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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the July 2021 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

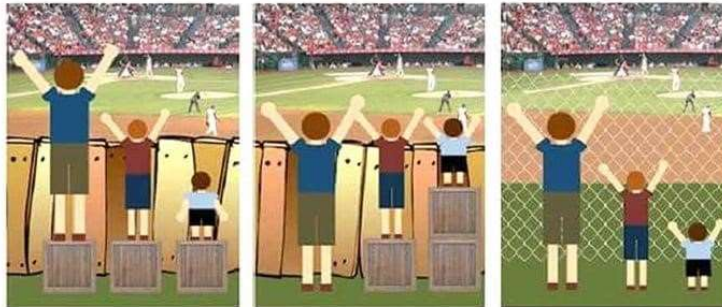


As I write this, nations, corporate organisations, NGOs and people like you and me are involved in the Generation Equality Forum in Paris. It is an attempt, really, to kick start further actions to bring about the change we want and need. While it has been frustrating in many ways not to have specific proceedings recorded for listening to at a later date and to have difficulty accessing the platforms, there have been some interesting sessions. Some of us attended meetings of specific action groups prior to the forum and were aware of some issues we wished to follow. Gender data and gender equality are at the heart of this gathering. Why? Listen to the short YouTube video with

voices from around the world. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCIXFTbUQaw&t=8s>.

Not sure why there is all the fuss about gender equity and gender equality? Look at this reworked famous cartoon. There are useful videos on YouTube that address these issues also.

EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.

In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.

In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

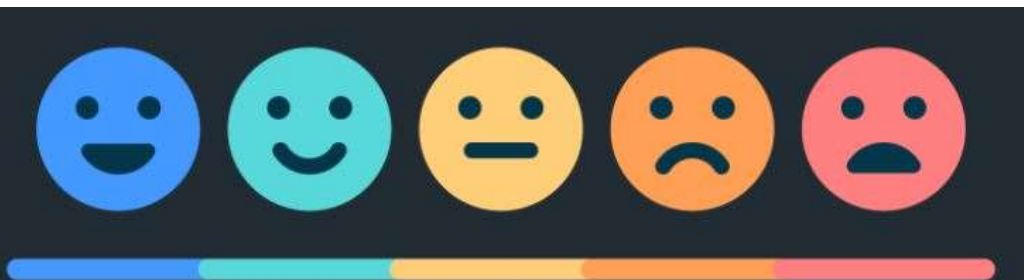
As Soroptimists we have a focus on SDG 5 Gender Equality because we know that gender inequality has a profound effect on the lives of women and girls be it in access to health information, access to decent pay in employment, access to promotion, continuation of education and freedom from violence. While we may focus on projects or activities in our own community and choose to be less aware of the larger picture, we do need to understand why we are taking the actions we undertake. Happy Learning.

Di Lockwood

Programme Director

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific

swpprogramme2020@siswp.org



Please help us

Every month the Programme of Service team spend many hours researching and producing the Soroptimist Programme Action News better known to you as SPAN. It is a time-consuming but interesting task. However, figures show us that even while it

is delivered to individual email boxes, less than 50% of members open it.

**Is it worth the trouble and time?
Is it not giving you something that you value?**

We wish to know, so we are asking you to complete a short survey which will help us review and determine the content of SPAN. Please take the time to open it, complete it and submit it. It will take you less than 5 minutes.

Help us to help you and your club and complete the 5 minute survey [HERE](#).



2021-2022 Federation Project "Brilliant Futures Fund"

As you know the Brilliant Futures Fund is the Federation Project for the remainder of this biennium. Designed to support projects that focus on Education and support our mission and values it is an opportunity for clubs to nominate a project up to AUD 10,000. Projects requiring a smaller amount are welcome to apply also.

Nominations were opened for the next round of funding on 1 July this year. Access to forms and information can be found [here](#).

Nominations close on 1 September 2021 and the announcement of the winning project(s) will be made on 3 October 2021.

