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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the September 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 September update. This month we:

1. Reflect on club Brilliant Futures Fund achievements and SI global recorded sessions - so we can learn more
2. Celebrate charities commission status - so we can open more doors for grants and partnerships
3. Prepare for next steps aligned to legal reforms - so we accelerate our efforts
4. Prepare for 11 October Day of the Girl Child (with toolkit), and 16 Days - theme of Prevention for November/December
5. Welcome Jemma Arundel with our fundraising plans - so we can continue to operate to do more for women and girls

We are also excited to be part of the Samoa Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October and surrounding Civil Society forums, with our **Samoa Club**. The forums include Commonwealth Women's forum, Youth Forum, Business Forum, Commonwealth Peoples Forum and some ministerial formalities. These are all self-funded. Joint Statement can be viewed [HERE](#). SI will be represented by Siew Yong Gnanalingham and Leigh Ellwood Brown. SISEAP by IPP Christine Johnstone and Donnell Davis along with local members wherever possible. Samoa club is proposing several initiatives.

In UNESCAP in November, Asia Pacific is convening **Beijing +30 and CEDAW review** to determine how far we have progressed since 1979 on ending all discrimination against women with independent report cards across all our countries. Background can be viewed [HERE](#). SI will be represented by UN Rep Theresa Devasahayam, and SISEAP by President Joanne Yeoh. This is in preparation for our voice in building resolutions at **CSW 69 in New York March 2025**. The recordings can be viewed [HERE](#). Thank you for those who have already expressed an interest in attending CSW69 (a watershed moment in history) as self-funded accredited attendees. We have a few more spaces available but we will allocate final **delegation in November 2024**. You will need a visa in advance and we can provide a letter of support for your country to approve your visa quickly.

SI has coming events - The Older Person, which can be viewed [HERE](#) and Summit of the Future off-site event can be viewed [HERE](#).

At this moment, **Human Rights #57** is meeting in Geneva on important International Humanitarian Law with focus on women and children. Next week is the **Summit of the Future** in New York (and online) as the reform of UN because we are using 80-year-old declarations written by our grandparents that might not be 'fit for purpose' for our own grandchildren. We expect 3 outcomes from 5 critical areas - Global Digital Compact, Declaration for Future Generations, Pact for the Future. (Indo-Pacific peace & security communique, view it [HERE](#)) Our region South East Asia Pacific is either a leader or a 'highly vulnerable' on those 5 critical areas - Sustainable Development (incl climate), Peace and Security, Youth, Technology, Governance. **Women's matters fall under Governance and all other chapters.**

What does Programme do? View the PowerPoint [HERE](#)
Thank you to all clubs who are already documenting your work directly into the database. We cant use your Facebook gossip in our meetings. Your projects can be used for our efforts to find funding and partners. Your activities might actually be projects if you can answer 3 more questions in the database. Ask your Zone coordinator for help.

Dr Donnell Davis, Programme Convenor 2024-2026

siseaprogramme@siswp.org

Programme Zone Coordinator 4
Expressions of Interest are called for from eligible members to take on the role of Programme Zone Coordinator 4, this is a 2 year term of office (2024 to 2026). The successful applicant will be able to take up the position for the remainder of this biennium.

The role involves supporting up to 35 clubs across the Federation with reporting on their actions. There is opportunity for progression, and participating regularly in some exciting events with the full Programme Team. Please complete the Federation Programme Convenors CV Template, please send your completed application to Federation Secretary Berice at swpsecretary2020@siswp.org.

CV TEMPLATE

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



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.

Click the link below to download the toolkit and visit the SISEAP Trello board for all media assets.

[DOWNLOAD INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD TOOLKIT](#)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD TOOLKIT - TRELLO



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 SISEAP Trello Board by clicking the link below.

[16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - TRELLO](#)

ADVOCACY WORK



SI Brisbane members are active in their advocacy work, recently the Queensland Government announced the five-year review of the **Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld) (the Act)**. The review marks an exciting time for advancing human rights for individuals in Queensland and more broadly across our nation. It is an opportunity for advancing the rights of women and girls, and the importance of robust human rights legislation in protecting and promoting gender equality and addressing the unique challenges faced by all women and girls in Queensland.

