

ESPAN March 2020 Edition

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Welcome to the March 2020 edition of Soroptimist Programme Action News (SPAN).

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Soroptimist



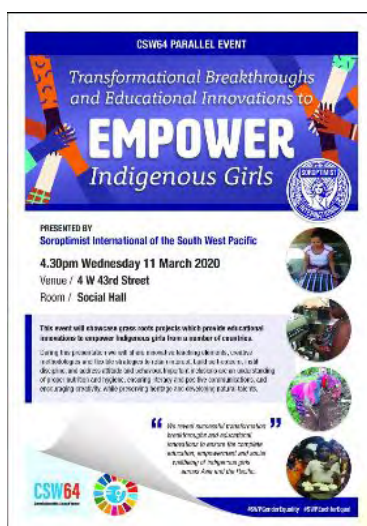
International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Delegates from SISWP and other Federations were bitterly disappointed when UN Women and WHO cancelled CSW64 due to the coronavirus. Leaving some of us with less than 24 hrs to cancel travel and hotel arrangements. Many of us being financially impacted by the sudden UN decision. The SISWP team had worked many hours preparing two parallel presentations, and paperwork for the trip. SISWP were to present two parallel events. (see information below) These events would have showcased on the world stage the excellent work being achieved by our members to educate, empower and enable women and girls.



Parallel Event 1 - **Transformational Breakthroughs and Educational Innovations to Empower Indigenous Girls**. The event was to showcase grass roots projects which provide educational innovations to empower Indigenous girls from a number of countries. Projects which were to be showcased were :

- Koorie Project and the Yilli Aboriginal project - Australia
- Lae Youth Forum - PNG
- Shuuder Girls Project - Mongolia
- SPOT project - Malaysia
- SI Bangkok and SI Dusit Educational Scholarships - Thailand
- Girls of our Future - Mongolia



Parallel event 2 - **Vulnerable No More! Security and Resilience of Women After Disaster**. This event was to showcase critical intervention programs successfully implemented in Indonesia, Fiji and New Zealand that rehabilitate and economically empower women victims after tsunami, earthquakes and cyclones devastated their lives.

Projects to be showcased were:

- New Zealand Earthquake recovery projects
- Australian bushfire recovery projects - Gippsland Australia
- Rambitan Lombok recovery project - Indonesia
- Ba Women's Forum - Fiji

Programme Database - Maintenance Alert



This is a notification that the SISWP Programme Database website (www.reports.siswp.org), will be closed for Maintenance on Wednesday 18th of March from 12 noon AEDT until 4pm AEDT.

This maintenance will fix the issue identified in the calculation of the amount of women and girls assisted when submitting a scholarship project.

Issue being fixed is the amount of women and girls assisted when you report against a scholarship project. Currently this is a pick list of average numbers, this will be changed to input field, for you to input the amount of scholarship/s you gave, ie 1, 2 or 5 in numeric format.

These figures impacted the annual region and zone reports for the no of women and girls assisted by the presentation of the Scholarship, This will enable accurate reporting of these statistics at the Objective breakdown and SDG breakdown. The Database will be amended to an average for all existing data and then from this point in time you will enter the correct figure

For more information please contact the swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org

We apologise for any inconvenience.

After this maintenance has been carried out it is suggested that regions and countries without regions rerun their annual report to obtain the correct statistical figures for women and girls supported by Scholarships.

Advocacy Work

What are priorities in your country? What are clubs doing in advocacy?

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function, and this month the programme team is pleased to once again be able to report on Soroptimist Advocacy work.

SI Brisbane - Submission on Consultation Regulation Impact Statement on Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008. Advocacy to support the consideration of the impact of the Act on the physical, emotional and financial impacts of domestic and family violence when fleeing abusive relationships. Recommendation to support a communication and education campaign to improve understanding of the rights and obligations of tenants, property owners and managers if a tenant is experiencing domestic and family violence; and to improve tenancy law protections for people experiencing domestic and family violence by allowing them to improve security measures in a rental property, and/or allowing them to end their tenancy obligations early, with limited liability and ready access to their portion of the rental bond. By advocating on to this submission the members hoped to see "Increased safety for people experiencing domestic and family violence, prevent further violence, and reduce homelessness while providing sufficient safeguards for property owners "

Tell us what your club is doing to Advocate on behalf of women. Send us the information or complete a Advocacy Programme Report



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

Nora Lam (SI Bangsar) is the SISWP representative on the SI President's appeal team. Nora would like to share the following information with you.