Some clubs may not have English as a first language so they and any other club are welcome

to seek assistance from their Zone coordinator, with the exception of Zone 4 clubs who should direct queries to Theresa Lyford at: swpasstprogrammedirector2@siswp.org

We Need Your Support

Now that we have our new Federation Project announced it is time to gently remind clubs that we have an obligation to support this. It is open to any club to apply and for areas where fundraising is difficult or perhaps even impossible, as it is in some nations, it is a way to support others to make significant contributions to the educational possibilities for women and girls.

Please be generous. The proceeds of one fundraiser could be contributed or perhaps your club would donate from 10% to perhaps 15% or 20% of any funds raised to the Brilliant Futures Fund. Your donation could make a great change in someone's life.

Make your Donation [HERE](#).

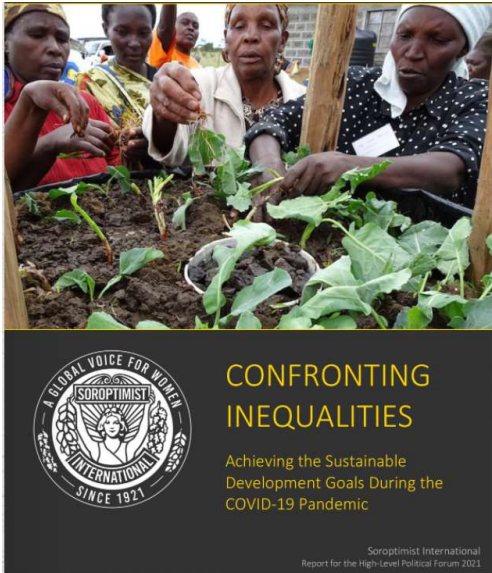


Join Us! as we walk virtually across the 5 Federations to celebrate our Centenary. On the walk you will celebrate and learn about our **Bright Past** and the walk will raise funds for the Brilliant Futures Fund, which will enable a **Bright Future** for women and girls.

Walk for yourself, the Environment and SISWP Brilliant Futures Fund, get active out and about in your community, create change by promoting a healthy lifestyle, whilst raising money for the Brilliant Futures Fund which in turn creates change by providing grants to clubs to implement life changing projects in their communities.

Invite your walking friends, family and colleagues to walk with you,

[To register to join the walk Click Here](#)



Soroptimist International has just released their report to the HLPF. HLPF is the foremost international platform for follow-up and **review** of progress on the 17 **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). This publication is titled "Confronting Inequalities - Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals During the COVID-19 Pandemic". All women and girls have experienced the impacts of COVID-19 particularly acutely — women frontline workers and those in the informal economy were among those hit first and hit hardest. SISWP have 4 projects highlighted in this report.

[Read the full report here](#)

ADVOCACY WORK



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

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function.

The Programme team would be pleased to hear what your club is doing?

ADVOCACY: What has your club done?

Advocacy involves speaking up for someone or something. It is an action designed to bring about change that is positive. It seeks to help those who cannot do this for themselves or to add your voice to others seeking to improve outcomes and opportunities for women and children.

Some clubs hold seminars on specific topics and have expert speakers to inform an audience about a topic. Is this advocacy or is it awareness raising? Should it be considered an activity or possibly a project? It may be interesting, inspirational or challenging but is any activity undertaken? If not, how can we say that we are speaking up for some- one or for an issue?

How can we transform this event into advocacy?

- Encourage club members or the audience to write to the local paper, your local council members, your parliamentary representative with some key suggestions (perhaps you might suggest some topics or questions based on what speakers have said.)
- Speak to a local journalist about an article
- Arrange a meeting with the appropriate council or government official
- Speak on local radio and ask for specific changes or funding
- Mount a campaign in person or online with information and examples
- Organise and carry out an email campaign by at least 20 people and suggest solutions
- Carry out some research to get data, hard or anecdotal, to present real people's stories about the issue
- Make a submission to an enquiry (check protocols and best methods)
- Start a petition – remember large numbers of signatures may be required and it can be online in some countries
- Establish a partnership with a group working on the same issue and add your voice in some way.
- Use any opportunity to develop a relationship with those who have the power to bring about change.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE



Women Inspiring Action, Transforming Lives

Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISWP Programme Database, please contact Di Lockwood, Programme Director swpprogramme2020@siswp.org.

