

Welcome to the January Special Edition 2021 of Soroptimist Programme Action News (SPAN).

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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific

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This special edition of SPAN has been produced, firstly to ensure that all members have information about an exciting possibility to attend the **Virtual Commission on the Status of Women** and secondly to give clubs an alert about our first campaign for 2021, **International Women's Day**. A toolkit is being created for this and clubs will receive this very soon. Keep an eye on your Club email inbox! Join members and clubs around our Federation to take advantage of these possibilities. Each gives us an opportunity to stand up for women and to educate, empower and enable ourselves and others.

Di Lockwood

SISWP Programme Director

Commission on the Status of Women 65

The sixty-fifth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 26 March 2021.



The Commission on the Status of Women 65 has two themes:

Priority theme: Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

Review theme: Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)

Normally a maximum of 20 Soroptimist members have the opportunity to attend this in New York but this year every South West Pacific member can experience the Commission because it is **Virtual** and **Free**.

Depending on your status you can experience:

- The CSW/ NGO Civil Society Forum
- Discussions among member states
- Side events
- Over 650 parallel events looking at issues associated with either theme including a Soroptimist International event
- The virtual Artisans Fair
- The virtual Exhibit Hall with Booths including one from SISWP

Last year CSW 64 was canceled. SISWP had a full delegation of 20. The Federation will make a donation on behalf of those people selected last year as well as Programme of Service team members and federation officers who wish to register. If you wish to benefit from this please pay the amount you choose and then send proof of purchase to: swpprogramme2020@siswp.org

Delegates for CSW 64 only who wish to attend this year will need to register on Indico so that I may approve their registration. This does open up a wider range of meetings.

Go to: <https://indico.un.org/event/35605/registration/>

You should have a registration from last year otherwise you will need to create an account.

If you were one of the CSW 64 delegation but do not wish to register let me know by close of business on the 10 February.

Options available to other participants include being an Advocate.

You can choose to register to be an Advocate which will enable you to:

- See the full list of registrants with the capability to connect with them through direct messages, group chats and public forums
- See the parallel event schedule as sessions are uploaded
- Search other Advocates and sessions by using filters for different regions and topics
- View the digital handbook leading up to the forum
- Learn about generation equality forum (GEF) and how to engage in this process
- Access the exhibit hall and visit different organisations booths to learn more about them
- Learn about and attend NGOCSW/NY sponsored events (Conversation Circles, Caucuses, Orientation and Advocacy training, Morning Briefings and more)
- Learn about and engage with our global partners
- Learn about special topics

To register as an Advocate visit: [NGO CSW65 Forum Advocate Registration Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

It is a jam-packed fortnight where you can choose to follow topics of special interest to you.

Is there a catch? Yes! It is held in New York and is thus their Eastern Standard Time so you will need on occasions to get up early if you wish to follow some presentations and check the time carefully for all sessions.

However, it is a wonderful opportunity to experience freely one of the vital events to influence the lives of women world wide and to experience international advocacy.

Some parallel events are already uploaded but more will follow to check the official meeting schedule visit:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021/official-meetings>

Registration for CSW 65 closes on 22 February so act now.

Reminder: International Women's Day is coming soon

The IWD Toolkit will soon be available to all clubs and will be emailed to your Club email address. Now is a good time to check how your Club will be participating in this campaign.

Remember to post your Club activities on your social media accounts using the # tags provided in the toolkit and publicise it widely. More information to come very soon!

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Copy for the February 2021 eSPAN edition is required by 8th February to
swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org

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