


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

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Soroptimist
Federation of the



International
South West Pacific

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<https://www.siswp.org/blog/408-16-days-of-activism-against-gender-based-violence-campaign-2020.html>



The 16 Days of Activism to prevent Violence against Women

It has been a busy year. We have “Zoomed”, “GTM-ed”, “Hung out” and generally challenged ourselves and our clubs in many ways. We have learned new skills but have learned also that we enjoy the social interaction within clubs and the good feeling we get when helping others to have a better life. We may feel that we are tired but one of our most important times is nearly here: **the 16 Days of Activism to prevent Violence against Women.**

With a long history dating from 1991, Soroptimists among other NGOs have been seeking to make the world a better place and put an end to what has been referred to as "violence...recognised as the greatest human rights violation in the world." For 16 days from 25 November until Human Rights Day on 10 December we need to concentrate our efforts in our respective countries. Every one has the right to feel safe and yet, particularly in COVID-19 regions new stresses have seen an increase in domestic violence in all its forms – physical, emotional, psychological, financial and coercive and across all ages. Today, Soroptimists have access to our 2020 Toolkit, with a range of information and resources to facilitate our action. Login to the SISWP Website first and [Click Here](#) to access resources.

Please look at this and utilise the artwork which enables you to "ORANGE the WORLD" in all forms of media and find examples of what clubs can do. Keep an eye out for [SISWP website articles](#) and social media posts. Elsewhere in this edition you will find social media information and requests. You do not have to wait for your club to act, you can take individual action. Let the Programme team know what you have done so we can publicise it.

A lone voice may struggle to be heard but a chorus is much harder to ignore. Become part of that Soroptimist choir and speak and act to work towards ridding the world of gender inequity and its accompanying violence. Human rights are women's rights also.

Dianne Lockwood

Incoming Programme Director 2020-2022

swpprogramme2020@siswp.org



What is your club doing during the 16 days?

Please let the Programme team know and we will use your information to create articles and social media posts. If you post on your own social media be sure to tag SISWP in your posts so that the team can monitor and share your posts the SISWP Tag is [@soroptimistsouthwestpacific](#)

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 Jakarta conducts its first public online webinar on

The Trafficking of Women and Girls in Indonesia: Awareness, Advocacy and Action



Soroptimist International of Jakarta hosted a webinar on the topic: Human Trafficking on Women & Girls in Indonesia: Awareness, Advocacy, and Action. The event was by way of Zoom, commemorating its 28th anniversary (27th August 2020), as well as to recognise World Day against the Trafficking in Persons of 30th of July.

The aim was to provide deeper insights into the issue of trafficking and featured two distinguished Indonesian speakers who have been advocates for the human trafficking issue.

[READ MORE](#)



RECLAIM THE NIGHT 2020

Albany Town Square 30 October



SI Albany conducts annual Albany 'Reclaim the Night' event on the last Friday of October.

The event was a co-hosted under the auspices of the Albany Family and Domestic Violence Action Group (AFDVAG) with Anglicare WA, Soroptimists Albany and the Albany Women's Centre Kare Kits group participating. The Albany community was encouraged to march as one to demand an end to violence against women and children. This year's theme was bystander action and the community was called on to report incidents of violence to police and to challenge sexist attitudes and beliefs that contribute to gender-based violence.

Participants were encouraged to bring a banner that condemns violence against women, wear purple and bring a purple item to add to an art installation in the Albany Town Square. Suggested items - purple flowers, purple stars or messages on purple cards. The photo above is from the local newspaper the Great Southern Weekender

[READ MORE](#)

Tell us what your club is doing to Advocate on behalf of women?

[Send us the information or complete a Advocacy Programme Report](#)

Programme Reporting Database

A global voice for women

SWP Programme Database



Reminder for clubs to submit reports by 30th November on projects, activities, donations, scholarships for club annual report 2020

At a recent Programme of Service team meeting some issues were clarified to help with future reporting:

Advocacy – where club members have signed online petitions it is sometimes difficult to identify what proportion of the club members supported the petition. To be approved one of the following should take place. Either more than half the members of the club should sign individually or one member should sign on behalf of the club and this should be recorded in the meeting Minutes.

Donations - the different organisations should be recorded individually even if they are for the same purpose. This enables the Programme of Service team to determine the exact support should we seek to work with an organisation as a partner. For example, if the Red Cross was one of the recipients of the donation, we could not separate this out if reported together with a group of recipients.

Have you had a Report Rejected?