UNITED NATIONS

Information sourced from UN Day Observances pages.

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

2021 Theme: "Victims' Voices Lead the Way"

This year's theme puts victims of human trafficking at the centre of the campaign and will highlight the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking. The campaign portrays survivors as key actors in the fight against human trafficking and focusses on the crucial role they play in establishing effective measures to prevent this crime, identify and rescue victims and support them on their road to rehabilitation.

Find out more: [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020](#)

International Day of Friendship

Actions to Promote a Culture of Peace

- foster a culture of peace through education;
- promote sustainable economic and social development;
- promote respect for all human rights;
- ensure equality between women and men;
- foster democratic participation;
- advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity;
- support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge;
- promote international peace and security.

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

There are over 476 million indigenous peoples living in 90 countries across the world, accounting for 6.2 per cent of the global population. Indigenous peoples are the holders of a vast diversity of unique cultures, traditions, languages and knowledge systems. They have a special relationship with their lands and hold diverse concepts of development based on their own worldviews and priorities.

Did you know?

- More than 86% of indigenous peoples globally work in the informal economy, compared to 66% for their non-indigenous counterparts
- Indigenous peoples are nearly three times as likely to be living in extreme poverty compared to their non-indigenous counterparts.

- Globally, 47% of all indigenous peoples in employment have no education, compared to 17% of their non-indigenous counterparts. This gap is even wider for women.

SI AND THE UN

New York

ILO C190 and the NGO Coalition to End Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. Blog by Maria Fornella-Oehninger, SI United Nations Representative in New York and Co-chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development. As part of the Global Action Week, 21-29 June 2021, the International Labour Organization (ILO) promoted the ratification of the Convention Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work (C190). [Read More](#)

UN DAYS



July

- 25 July [World Drowning Prevention Day](#)
- 28 July [World Hepatitis Day](#)
- 30 July [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#)
- 30 July [International Day of Friendship](#)

August

- 09 August [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)
- 12 August [International Youth Day](#)
- 19 August [World Humanitarian Day](#)
- 29 August [International Day against Nuclear Tests](#)

Women, Water, Climate: The Way Forward - Webinar 26 July 2021

SISWP, in partnership with Women for Water Partnership and NetWwater, will be organising an interactive virtual panel discussion entitled “**Women, Water, Climate: The Way Forward**”.

Date:

26 July 2021, Monday

Time:

2.00 – 3.30 pm Malaysia (GMT + 8)

4.00 – 5.30 pm AEST

11.30 am – 1.00 pm (India/ Sri Lanka)

8.00 am – 9.30 am (CEST)

This webinar is a follow-up to the series of 8 webinars and 2-day virtual conference held from 6 Oct - 3 Nov 2020 on the theme **Women, Water, Climate: Tackling the Challenges**

which was made possible with a grant from the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI)

Asia's Strategic Collaborative Fund (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xm4InXZkL5Y>).

The 8 webinars included 3 case studies from SISWP, 1 each from Malaysia (Sarawak), Indonesia (Lombok) and Thailand.

The outcome of the case studies and conference were published in a document entitled **“The Way Forward”**. This panel discussion will focus on the findings of that document and will explore the interventions needed in taking the next decisive step forward in promoting a gold standard in water and climate sector management with particular reference to countries in South East Asia. We would like to ensure that women and youth are included at all levels of decision making from the start. Capacity building and training are crucial as women gain knowledge and experience which allows them to move up to positions of leadership in communities. All these outcomes require adequate funding and finances as well as collaboration with multiple stakeholders.

The Covid-19 pandemic has emphasised the need for clean water, hygiene and hand-washing to reduce virus transmission. It has also impacted and precipitated water and food insecurity as well as poverty arising from the economic downturn. Women, youth, the disabled and other marginalised communities have been disproportionately affected by the ravages of the pandemic - we need to find solutions.

