

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

[View this email in your browser](#)

MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist  
Federation of the



International  
South West Pacific

Translation of the eSPAN, To translate this edition of the eSPAN, into Chinese, Thai, Khmer, Malay, Indonesian, click on the View this email in your browser link at the top of the page, when viewed in a browser a further toolbar is displayed, click on the Translate button, then choose the language you want it translated into.



By now most clubs have had their Annual General Meeting, have the 2021 team in place and have had a discussion about their plans for this year. The last year has been easy and some clubs are dealing with a decline in membership, an unwillingness of members to step up into positions and perhaps a sense of tiredness.

My own club has not been immune to this but we have had our new President place emphasis on well-being and supporting each other. We have, also, a realisation of importance of laughter, frequent in our meetings I must admit, and a commitment to each other, despite the occasional difference of opinion, as well as a shared vision - belief that we can make a difference in this world. We are not perfect but we believe in what we do, try to be receptive to change and are willing to listen to a new idea. remain optimistic.

As a Federation we are much the same. We know that what we do makes a difference, we value the diversity within our member nations and we try to support each other through times of crisis. We know that growth means acceptance of some change. We know that to stay the same is to risk stagnation but taking steps forward sometime difficult.

Part of this is to challenge ourselves which is not always comfortable. Do you know how to enter a report on the database? Can you locate information on our website or Soroptimist International website? Do you read the latest SPAN? Have you looked at any of the webinars which have been recorded and are available on websites? If why not? Help is available if you need it. Remember making yourself accept a new challenge can be rewarding.

We need to work together, practise friendship and focus on why we joined a Soroptimist club. I wish you and your club success as you begin our work in 2021.

Di Lockwood, Programme Director

## Programme of Service IBM Meeting

The Constitution requires a programme meeting at the IBM for all Region Programme/UN Liaison representatives as well as National Representatives of non-Region countries. As the meeting will be virtual please ensure that you will be available. The dates for the IBM have been sent to all clubs.

## Advocacy Work

### What are the 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.



Check out the SI Event Schedule for more parallel events.

**SI EVENT SCHEDULE**  
All event times are in EDT timezone

**FIX THE SYSTEM: GET HER ELECTED**  
Organizers: Women for Water Partnership, SPW Brazil, Soroptimist International  
17 March | 12:30 - 2:30pm

**COMBATting TRAFFICKING/SLAVERY THROUGHOUT LIFE'S COURSE USING EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND ACTION**  
Organizers: Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland & IPAT  
19 March | 11:00am - 12:30pm

**AMPLIFYING THE VOICES ON ENDING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION**  
Featuring: Dr. Nina Smart & Bev Bucur  
Organizers: North American & Europe CSW Caucus, Soroptimist International  
23 March | 11:30am - 1:30pm

**AN INNOVATIVE MODEL FOR SIDES AND PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**  
Featuring: Dr. Nina Smart  
Organizers: Taiwan Coalition Against Violence, Soroptimist International  
24 March | 8 - 9:30am

**THE ROAD TO EQUALITY: PREPARING WOMEN AND GIRLS TO LEAD**  
Organizers: Soroptimist International & Federations  
18 March | 10 - 11:30am

**A SEAT AT THE TABLE: ADDRESSING VIOLENCE IN SEX TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION**  
Featuring: Marisa Hatcher, St. Sebastian Chicago  
Organizers: Women Graduates USA  
19 March | 5 - 6:30pm

**RENEWING A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN**  
Featuring: Soroptimist International President, Sharon Fisher  
Organizers: Soroptimist International of the Americas, Taiwan Region, Soroptimist International  
24 March | 8 - 9:30am

## Advocacy Action

Our Federation has been encouraging clubs to increase their advocacy and it has been pleasing to see many take up the challenge. When we advocate we invariably use the words "Soroptimist International" and hence what we write or say needs to be reflective of our international position on certain issues. Fortunately, Soroptimist International has position papers currently on 27 topics so if you are not sure you can look to see if a statement exists. They can be found on the Soroptimist International website log in to SISWP.org see link below.