THE ROAD TO EQUALITY

Have you heard of FGM? Do you know what it means? Many of us have not come across this term which stands for Female Genital Mutilation. Why is it a concern of Soroptimists? Do read an extract below of the story from Gambia of Mam Lisa Camara, one of our **SI Road to Equality #SoroptimistSix**. Her endurance and of the other women who have had to suffer humiliation, pain and helplessness is worthy of your support in empowering them to End FGM and Child Marriage at grassroots level.

Our SI President Sharon Fisher in her Appeal has made it one of the key focus issues for SI advocacy work. The Appeal includes global issues that women face such as child marriage, FGM/C, the rights of older women, human trafficking, migration and domestic violence. SISWP needs to bring these issues to the forefront too.

Have you checked out the [SI Website](#) yet? You will find stories on the current topic of FGM. These stories are being shared and I would like to encourage Soroptimists in the Federation of South West Pacific to host important conversations and to hold seminars or events to bring to life these issues and challenges. On this Road to Equality, we together can make an impact to **EMBRACE CREATE & PROSPER** women.

Let us remember the 2030 Agenda which pledged to ensure 'no one will be left behind' and to 'endeavor to reach the furthest behind first'.

Do join us on this road trip.

** Nora Lam SISWP Rep (SI President's Appeal Committee 2019-2021)

Have you heard of the [Girl from Mogadishu](#) ? This is a movie about FGM. After fleeing from war-torn Somalia in 2006, Ifrah Ahmed was trafficked to Ireland where a traumatic medical examination whilst seeking asylum revealed the extent of her mutilation as a child. Although traumatised by the memory, Ifrah has channeled her experience and become a formidable campaigner against Female Genital Mutilation.

Visit the Soroptimist International website and find out more.

[\(https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/a-girl-from-mogadishu-endfgm/\)](https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/a-girl-from-mogadishu-endfgm/) .



MAM LISA CAMARA is a professional and dedicated human rights activist at both community and national levels. She combines high-level advocacy with grassroots campaigning. This enables her to remain engaged with the reality, and the lived experiences of girls and women in their own communities. Please donate through your Soroptimist federation to the SI Road to Equality Appeal 2019-2021 to support Lisa and the other five youth activists in their work to #EndFGM

Ending Female Genital Mutilation by 2030 Female genital mutilation (FGM) is one of the themes within the 2019-2021 SI Road to Equality President's Appeal. Recognised internationally as a violation of human rights.

To assist you with the promotion of this appeal visit the www.soroptimistinternational.org/the-road-to-equality/

- The Road to Equality postcard
- The Road to Equality PowerPoint by SI President Elect Sharon Fisher
- The Road to Equality PowerPoint Notes by SI President Elect Sharon Fisher
- Visit the Facebook Frame Page to add your Road to Equality Frame to your Facebook Profile

There is also a dedicated Facebook page - search for [SI Road to Equality](https://www.facebook.com/SIRoadtoEquality) and to tag them in on any facebook postings @SIRoadtoEquality.

Please [donate through SISWP](#) to the SI Road to Equality Appeal 2019-2021 to support Lisa and the other five youth activists in their work to #EndFGM

Gender Equality



The year 2020 will mark a milestone moment for accelerating implementation of global commitments to gender equality. It will be the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of its landmark outcome, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing Platform for Action), a visionary agenda that set out how to remove the systemic barriers that hold women back from equal participation in all areas of life, whether in public or private.

UN women has announced a dedicated website <https://forum.generationequality.org/>

This website is dedicated to the new body of work to fast track mobilization of gender equality. **"Despite the commitments made in Beijing to take strategic, bold action in 12 critical areas of concern, and some ensuing progress in these areas; not a single country today can claim to have achieved gender equality. The Beijing Platform for Action 25th anniversary commemoration is therefore a rallying point to finally achieve the human rights of all women and girls and will be a moment for global mobilization"**. There will be two forums,

which will be co hosted by the Governments of Mexico and France, Mexico in 7-8 May and Paris 7-10 July. The following information is extracted from the website. Members are encouraged to visit the website to familiarize themselves with the content and how this work can be incorporated into your projects.