If, so they will have been rejected along with comments as to why the report was rejected, this is done as a learning exercise and the team values the reports and the time taken to complete them, please make sure that you resubmit these reports. There are several pages of rejected reports on the database. The Programme of Service team will have provided suggestions on how to change them. This involves clubs re-using the rejected report and following the suggestions to re-submit for approval and then going back into the rejected report and delete it. The rejected reports need to be cleared. Here is what you need to do:

- log in and go to the rejected section on the drop down menu
- open the report by clicking on the eye icon
- click on the reuse button on the top right hand side
- this creates a SAVE AS
- complete the title etc., and make the changes needed or suggested.
- resubmit
- go back to the original document and delete it



The SISWP Best Practice Awards and SISWP Federation President's Special Awards Biennium 2018 - 2020 will be presented and celebrated at the LIVE Academy Awards style presentation on Sunday 22 November. Prepare to shout out, congratulate and celebrate victory and show your excitement with everyone online and on social media! VIRTUAL CONFERENCE OF CLUBS 2020 YOGYAKARTA (20-22 NOVEMBER 2020)

To REGISTER for the Conference of Clubs, [Follow this link](#)
Download the Conference Agenda Document - [Follow this link](#)

UPCOMING SISWP PROGRAMME WEBINARS

SISWP Conference of Clubs committee will be hosting two upcoming webinars, Originally scheduled to be workshops at the Yogyakarta Conference of Club, due to the Conference going Virtual, they are been rescheduled as Webinars. Do place these in your diaries, and the links will be sent out shortly for registering along with further details

"Excelling at Project Management in the New Normal"

Saturday 28 Nov - 1PM to 2.30PM AEDT

"Mastering Grant Applications & Fundraising"

Saturday 5 December - 3.30PM to 5PM AEDT



Stronger Together on the Road to Equality, Uniting Federation Impact

SI VOICES  **WEBINAR**
**STRONGER TOGETHER ON
 THE ROAD TO EQUALITY:
 UNITING FEDERATION IMPACT**

Hear from our SI Federations...

SI Africa Federation

SI of the Americas

SI of Europe



SI of Great Britain & Ireland

SI of the South West Pacific

19 NOVEMBER - 10AM PST

The next webinar in the The Road to Equality series, Hear from the Federations and their response to the Road to Equality in our local communities.

SISWP Immediate Past President Anusha Santhirasthipam will showcase the **Yiyili Aboriginal Community School Vocational Training: Australia"** Project at this webinar.

Make sure you register for this informative webinar as projects across the globe are showcased.

November 19 2020 10am Vancouver time

(20th November Sydney time at 5am)

Meeting Hosted by SI President Sharon Fisher from Vancouver

[To register follow this link](#)

<https://www.siswp.org/centennial.html>

Soroptimist International –
 Celebrating 100 years of making a
 difference to the lives of women and girls



SISWP have launched their Centennial year of celebration. The SISWP website has dedicated pages to the Centennial. Have you visited the [SISWP website centennial pages](#)?. There are pages dedicated to History both SI and SISWP (new information will be added regularly based on decades), Campaigns, Toolkits, Key

Messages and links to the SISWP branding. Coming will be the Soroptimist Reflections stories and History about the Federation wide projects. Make sure you download the [toolkit](#) which will provide you and your club members with an overview of what is happening and how you can become involved.



Don't forget to get your orders in for the Centennial merchandise, a beautiful brooch and bag charm. [Order now](#) for delivery in January. If ordering consider placing a club order in to reduce your overall costs on postage. 2021 will provide Soroptimists with many opportunities to spread the word about our **Bright Past and Brilliant Future**. Enjoy the celebrations and get involved.

UN SDG WORK

1 in 3 women throughout the world will experience physical and/or sexual violence by their partner during their lifetime

In a Statement by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, it was noted that with 90 countries now in lockdown, four billion people are now at home and although a protective measure for many, others find themselves in danger, as we see what might be deemed a “shadow pandemic growing, of violence against women”.



Where We Stand

“Soroptimist International is committed to end all forms of violence which affect women and girls disproportionately. Gender-based violence occurs in the family, in the general community, and through actions perpetrated or condoned by the State. Whatever form it takes, gender-based violence is deeply rooted in historical inequalities, power imbalances, and gender-based discrimination. Gender based violence is a violation of human rights and affects the ability of women and girls to reach their full potential and participate in society.”

[READ MORE](#)

Female genital mutilation is a
violation

It is estimated that more than 200 million girls



and women alive today have undergone female genital mutilation.

Female genital mutilation, also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision (FGM/C), is the cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia, and more than 3 million girls and women face the risk of being cut annually.

