highlighted.



SI Joondalup continues to support Timor Leste

In Timor Leste the only medical procedure for breast cancer is surgery. After surgery the women can be sent back to their homes in rural areas to manage as best they can. These women can suffer pain and infection because they have no pain relief and are in remote areas where medical attention is scarce.

They do not understand Cancer and very often it is advanced before they seek medical assistance. They are frightened at what is happening to them, their husbands are not always supportive. In some cases they can travel to Indonesia for treatment, but this is costly and there is the remaining stigma of the War of Independence and they fear they may not return.

The club consulted with the Haliku team as to how best we could assist them. Through their own initiative they had sought finance from Japan to build a Cancer Support Centre with three rooms for patients. The club thought at first to buy a piece of equipment which we could donate and label as being a gift from Soroptimists. They said they had the funding for the building, but no money to run it. The best help would be to finance the cost of one room. We agreed to do this if they would put a notice above the door of that room as being supported by Soroptimists of Western Australia. We then had to estimate the cost of financing a cancer recovery room for one year.

The residents of this room would receive nursing care, education on detecting cancer and information on the disease. They would receive a good nourishing diet, counselling support, transport to the National Hospital and personal requirements. The estimation

was \$4000 for one year. Then we had to raise \$4000. In 2025, a letter was sent to all Clubs in Western Australia describing the need for breast cancer patients in Timor Leste. Eight of the thirteen clubs in Western Australia responded to support the cause. If each club gave \$500 we could have our required funds. The first year of supporting Haiku was very successful and now we are into our second year. In July 2026 a second request for funding was sent and our club was delighted when eight clubs again responded with funding. Each time SI Joondalup have provided \$1000 as the lead club. These funds will adequately cover the cost of "The Soroptimists of Western Australia Room" for another year. It is important that these clubs feel some ownership of the "Soroptimist Room" so every month they are updated with news of Timor Leste, information on who has been a resident in our room and a three monthly account of the spending of their funds.



SI Rakiraki providing a path to good Nutrition and Health outcomes at local College

SI Rakiraki club in Fiji organised and presented gardening tools and vegetable seeds to the Agriculture Department at Tavua College to encourage students to learn the important skill of vegetable gardening. Core Benefits: Nutrition and Health: Gardens provide fresh produce directly to school feeding programs,



tackling poor nutrition and lowering long-term health risks.

Practical Skills: Students learn modern and resilient techniques, including vertical gardening, smart irrigation, and organic composting. **Community and Leadership:** Competitions and house-plot programs foster teamwork, leadership, and a deeper connection between students and sustainable local agriculture. We also hope that the school is able to use the fresh yield for its Home Economics classes, resulting in a decrease in expenses. On a positive note, the school has a participant in the SISEAP public speaking competition.

SI Damansara STEM Project

The Malaysia Education Blueprint (2013-2025) identifies STEM education as a core pillar for national economic development and transitioning into a high-income knowledge economy.

Following the success of SID's STEM Workshops in 2025, SI Damansara in partnership with Mr DIY decided to extend the programme to youth in 3 detention centres in Kuala Lumpur.

The workshops were exciting and definitely successful as most students were very happy to learn about science and technology in a fun, interactive session. Even though they had little exposure to STEM subjects before the workshop, they were eager to try their hands at learning new skills. It helped to expose them to the world of science and technology, and they understood how it could play a vital role in their daily lives. It also helped them to rethink their career options in the future.

PROGRAMME ASSETS

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC ANNUAL REPORT

Programme Annual Reports

Total Impact 2025	Project Impact 2025	Donations Impact 2025	Scholarship Impact 2025
 Total Expenses \$996,310 Women & Girls 88,580 Service Hours 74,740	 Total Expenses \$841,400 Women & Girls 88,480 Service Hours 49,900	 Total Donations \$991,000 Financial Donations \$884,000 Goods in Kind \$106,000	
Changing Lives Across Our Community	Changing Lives Across Our Community	Changing Lives Across Our Community	Changing Lives Across Our Community

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

Every day members make a positive difference to the lives of women and girls by providing opportunities to Educate, Enable and Empower.



SISEAP contributed AUD \$8.6 M value to society in volunteer hours
SISEAP donated AUD \$986,000 to 3rd parties

2025 Impact On Women and Girls



- FOOD SECURITY**
strengthened by providing training and food to 1680 women and girls
- DISASTER MITIGATION**
Contributed AUD\$9740 to Disaster Mitigation
- EDUCATIONAL**
opportunities given to 25329 women and girls
AUD\$150,000 in scholarships
AUD\$530,000 Projects
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION**
Tackled CONFLICT RESOLUTION through 675 service hours assisting 1650 women and girls
- ENVIRONMENTAL**
Contributed AUD\$15,000 to ENVIRONMENTAL projects which assisted 2400 women and girls
- HEALTH**
Expended AUD\$6750 on scholarships and AUD\$211,000 in donations to improve the HEALTH of help women and girls

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

DID YOU KNOW?

Programme Members Page

Have you explored the updated Programme Members website page? All the information you need is available here.

Click the image below to access the page

Quick Links

There are now dedicated articles to assist members in all aspects of programme. Use the quick links to quickly jump to the page.

Programme Reporting Database		Programme Downloads		Brilliant Futures Fund		CSW Information	
Programme Committee		Best Practice Awards		Goals & Objectives			

SISEAP will be publishing a quarterly calendar, to view important dates for action and events, which can be viewed **HERE**. The calendar is viewable from the front page of the SISEAP website, under the EVENTS tab.



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

GLOBAL VOICE NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE HERE

SI Global Newsletter

Stay connected and informed from Soroptimist International! Click on the image above to subscribe and receive the SI Global Voice monthly updates directly in your inbox. Don't miss out—subscribe today!

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the **SISEAP website** and log in using your member login. Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen. Or if you are already logged in, **click this link**. Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.



SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Help us empower women and girls across the South East Asia Pacific region. Your contribution drives real, lasting change.

 [Donate to SISEAP](#)

Have a story or update to share?

Email your submissions for the next eSPAN edition to
programmecommunications.cesarina@siseap.org.

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