How will this be achieved. Action Coalitions have been set up along with a new set of themes the selected themes of the Generation Equality Action Coalitions are:

- Gender-Based Violence
- Economic justice and rights
- Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
- Feminist action for climate justice
- Technology and innovation for Gender Equality
- Feminist movements and leadership

Each Action Coalition will launch a targeted set of concrete, ambitious and immediate actions within the period of 2020-2025 to deliver tangible impact on gender equality and girls' and women's human rights. Financing for results will be a core part of this agenda, to address systemic resource gaps that have so far hampered impact.

There is a generational [equality action pack](#) you can view and download to help you get started, hashtags for a social media campaign and a video you can share.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_UjYOfmkn8#action=share - a global history of women's rights in 3 minutes.

Programme Database

Some successful milestones to share with all members. The site has now successfully been migrated to our own hosting site www.reports.siswp.org. Clubs have embraced this new reporting feature, and the programme team has received many positive comments. Clubs have produced their first annual report from the database, and the concept of submitting regular reports to the database and being able to produce statistical reporting at any time is a valuable lesson which has been learnt.

Whilst many clubs have embraced the new reporting database, entering reports and producing their club annual report, we did have 41 Countries who did not report to the database and therefore have not produced an annual report, but more importantly, is that their figures on costs to run projects, objectives, donations and advocacy work have not been able to be reported on by their Zone coordinator resulting on lost data collection for SISWP to meet our obligations to report on the work we are achieving to meet the UN SDG goals and report to Government and ECOSOC.

Reminder that when submitting reports to the database the reports are to cover the work performed within the current or the reporting year, and you report on activities undertaken during that period of time. For example when the club or region wants to produce their annual or interim report they are required to enter a start and end date, this tells the query search engine to search through the database looking for submitted reports which have a start date and end date between the dates being queried upon. So that if you are reporting on 01/01/2019 to 30/12/2019, then your approved reports must have dates between these start and end dates to appear in the annual report. This applies for ongoing projects, do not put the original date you started the project, but instead put in the 01/01/2019 or 2020 for this year and then only report on activities for the project, scholarship, advocacy undertaken for that year.

To assist with understanding what the Region and Zone Reports are reporting on.

In the Region Summary table.

No of Advocacy - Is the Count of Advocacy reports submitted by clubs in the Region

No Girls Helped - is the count of girls helped across projects

No Women Helped - is the count of women helped across projects

Total Project Costs - is the sum of all project costs Financial and Goods in Kind

Total Hours Worked - Is the sum of Project hours/ Advocacy hours/ activity hours service.

Total Donated - Is the Sum of Donations and Goods in Kind

Scholarships - is the sum of total spend on Scholarships.

Objective Breakdown and Sustainable Development Goals Breakdown

No of Advocacy - Is the Count of Advocacy reports submitted by clubs in the Region

Women and Girls Assisted - is the count of women and girls assisted in projects and scholarships.

Total Project Costs - is the sum of all project costs Financial and Goods in Kind

Total Service Hours Donated - Is the sum of Project hours/ Advocacy hours/

Total Donated - Is the Sum of Donations and Goods in Kind

Scholarships - is the sum of total spend on Scholarships

Please remember to reach out to your Zone Coordinators for assistance on the Programme Database and any programme related enquiries.

Around the Federation

This month we showcase club work which is Gender Equality focused. Recently Soroptimist's of the South West Pacific, embraced International Women's Day, and many events were shared on the SISWP. Continue to use the Equal Sign to advocate for gender equality every opportunity you can. It was also pleasing to see many clubs incorporate the sponsorship of students to their IWD Events. Educating and Empowering students.



SI Port Moresby - the 4E's scholarship program. This scholarship program provides financial assistance to women and girls completing their tertiary education by funding 75% of the annual tuition fees. The following women and girls having been assisted.

Fredah Taralulu - Bachelor in Business, Management at the Divine Word University

Virtue-Ruby Corren - Bachelor in Language & Literature at the University of Goroka

Zarrah Kihi - Bachelor of Nursing at the Pacific Adventist University

Additionally further women and girls were provided with basic vocational training and work placements, having sponsored 100 girls obtain the training required to find work or start their small businesses.





SI Ramu - Halivim Meri (Helping Women). The Club helped repatriate a woman and her 5 sons to her home village as she was a long standing victim of abuse and domestic violence. We came to know of this woman's need as she was a wife of an employee and the matter was raised through the Human Resources office and the officer dealing with the case was a Soroptimist. The woman was battered and bruised from head to toe due to prolonged violence in her home. She was fed up and wanted to go to her home village but could not afford it. The opportunity presented itself for SI Ramu as the woman had been in contact with her family in the village who had agreed for her to return home but she had no means to pay the fare and boat fare to get to the main city (Lae) and then on an outboard motor boat to her village. This is when SI Ramu assisted and we are glad to report she has been welcomed home by her family and is in her village. Her husband is no longer employed with the company as his attitude to work was poor due to his drinking and he was terminated soon after we repatriated the woman and her sons.