Where We Stand

“SI upholds a human rights-based approach to policies and programmes aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, prioritising dignity and the right to life for women and girls. SI will work with partner organisations and communities including men and boys to raise awareness of the impact of traditional harmful practices. SI will work to empower young women through education programmes to understand their human rights in relation to all forms of harmful traditional practices.”

[READ MORE](#)

UNITED NATIONS DAYS

Climate Action Superheroes empower children to protect the planet

Eight new animated characters on a mission to protect the planet, have been pressed into service by the UN to empower children worldwide and boost the drive towards sustainability by 2030. [Read more.](#)

Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. [Read more.](#)

SI at the UN

New York - Mitigating the Human Rights Risks: The Rule of Law and COVID-19

Barbara Rochman, member of the Committee on Migration, and the Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons (CSTIP), takes a closer look at a recent report by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, ‘Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities’, summarising Section II A, ‘Mitigating the risk and impact of COVID-19’. [Read More](#)

Geneva-Human Rights Council Social Forum 2020: Understanding the ‘Poverty Matrix’

Stacy Ciulik, SI United Nations (UN) Representative. October 2020 saw the annual Human Rights Council Social Forum meet in Geneva with limited capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A place for open and interactive dialogue among stakeholders, this year’s Forum discussed the chosen theme: “‘Good Practices, Success Stories, Lessons Learned and Current Challenges in Combating Poverty and Inequalities’”. [Read More](#)

Paris- Addressing the “new normal” in education

Marie-Christine Gries, SI UN Representative. “Facing the COVID crisis at school, UNESCO has launched the Global Education Coalition to support countries in scaling up their best distance learning practices and reaching children and youth who are most at risk. Never before have we witnessed educational disruption on such a

scale,” said UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay. “Partnership is the only way forward. This Coalition is a call for coordinated and innovative action to unlock solutions that will not only support learners and teachers now, but through the recovery process, with a principle focus on inclusion and equity.” [Read more](#)

UN Days

November

16 November [International Day for Tolerance](#)

19 November [World Toilet Day](#)

20 November [World Children's Day](#)

21 November [World Television Day](#)

25 November [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

December

1 December [World AIDS Day](#)

2 December [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#)

3 December [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

5 December [World Soil Day](#)

10 December [Human Rights Day](#)

12 December [International Universal Health Coverage Day](#)

18 December [International Migrants Day](#)

20 December [International Human Solidarity Day](#)

ACROSS THE FEDERATION

SI Lautoka's Pinktober Awareness



Pink October COVID-19 did not stop SI Lautoka from promoting their advocacy campaign Pinktober which raises awareness of the importance of early detection breast cancer. In previous years the club has carried out this awareness at the schools for upper Primary and High school girls but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the club could not interact directly with students. Therefore, the club came up with a plan that enabled them to social distance and at the same time support Breast Cancer Awareness month in October. Using a detailed Pinktober flyer they presented it to school teachers, women's groups, community and church groups.

President Suman Lal joined Soroptimist's

from SI Nadi and Jetset Nadi,
as the two clubs presented a Cancer Awareness Programme

Soroptimist's from the RakiRaki and Ba club also attended, continuing the conversations around women's health and caring for ourselves and our communities is a priority.



SI Beenleigh, Pink October

SI Beenleigh also hosted a Pink October meeting, members and friends joined together for an evening of discussion around the importance of Breast Cancer Awareness, joined in some fun centred around breast care and raised funds for Breast Cancer nurses.



C100 Plant 100 Trees - Centenary Campaign

SI Lautoka is already busy planting trees. As part of Fiji's environmental action to respond to climate change and recognise World Environment Day SI Lautoka has committed to planting 500 trees. Their efforts began in March when 100 trees were planted in the botanical Garden but COVID 19 interrupted their monthly planting plan. In June 50 trees were planted at the Sunshine Special School and requests have been coming in from schools in remote areas. The club is nearing its 500 tree target and is an inspiration to those planning to plant 100 trees for our centenary.



SI Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.



Planting trees ongoing project

Members of SI Ulaanbaatar planted trees in “Dream grove” located in the 21 st district of Songino-khairkhan, Ulaanbaatar in frame of the celebration of its 20th anniversary. It has a big contribution towards the protection of wild nature by the support of women of SI Ulaanbaatar and it is part of a big movement to prevent desertification of the western part of Ulaanbaatar which is a windward with 100 hectares of land. We truly hope that we will see the swinging trees in the grove when we celebrate our 30th anniversary. Special thanks to the Department of Nature Ulaanbaatar that pays attention to the protection and care for this grove.

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Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen.

Here you can access all previous copies of eSPAN Newsletters Archived. Or if you are already logged in [Click Here](#)



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