### SI Position Papers - "Where we Stand"

Here you will find the Soroptimist International Position Papers and the organisations' stance on various issues that affect the lives of women and girls. [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



### HAVING PROBLEMS with the DATABASE?

Anyone having problems with the report database please contact Di Lockwood, Programme Director. Di's email is [swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org)

*Please do not ring HQ*

### SWP Best Practice Award Nominations

The Programme team are currently working to bring you another round of Best Practice Awards. The expected launch date is 22 March, with last nominations to be submitted by the 30 April.

Eligible reports must have been approved for the 2020 Annual Report  
A link will be provided to submit nominations on the online form.



### Programme in 2021

There are several campaigns this year. We are in the midst of our current campaign, International Women's Day, which has a "Choose to Challenge" as its theme and 14 clubs have sent in images, with arm raised, of their members.

Our next campaign is centred around **World Environment Day (WED) on June 5th**. This year it is being held in Colombia with the theme of **Biodiversity**. Ever since its creation, the United Nations has emphasised that WED should be seen as the "people's day" or perhaps a "club's day", doing something to take care of the Earth. It is time to start thinking about a project or activities that could be undertaken around this time. There are several suggested themes that could be followed:

- Air Pollution
- Plastic pollution
- Greening the world or a club could choose something else that is appropriate

There will be more about this in a Toolkit which will be available well before the date.



### Soroptimist International 100th Anniversary - "Bright Past, Brilliant Future" Centennial Celebrations

#### Brilliant Futures Fund

This is an opportunity for your club, region or country to nominate a project which you are most passionate about for the Brilliant Futures Fund grant of \$10,000 AUS. **Nominations close at the 1st of May 2021.**

Clubs, Regions and Countries can nominate a project which addresses but is not inclusive to the following:

- Vision and Mission of SISWP
- Increasing education opportunities for women

- Women's sustainable economic independence
- Women in leadership
- Entrepreneurship project

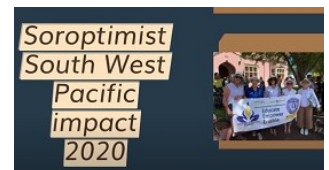
The Nominated project can be:

- New Project
- Or an Existing project

Follow this [link](#) for further information.

### Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific Impact 2020 video.

Using the programme database and the reports submitted to the database between January 2020 and December 2020 we were able to calculate the impact Soroptimists have provided in terms of projects, advocacy, scholarships and donations. Please view this video on the [SISWP youtube channel](#), if you wish a copy of this video for promotional purposes please contact [Di Lockwood](#) for a direct link to download.





As part of the continued webinars held to showcase the projects under the **SI President's Appeal 2019-2021** do catch up with the session on CHILD ENFORCED MARRIAGE. [click here](#)

A superb new **Road to Equality Appeal project**, supporting the Lugari Youth Leadership and Mentoring Training Camp, in the Lugari District of Kakamega County in Western Kenya was launched in December 2020. [click here](#)

The Appeal is planning to support 200-250 girls to attend the empowering programme of workshops and activities, that encourages economic independence and stability, women's participation, leadership, skills training, and business ownership. Many of the programmes focus on health, youth leadership, sustainable agricultural use, rural micro-enterprise, employment and career development, all aimed at progressing the skills and confidence of the girls involved.

The Road to Equality has awarded \$10,000 USD towards vital building work at the community centre, to help house the girls during their time at the Camp in response to the restrictions and measures introduced during COVID-19. The Appeal hopes to raise US\$105 (£80) for each girl attending the Camp, through the generosity of Soroptimist donations. This will cover the costs of meals, transportation, and training materials, for at least 200 girls enrolling in the Leadership Programme in 2021.



Despite the difficulty in fund raising in the face of the Covid-19 Pandemic, some support by SISWP Clubs would go a long way to support this vital project for these girls.