SI Ramu - Susan Karike Huhume Memorial Educational Scholarship. On September 12 SI Ramu launched on behalf of Papua New Guinea the Susan Karike Huhume Memorial Educational Scholarship. This scholarship is in memory of a woman who designed the country's national flag but was not given the proper recognition she deserved. The purpose of the scholarship is to benefit girls who are discriminated by their families and are not supported to receive an education by reason of their gender. SI Ramu is pleased to announce that NBPOL FOUNDATION has generously donated towards this scholarship.





SI Beenleigh Not Now Not Ever Campaign. SI Beenleigh was asked to join the Not Now Not Ever in Logan committee. This committee consists of various NGO, Domestic Violence support services, Qld Police, and concerned business owners. The committee's brief is to raise awareness of Domestic Violence in the Logan Community, to advocate for improved services, and provide assistance and awareness to victims and survivors of Domestic Violence. One of the first actions of the committee was to produce roadside banners advertising the committee with awareness slogans. SI Beenleigh was proud to sponsor one of the banners.



SI Joondalup and SI Brighton and Southern District - Yiyili Aboriginal Community School. Yiyili Aboriginal Community School is situated in the heart of the Kimberley region of Western Australia. It is an independent community school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year 10. The school prides itself on providing an outstanding and supportive learning environment for its students, underpinned by the importance of Gooniyandi country, language and family. The two clubs contribute to the delivery of teaching hospitality skills to the school, Vocational training for community women - Food and health. Bush to Belly baristas, Coffee making, Cooking healthy lunches, Catering, Kids cooking.

SI Karratha - International Women's Day Event. The club would like to share with you a video they did of their IWD event. Hope you enjoy it. [Follow this link](#)





Programme Coordinator Zone 3 Joanne Yeoh, reports on a Project by SIROM, Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia. - **Clean Water for Rural Communities**. Many rural villages in East Malaysia located in the island of Borneo lack access to a clean and steady supply of water. The indigenous people (Orang Asal) face threats from climate change, continuous logging, deforestation and mining which is polluting the air and valuable sources of drinking water as well as threatening the rich biodiversity of the area.

Realising that there was an urgent need to rectify the situation, Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia (SIROM) in collaboration with Soroptimist International President's Appeal decided to embark on a project to bring "*Clean Water to Rural Communities*" starting with the village of Long Tanyit in Belaga District, Sarawak, a remote Penan village located about 300 km from Bintulu in Sarawak. Please read the full story submitted by Joanne. [Follow this link](#)



SWP Asst Programme Director - Zareena Bi, shares with us a recent project undertaken by SI Lautoka - **I am Generation Equality; Realizing Women's Rights**

International Women's Day each year provides opportunities for SI clubs all over the world to celebrate and organize activities and events in their own unique ways.

SI Lautoka club has been organizing oratory contests for Primary and High school students in the Lautoka District for the last six years and it has now become a much anticipated event by the schools.

On March 14 SI Lautoka organized another successful oratory contest making this 7th consecutive year for the event.

We provided the platform for 30 future leaders to advocate on the theme '*I am Generation Equality; Realizing Women's Rights*'. The oratory was in three categories: Urban Primary, Rural Primary and High School and judging was done by a set of three judges each for the respective categories.

The 1st and 2nd runners up and winners in all three categories received cash prizes, trophies and gift packs provided by sponsors.

There was a lot of support from the business community for this event in terms of sponsorship and the schools prepared their orators well.

The Chief guest was the Director for Primary Education Mr Hem Chand and he commended the club for taking up the initiative and running it successfully for 7 years. He assured the club of future support from the Ministry of Education for the IWD oratory.

SI Lautoka Club ensured that the event included males in the program either as orators, judges, oratory trainers and the Master of Ceremonies since the gender equality challenge needs a change in mindsets and the collaboration of all stakeholders our communities





Do you own a small business? Are you able to influence the procurement of staff for your company? Then you may be interested in reading this toolkit prepared by Femeconomy and the 30% company. It will provide you with guidelines to create gender equality in your workplace. [Link to the Toolkit](#)

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