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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SOROPTIMISTS
EMPOWER CHANGE

SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the August 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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To access all links and stories, [please log in to the website with your member details](#).

FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to the August update.

The World Literacy Day on 8 September this year accelerates the impact for the UN Day of the Girl

Child theme for 11 October. The theme of multilingual education building a bridge for peace, sets the scene for younger generations to work towards multilateral diplomacy for a common future together. For us, that addresses SDG 4, SDG 5 and SDG 16. As we prepare for the UN Day of the Girl Child, we review the value of education and the multiplier effect of girl who study science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In other related achievements, cyber security (for girls, women, children and seniors) is being taken seriously at home and in the UN. We expect articulated standards and proscribed crimes within the Global Digital Compact being advanced at the Summit of the Future in September 2024. More information [HERE](#) The UN Summit for the Future in September expects to achieve 3 outcomes building upon UN 'Our Common Agenda'. These are agreed results for the Pact for the Future, the Declaration for Future Generations (UN fit for tomorrow's peoples) and the Global Digital Compact guiding ethical use of technology and artificial intelligence).

Specific Cyber-crime reforms relating to modern slavery and people-trafficking are expected to be adopted by the UN in July 2025. The Asia-Pacific Region is at high risk with 85 million vulnerable people forced to leave their homes due to climate, conflict, and economic factors, so they are easy targets for slavery. Soroptimists work in many different ways to support survivors of slavery and to intervene early with anonymous reporting of concerns.

What is the difference between a volunteer worker and a slave? choice. So this month we acknowledge the volunteers in our countries that do so much for society. Does your club recognize your strong community volunteers? An example of the value of volunteers can be seen [HERE](#) The value of SISEAP clubs and members is reported once a year in our Annual General Meeting. Every little bit you do that gets recorded on the database is reviewed, recognized and appreciated.

Thank you to all the clubs who are updating their reports in the database. Please use it as your tool too. We are pleased to see 18 tertiary scholarships from Nelson New Zealand (in partnership). In other news, small donations you make to your local communities are appreciated and build trusted partnerships. However, when clubs give to big charities, their efforts are not always receipted, acknowledged, recognized with SISEAP logo or stickers, but instead, are swallowed up for anonymous use. We worry about those donations, because they could be used more transparently for our own women's projects in the federation (Brilliant Future Fund).

We are keen to meet applicants for the vacant role of Zone 4 Coordinator, so please apply now, or as soon as possible. We meet once-a-month for 2 hours, do reviews of club reports, link with each other on good and quirky projects, review toolkits, input to advocacy, judge grants, judge best practice awards, judge art completions, and some fun stuff. Good luck for those applying. Thank you...D



International Day of the Girl Child- October 11

Observance of this day is one of the key campaigns that SI clubs around the world are asked to acknowledge and participate in.

On 19 December 2011 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 to declare 11 October each year, as the International Day of the Girl Child (IDG), to recognise girls'

rights and the unique challenges that they face across the world. A vital right for all girls is the right to access education. Therefore, it is relevant to highlight education, especially as SDG4 refers to Quality Education.

SI key focus will center around the theme of **'Girls onto STEM'**.

SISEAP has developed a toolkit that clubs can use to assist clubs in delivering programme activities and give consistent messaging around the theme. The toolkit will be updated leading up to the day with resources as they become available, clubs are encouraged to check on a regular basis.

[Download the toolkit here](#), and visit the SISEAP trello board for all media assets.

See below how SI Penang is addressing this theme.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD TOOLKIT on TRELLO



25 NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

PREVENTION FIRST

Join Us for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence!

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Soroptimist International has created a "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, focusing on the theme of Prevention. This year, we are emphasizing prevention strategies, educational content, and resource sharing to empower communities and drive meaningful change.

To support your efforts, we have created a Trello board containing all the necessary resources for the campaign, including:

- Key actions and guidance
- Graphics for each day
- Social media copy
- Sources for information used
- Additional resources

Access the Trello Board [HERE](#).

ADVOCACY WORK

Aotearoa New Zealand

National Project Team Aotearoa New Zealand update Our team will release the National Project report in mid-September during Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month in New Zealand. We will shortly be inviting members to attend an Ovarian Cancer Foundation Webinar on Wednesday 18th September 2024. Whitney Gernhoefer, OCF General Manager will host this event and share the impact of the New Zealand club's advocacy, of raising awareness and donations for ovarian cancer. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions through the chat.



SI Brisbane

SI Brisbane Club worked a total of 80 hours on an Advocacy Report submission providing specific recommendations for the review of the Queensland Human Rights Act based on SI position, evidence based research, expert knowledge and lived experience. Their submission focused on ensuring the rights and protection of women and girls in Queensland by highlighting key issues and proposing specific amendments to strengthen gender equality.

The changes proposed by this Advocacy Report emphasized gender-sensitive perspectives throughout the Queensland Human Rights Act Review and change the process to ensure it effectively addresses the specific rights and needs of women and girls. By implementing the proposed recommendations Queensland can demonstrate it's commitment to upholding human rights principle and achieving substantive gender equality.

PROJECTS & APPEALS



We deeply appreciate the support that the Brilliant Futures Fund has received, enabling us to pave the way for women and girls. **Your donation dollar can be traced directly to females and families in our own Federation.** The ongoing and completed projects are a testament to the generosity of donors like you. If you or your club haven't had a chance to contribute recently, we kindly ask for your assistance this month. Your donation will allow us to open another round of funding, empowering clubs to propose projects that will foster educational and economic opportunities for women and girls.