SI Brisbane provided specific recommendations for the review of the **Queensland Human Rights Act** based on SI Position, evidence-based research, expert knowledge, and lived experiences. Our advocacy submission focused on ensuring the rights and protections of women and girls in Queensland, highlighting key issues and proposing specific amendments to strengthen gender equality and address systemic discrimination.

**Soroptimist International New Zealand -
The state of Ovarian Cancer In New
Zealand Event**

Invitation to join members and guests for
this informative webinar

**Wednesday 18th September 7.30-8pm
NZ or 5.30 pm AEST**

Register for the event below.



[REGISTER FOR THE EVENT](#)

The State of Ovarian Cancer in New Zealand
Hosted by: Whitney Gernhoefer, General Manager of OCFNZ
Facilitated by: Andrea Murray, Lead for the SI New Zealand National Project Team

Topic: Find out about the state of ovarian cancer in NZ and learn about the impactful work being done by the Ovarian Cancer Foundation with support from SI New Zealand.

Topics covered: Understanding ovarian cancer: Gain insights into testing, diagnosis, and treatment. The current landscape in New Zealand: Explore the state of ovarian cancer and its challenges. OCFNZ's impact: See how the Ovarian Cancer Foundation is working to advance care and where they are focusing their efforts.

Q&A There will be plenty of time at the end for Whitney to answer any questions you have!

PROJECTS & APPEALS



This year one of our key objectives is to grow our Brilliant Futures Fund which enables projects which provide 'pathways to future possibilities' women and girls. When we invest in women and girls, we invest in a more equitable, prosperous, and healthier world for everyone. Hunger, economic instability, climate change and conflict are devastating the lives of millions, pushing them further into disadvantage and inequality.

Women and girls are bearing the greatest burden of this injustice.

Education and empowering women and girls is a critical strategy in the fight to end poverty. By investing in their education, we enable them to secure better-paying jobs and contribute more significantly to their economies.

Educated women are more likely to invest in their families; health, nutrition, and education, creating a positive pathways to possibilities which will benefit entire communities. Furthermore, empowering women and girls promotes gender equality, which is crucial for sustainable development. Societies that value and promote gender equality tend to have stronger economies, more stable institutions, and healthier communities

The Brilliant Futures Fund will provide funding for up to \$10,000 for SISEAP Clubs to implement a new project, or continue a new phase of an existing project, which has a strong educational focus. We are setting the bold goal of funding at least **10 projects this year by raising \$100,000.**

Discover more about our work on the SISEAP website [HERE](#).

[DONATE NOW](#)

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](#)



UN DAYS



The International Day of Democracy is an opportunity to reinforce the importance of upholding free speech, civil liberties, and the rule of law; ensuring accountable institutions; and protecting and promoting human rights.

This is especially crucial in a year where more than 50 countries – representing half of the global population – are holding elections. Yet, these rights and values are under attack around the world. Freedoms are being eroded. Civic space is diminishing. Polarization is intensifying and mistrust is growing.

This year's Democracy Day focuses on Artificial Intelligence as a tool for good governance.

Read the full statement from UN Secretary [HERE](#)

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.

[UN DAYS](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Please see below Soroptimist International's Where **We Stand Position Papers** are being continually updated, and new ones introduced. 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". Keep checking in on your pet passions because we update statements regularly - every time we gain more ground on that topic - so you can advocate locally more effectively.



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.

| Soroptimist | International | Upcoming | Events |
|------------------------------|---|------------------|-------------|
| SI Webinar - Building global | momentum for a sustainable and equitable future - | Wednesday | |
| 25 | September | | 2024 |

SI partnering with other NGO's on a webinar – Marginalisation of Older Persons in Society
– A Significant Health Risk - **Monday 30 September 2024**

For full information, links and times visit the SISEAP Events website page below.