The panel will include the following:

Moderator: Dr Saradha Narayanan (National Representative Malaysia, SISWP)

1) Dr Salmah Zakaria - (Chair, Academy of Sciences Malaysia Water Committee)

2) Ms Melita Grant (Senior Research Fellow specialising in Integrated Water Resources Management, University Technology Sydney)

3) Ms Kei Namba (YWP, Independent consultant based in Berlin focusing on water governance, climate and sustainability in Asia and beyond)

4) Mr Ravi Narayanan (Chair of the Asia Pacific Water Forum) - Expert discussant who will

SISWP, WOMEN FOR WATER PARTNERSHIP AND NETWATER PRESENT

WOMEN, WATER, CLIMATE: THE WAY FORWARD

Monday, 26 July 2021
2.00 PM - 3.30 PM (GMT +8)

8.00 am - 9.30 am CEST
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MODERATED BY
Dr. Saradha Narayanan
National Representative
Malaysia, SISWP

Salmah Zakaria
Chair, Academy of
Sciences Malaysia
Water Committee

Kei Namba,
Independent
Consultant, Berlin

Melita Grant,
Senior Research
Fellow, University
Technology Sydney

Ravi Narayanan,
Chair of Asia
Pacific Water
Forum

Register your free seat:
bit.ly/wwc2021
Official Organisation Website: www.siswp.org

provide the Closing Remarks

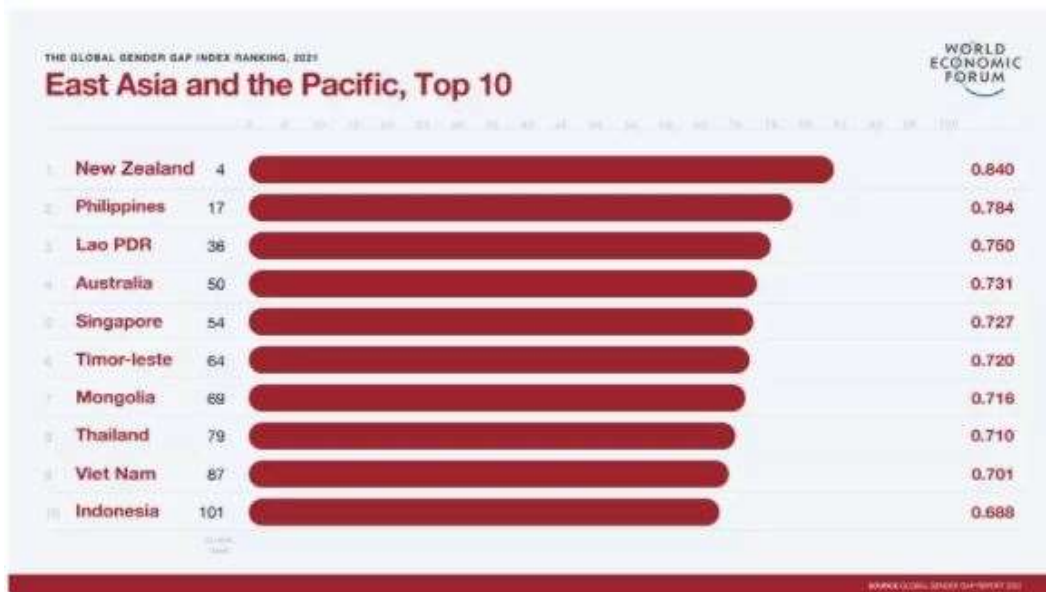
Registration is FREE - [register here](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Gender Gap

The World Economic Forum each year produces a report addressing this topic. The news is not good. According to their study their press release stated:

- Another generation of women must wait for gender parity as an extra 36 years are added to the time remaining to close the gender gap
- Despite progress in education and health, women face economic hurdles, declining political participation and workplace challenges
- Iceland remains the world's most gender-equal country, followed by Finland, Norway, New Zealand and Sweden
- Report calls for strategies and policies that emphasize investment in the care sector, equal hiring practices and skills development The graph below shows the ranking for a number of our countries. There were 156 nations examined.



AROUND THE FEDERATION

Help for the environment

Region of North New Zealand - as part of the Centennial 100 year celebrations for Soroptimist International, SI Wellington decided to set up a native tree gift registry on Trees that Count. A tree registry is a great way to help crowd-fund for more native trees and have them planted on the club's behalf. More trees in the environment will help mitigate carbon emissions.

