

# ESPAN Edition February 2021

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

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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific

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## International Women's Day

This is one of our five major campaigns in Programme this year. It is also a very popular project or activity in clubs as many clubs either organise and present a breakfast or attend one.

Its message this year resonates with everything we seek to achieve for women and girls and hence all of humanity – gender equality. A great Toolkit has been organised and sent to every club so whatever you are doing to celebrate we urge you to “strike a pose” and take photographs. Not sure what I am writing about? Then access the toolkit by [Clicking here](#). Get some males in your life to strike a pose also. There are placards you can print and I urge you to use the hash tags prolifically. Send your photos to the emails listed in the toolkit.

In one way it is sad that we still need to advocate for gender equality. In 1981 the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women was instituted and has since been signed by 189 member nations. It is 31 years since the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 imagined a world where every woman and girl could exercise all her freedoms and choices and realise all her rights. Its 12 critical areas of concern provide a way for countries to bring about change. What has been achieved? What still remains to be achieved? What do we still need to challenge?

We still need to challenge gender inequality and all that accompanies that - less education, lower wages, fewer opportunities, less leadership, greater violence, less ownership, inadequate healthcare and unfulfilled potential. Can we achieve this? Look how far we have come! Think how many women and girls' lives have been improved in some way by the actions of your club. Think of the combined impact of 72,000 members around the world.

So this year as we celebrate International Women's Day stand proudly, raise your hand, strike your pose and say “I challenge.....”

Di Lockwood, Programme Director

## 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.





**Have you taken advantage of the opportunity to attend the 65th Commission on the Status of Women this year at no cost?**

Information was sent to all clubs in a special edition of eSPAN recently.

If not, there is still time to register on the UN Women system Indico. [Click here](#)

You will need a picture of yourself to upload and I put my own address when asked where I would & be staying. You can register as well as an Advocate which gives you many options. [Click here](#)

If you have already registered as an Advocate please enter your details on the Indico site as well, as it is the best way for our Federation to know who has attended.

There are short YouTube videos that you can watch to understand what to do. Please take the time to watch these. They will help you navigate the virtual forum. Registrations close on 22 February.

#### SI LAB - What is it?

"The SI LAB is an inspired new online platform established for Soroptimists, where you can learn about SI's global advocacy work at the United Nations, the SI President's Appeal, Road to Equality and much, much more. Become a member of the SI LAB and you can discuss, contribute, collaborate, and connect with Soroptimists from all around the world." [Click here](#)

There is a short video outlining this new communication platform and once you apply and are accepted, there is a whole world of possibilities that exist.

During CSW 65 the LAB will be a major means of communicating with each other.

#### SI POSITION PAPER 'COVID-19 AND GENDER INEQUALITY'



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on women and girls throughout the world, affecting all aspects of life, including health, education, employment, and personal safety.

SI advocates for the protection of women and girls' human rights and for their full and equal participation in all levels of decision making throughout the recovery effort. This paper is intended to give a broad overview, covering themes such as violence, education, health, food security and technology, with further papers on specific areas of Soroptimist work and the impact of COVID-19 to be issued in the future.

Read the [paper here](#)

## A global voice for women

### SWP Programme Database



#### Report on Reports

The Programme of Service team has been very busy during the last month clearing all reports awaiting assessment. As advertised previously:

- The dates for the Annual Report are 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020. Only reports falling within these dates will appear on your report. If a report has been approved but is not on your Annual Report please contact [swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org)
- We advised clubs that they could run and print their club's Annual Report after 31 January. Please produce your club's report NOW if you have not already done so
- If for some reason extra information is available later you can produce a modified report at a later date.
- Region, Zone and National Representative reports can also be produced.
- There are currently rejected reports which have not been resubmitted by clubs. If the club does not wish to resubmit the report they should delete it. Only published reports will appear on club information.
- There are still clubs who have not entered any data on the report database. These gaps will show on a Region report.

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**Interim Board Meeting 15-16 May 2021**