### CSW65 - Parallel Event - The Road to Equality: Preparing Women and Girls to Lead.

The event will show participants how we can develop the next generation of leaders through best practice grassroots programmes that provide women and girls with confidence and a sense of empowerment to achieve their fullest potential throughout their lifespan. "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn't be that women are the exception." Ruth Bader Ginsberg participants will hear from women who have overcome obstacles to achieve leadership positions in the career and Government. Discuss grassroots programmes designed to change attitudes and social structures in the larger community that act as barriers to gender equality. [Reserve your space here.](#)

## UN SDG Work

### UNITED NATIONS

#### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

"Youth standing up against racism" is the 2021 theme. It engages the public through #FightRacism, which aims to foster a global culture of tolerance, equality and anti-discrimination and calls on each and every one of us to stand up against racial prejudice and intolerant attitudes.

#### International Day of Forests

##### Did you know?

- Forests are home to about 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity.
- Forests and woodlands are made up of over 60,000 tree species.
- More than a billion people depend directly on forests for food, shelter, energy and income.
- Deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually and this accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

#### World Water Day

##### Did you know?

- Today, 1 in 3 people live without safe drinking water.
- By 2050, up to 5.7 billion people could be living in areas where water is scarce for at least one month a year.
- Climate-resilient water supply and sanitation could save the lives of more than 360,000 infants every year.
- If we limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, we could cut climate-induced water stress by up to 50%.
- Extreme weather has caused more than 90% of major disasters over the last decade.
- By 2040, global energy demand is projected to increase by over 25% and water demand is expected to increase by more than 50%.

#### SI and the UN

**Geneva**

International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour: Blog by Berthe De Vos-Neven, SI United Nations (UN) Representative Geneva.

On 21 January 2021, at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) launch event for the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder stated: "There is no place for child labour in society. It robs children of their future and keeps families in poverty." Today, 152 million children between the age of 5 and 14 are still forced to work in hazardous circumstances. [Read More](#)

## A greener, fairer future:

Why leaders need to invest in  
climate and girls' education



The world is on the brink of a climate catastrophe — and girls are disproportionately bearing the impact. Climate-related events like flood droughts and increased exposure to zoonotic diseases amplify the inequalities girls face and further limit their ability to access and complete their education. Malala Fund's new report, *A greener, fairer future: Why leaders need to invest in climate and girls' education*, estimates that in 2 climate-related events will prevent at least four million girls in low- and lower-middle-income countries from completing their education. If current trends continue, by 2025 climate change will be a contributing factor in preventing at least 12.5 million girls from completing their education each year.

Yet evidence shows that closing gender gaps in education can help countries better adapt to the effects of climate change and decrease the rate and impact of global warming. link to the [www.Malala.org](http://www.Malala.org)

**Direct Link to Full 42-Page 2021 Report:**

[MalalaFund\\_GirlsEducation\\_ClimateReport.pdf \(cfassets.net\)](#)

**UN Days (full list available on website)****March**

- 20 March [International Day of Happiness](#)
- 21 March [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)
- 21 March [World Poetry Day](#)
- 21 March [World Down Syndrome Day](#)
- 21 March [International Day of Forests](#)
- 22 March [World Water Day](#)
- 24 March [World Tuberculosis Day](#)

**April**

- 2 April [World Autism Awareness Day](#)
- 6 April [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#)
- 7 April [World Health Day](#)
- 21 April [World Creativity and Innovation Day](#)
- 22 April [International Mother Earth Day](#)
- 22 April [International Girls in ICT Day](#)
- 24 April [International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace](#)
- 28 April [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#)

**Around the Federation****SI Darkhan, Mongolia****Prevention from bullying and sexual harassment**

Teenage girls in Mongolia face many problems such as bullying and sexual harassment. The majority of girls prefer to talk to friends rather than to their mothers. Based on this demand SI Darkhan co-organized training on how to prevent bullying and sexual harassment with NGOs such "Good neighbors" and "Training for lifetime"

These girls were from the College of Mining 1st and 2nd grade and 12th grade of the high school. 230 girls and 10 women participated. SDG 5: Gender equality

Training was organised on child rights and how to prevent bullying; prevention from sexual harassment; psychology of teenagers; personal development and identify risks in society, Training included a discussion time where teenagers could ask questions that they could not ask their Mothers. As a follow up the club is planning to organise an open talk with the ones who need it and run a hobby program for those who are more vulnerable.