SI Wellington has given a donation to plant 50 native trees in New Zealand in an effort to help the environment and fight climate change.

SIANZ North region decided to donate 1000 native trees for planting in New Zealand. It will strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

The Region of South Australia undertook to fund and plant 100 trees to create a wetland adjoining the Women's Memorial Playing Fields, a large space dedicated to the women who served in the war. A Soroptimist, Miss Helen Black, was active in its establishment. Miss Black was an inaugural member of the playing fields committee, tasked with developing a space to encourage women and girls to be active and physically fit. It was later (in early 1952) turned into a "living memorial" to the nurses who were massacred on Radji Beach at the fall of Singapore.

The playing fields are undergoing a large-scale redevelopment but unfortunately, delays in works have meant that the trees cannot be planted this year. Next year when conditions are best for native tree planting, a wetland will be planted and two groves of trees within the playing fields will be restored with a memorial from Soroptimists along with a plaque commemorating our Federation's centennial celebration. An original memorial from Soroptimists will be restored as part of the reconstruction.

SI Darkhan

Undeterred by movement restrictions and concerned about the high number of rivers and lakes that have dried in the last 10 years decided on a home based programme to teach members and others about the need for smart consumption of water. Members would measure the consumption of water in the bathroom and develop ways to reduce it. They will have reported on this at the end of June.

SI Townsville Breakwater

SI Townsville Breakwater and Girl Guides Australia share a common goal to develop girls and young women into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members. The project was for us to assist the girls to make a bag for their crockery and cutlery for camp. Many of the girls had not used a sewing machine and some had never cut fabric. This is a skill that is being lost due to fast fashion. The project exposed the girls to the opportunity to take a piece of fabric and transform it to a usable item.



The girls followed the instructions and cut out the fabric required to make the bag. Following set steps they sewed in the correct sequence to craft their bags. No new fabric was purchased. The girls used fabric that was left over from other projects. This was an important part of sustainability. There were 12 girls making bags. To achieve this we had the two guide leaders, three Soroptimist members and another lady guiding and helping the girls. The materials we used were all fabric that the girls had at home, for example many used leftover curtain material. There was also some fabric which had been donated to the guides. Each bag used between half to one metre of fabric. For the draw string, we used ribbon we had in stock. Some girls brought their Mum's sewing machines. We also had sewing machines provided by the Soroptimist and leaders. We had an overlocker, making finishing the edges of the bags sturdy. The other resources included scissors, cutting mats, pins, tape measure and instructions.



SI Penang ran a social media campaign to create public awareness of the March 2021 International Women's Day #Choosetochallenge global campaign, which sought to highlight the challenges facing women today, namely inequality and gender bias. Their campaign reached out to SIP's social media audiences with a video collage of 23 SIP members, highlighting the importance of creating an inclusive world by seeking out and celebrating women's achievements.

SI New Plymouth organised a "Pamper Evening" for low socio economic (pre school) mums to come along and experience hair cuts', nail polishing, massage, as well as a meal and guest speakers. The guest speakers discussed with the mums what a "good" relationship looked like as compared to a "not so good" relationship, and strategized some tips on how to manage difficult situations. A simple budget meal was provided, with copies of the recipes to take home, as well as a clothing rack and a linen table with good quality used towels, sheets, etc. for mums to choose from. Each mother left with a "Goodie Bag" containing soaps, hand lotion and

personalized items. Community partnerships including donations from 2 Supermarket chains, and a local butcher, a masseuse, 3 hairdressers, a nail technician and a beautician.

Information about clubs Centennial projects are being showcased on the SISWP website, please send in your club's C100 project details and images to swppresidenelect2020@siswp.org for inclusion on the web page.

View the webpage here [Campaigns \(siswp.org\)](#)

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, 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. Or if you are already logged in, [click this link](#). Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.

COPY DEADLINES

Copy for the August 2021 eSPAN edition is required by 8 August 2021. Please email your submissions to swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org. Thank you.



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