Discover more about our work on the SISEAP website [HERE](#). Updates on current projects were highlighted at the Federation Conference.

SI Foundation

With a focus on education, poverty prevention and human rights, striving to foster positive change and create a more inclusive world. Delivering short, medium and long-term projects internationally for women and girls.



For further information, click [HERE](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



Please see below Soroptimist International's Where **We Stand Position Papers** that have been revised in the last year. They are all available on the SI website at the links below, or by going to "Soroptimist's Area" at the top right of the SI website homepage, then clicking "Position Papers".

The latest Position Paper to be completed is the Where We Stand Position Paper on **Widows**, drafted by SI's Advocacy Team and with inputs from Federations. This document can be found [HERE](#).

The full list of WWSPPs can be found [HERE](#) on the SI website.

AROUND THE FEDERATION



"Girls in STEM" by SI Penang

SI Penang's "Girls in STEM" workshop was held on July 31 at a local girls school . The project focuses on creating awareness in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the girls. A total of 80 students participated in the program.

This project has reached more than 360 female students in the 12-14 age group since it first began 3 years ago. The project highlights the need to create employment opportunities in STEM to support the Penang State's future human resource in the technology industry.

the Club was honored to have a panel of guest speakers from Micron Memory Group which

gave the students a lot of ideas, advice and encouragement. The workshop also included a sharing segment of career pathways by young female engineers and interactive activities with representatives from Women Leadership Network and Employee Resource Group.

SI Penang will continue to develop this project to motivate more underprivileged girls from a young age to plan their career pathways and future.

Tree Planting by SI Brisbane Water

To celebrate National Tree Day (Australia) on 28th July, SI Brisbane Water members and partners planted over 300 trees on a wetland site called Porters Creek in Wyong NSW.



Porter's Creek Wetland is valuable to the Central Coast NSW for drinking water, flood mitigation, biodiversity and health of the Tuggerah Lakes. It is the largest freshwater wetland in the Central Coast Region (population of over 350,000). The wetlands proper comprise a mixture of reed lands, sedgeland and rush lands in areas of more permanent water inundation. It extends into the surrounding Melaleuca and Eucalypt swamp forests. The wetland was originally obtained by the Central Coast Council to protect water quality in the Wyong River and Tuggerah Lakes System. It is very valuable for the preservation and protection of biodiversity. The wetland is known to contain numerous threatened species and endangered ecological communities along with rare swamp forests.

As part of our environment project, back in 2021 our club members planted 350 trees on the same site, and it was encouraging and exciting to see the size of "our" trees yesterday.

National Tree Day was a community event organised by Planet Ark and our local council and over 700 trees were planted on the day by all those who joined in the planting, with SI Brisbane Water making a significant contribution.



SI Fremantle

See how Karl Nolte – is stitching his way into Soroptimist history in Fremantle

[HERE](#)

SI Cambodia

On July 13, 2024, marked as a fruitful day for Soroptimist International (SI) Phnom Penh members, bringing school materials and food for distribution to more than 200 students of Beoung Trav Primary School, Kang Meas District, Kompong Cham Province. Additionally, a donation of USD 100 for the school renovation.



The shining smiles and absolute delight of both students and teachers touched club members profoundly. The educational materials symbolize the core values of SI that we believe education is the pivotal force for empowering women and girls to create a brighter future. We also thank to members of SI Rhyl, North Wales, United Kingdom who contributed money for the activity.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Reports submitted and processed for the following period:

1 June 2024 - 30 June 2024: 112 reports

1 July 2024 - 31 July 2024: 108 reports. [4 Activity reports; 104 Donations]

Donations:

- when making donation reports remember that each organisation needs to be recorded as a separate donation. For example if you donate to three local high schools , then you will need to make a report for each school.
- Let the database help you by using the Re-Use option and changing the name of the school. NOTE: the Re-use option is only available from Published or Rejected Reports.

Calendar Year Reporting :

- The Soroptimist Reporting year is from 1 January - 31 December.
- If your project, activity, advocacy runs into the next year you can only report the work undertaken and completed by 31 December. You will need to create a Part 2 to your project, activity, advocacy etc. to account for the balance of community hours and costs etc. undertaken in the next reporting period.

Anne Allen

Programme Database Support

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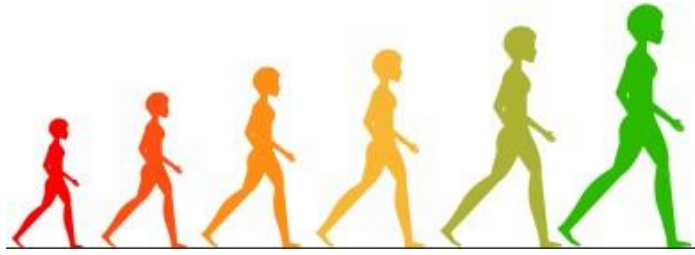
Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: siseaprogrammedatabase@siswp.org

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website [HERE](#). Pauline Glover, Zone Coordinator 3 is writing stories on a few of our special days that also go to our Facebook. Thank you Jess for making us look so professional with your timely updates.

UN Days

DID YOU KNOW?



Be the Change

A reminder to report your work as soon as you have completed it. The Programme team love hearing and promoting Club's advocacy and project work. It also helps provide ideas to other Clubs in the Federation. Only documented and peer reviewed reports can be use as evidence for our UN reporting. We report on our 8 objectives and 17 SDGs, as well as find special items through words searches. You can search all that too, anytime.

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISEAP 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 for the September 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 2 September 2024**. Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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