### SI Brisbane Waters



The Club packed pamper packs to be distributed to a local women's refuge. Instead of hosting an IWD breakfast SI Brisbane Waters. This hands on activity came as a great way to deal with the uncertainty that many have been dealing with due to COVID 19, where functions could be cancelled the last minute or restrictions on the number of people we can attend.

### SI Griffith



The Club was able to go ahead with their IWD breakfast and hosted Lucinda Brogden AM, as their guest speaker.

Lucinda is the Chair and Commissioner of the National Mental Health Commission. Attendees at this 9th annual breakfast learned insights into many important aspects of mental health and communities.

Those attending were reminded that mental health is a vitally important discussion to have amongst ourselves and to look out for each other and that although great work has been done, there is much more to do to help improve policies and systems.



### SI Ba, Fiji



The Club celebrated IWD with a parade through the town. In addition to various women's groups participating, the Minister for Education, Madam Rosy Akbar and Madam Premila Kumar from the Ministry of Local Government took part in the march. Following the march, there was an awards ceremony for 12 women, selected for their leadership roles in their various fields of work.

To add to what sounds like a great event, School girls were encouraged to take part in creating a video compilation on these women. The task was to interview the woman and put together a short film on the life of that inspiring woman. Certificates and gifts were given to the girls who participated and the 12 Women were awarded with plaques.

### SI Fremantle, Western Australia



#### The Deadly Koolinga Project

First developed 12 years ago by the School of Nursing at Murdoch University. The aim of the Deadly Koolinga project was to increase the health and wellbeing of the local Noongar First Nations people in an area south of Perth. (*Koolinga is the aboriginal word for kids. Deadly is just slang meaning they are very good*).

Poor nutrition was a key element which affected health outcomes. When this was changed the social and economic situation of the community improved, leading to greater achievement at school, students completing high school and some continuing to University.



The Club has raised funds and has been supported by SI Riverside providing assistance and working with the Noongar women, a programme of 10 lessons for primary school children was designed that provided basic information about nutrition, foods, shopping, food preparation, cooking as well as cooperation and communication. The students in turn cooked nutritious meal to take home to feed the family. They were very proud of their effort. As the project was managed by the Noongar women a sense of community pride evolved where other children and family members observed and helped when needed. Other children looked forward to their turn to be part of the programme.

#### Want a volunteer?

We have received information from a woman Zeevic Peretz. Her email address is [zeevict@gmail.com](mailto:zeevict@gmail.com) and her CV can be found [here](#). If you are interested, please contact her directly as the POS team has published this as a service only. Please note that board and accommodation will be needed.

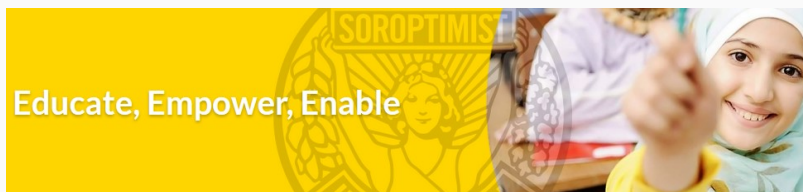
Zeevic is currently volunteering in Rwanda and will complete her time there by the end of March. She would like to volunteer for a three month to one year period where she can use her skills.

#### Downloading and Printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print please go to the [SISWP Website](#) and log in using your member login.

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](#)



Educate, Empower, Enable



Copy for the April 2021 eSPAN edition is required by 8th April 2021 to [swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org](mailto:swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org)

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific ACN 147 990 627

Copyright © 2021 Soroptimist International South West Pacific. All rights reserved.  
This email was sent to all Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific Clubs

**Our mailing address is:**  
Soroptimist International South West Pacific  
PO Box 1400  
STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012  
Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