SISEAP EVENTS

AROUND THE FEDERATION



**Murik Lakes Seeds of Friendship
Community Garden project sponsored
by SI Morton North, funded by the
Brilliant Futures Fund**

The project is a collaborative effort involving the local community, with ongoing work demonstrating the villagers commitment to realizing the benefits of the Community Garden.

This overview highlights the project's objectives, challenges, and the positive impact it is expected to have on the Darapap Village community.

"The women are excited that they will have extra income to pay for schooling, medical supplies, transport costs, and other household expenses."

Read the full report on the progress on this Brilliant Futures Funded project - Murik Lakes Seeds of Friendship Community Garden, creating future possibilities for a whole community below.

READ THE FULL REPORT

East Timor '24 project sponsored by SI Joondalup, funded by the Brilliant Futures Fund

SI Joondalup members sponsored Pascoela Baretta and Maria Guterres, to visit Perth, the visit was a leadership and skills transfer visit.



These young women are already leaders in their communities, one in the field of education and the diagnosis of cancer in women and the other in inclusive library management and the implementation of education scholarships, by expanding their knowledge, and observing modern methods and ideas, they will take these learnings back to East Timor to improve their own practices and empower the knowledge to others.

Read how their visit has created pathways to possible partnerships with Harry Hopkins Medical Centre, St John of God Medical Services and the Australia Hospice Association, Other possible partnerships could be with pharmaceutical companies and pathology services.

Read the complete report on the benefits this project has produced, the ongoing partnerships to be forged, this project demonstrates the pathways to possibilities which the Brilliant Futures Fund can open for clubs.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)



SI North Canterbury

Soroptimists from SI North Canterbury were invited to visit Riding for the Disabled in Rangiora and choose a horse to sponsor, after making a donation to the organisation. I wonder what the horse's name was? Did you know that horse riding for a disabled person improves their core strength and stability, develops co-ordination and balance, enhancing speech and communication skills, building confidence and enabling social interaction. Well done SI North Canterbury

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

How many Women and Girls have we helped?

We have all seen Federation's Annual Report where our impact report shows that SIEAP has assisted 34,550 women and girls in 2023. This figure is drawn from the data in the Programme Data Base that you complete when you answer the questions:

- Number of Girls helped by the project
- Number of Women helped by the project

It is often difficult to ascertain how many girls and women you have helped, but it is important that

you estimate as accurately as possible. Here are some examples that might help with ascertaining this figure:

- A girl is a female 18 years or younger
- Count the number of women and girls at your event
- Count the number of items (e.g. packs) you distributed
- Count number of people responding to a survey
- If you are doing a large activity, for example planting, count the number of women and girls participating in the activity.

I would love to hear of other ways clubs count the number of women and girls their projects help.

Please contact me and I can share this with other clubs.

Use of Acronyms and abbreviations

Just a reminder when using abbreviations or acronyms in reporting. Spell out the full term at its first mention, indicate its abbreviation or acronym in parenthesis and use the abbreviation from then. An example is shown below:

“Recently the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has advised that from 1 July this year, non-charitable not-for-profits (NFPs) with an active Australian Business Number (ABN) will be required to lodge a new annual NFP self-review return to the ATO to confirm their income tax exemption status.”

Anne Allen

Programme Database Support

siseaprogrammedatabase@siswp.org

Having problems with the Programme Database?

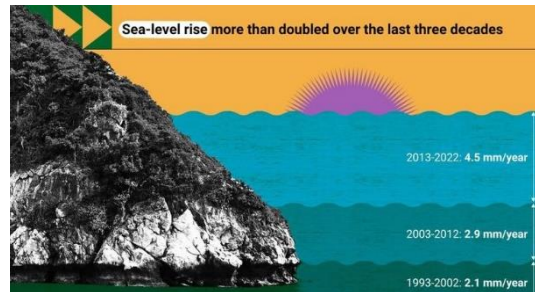
If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: siseaprogrammedatabase@siswp.org

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.



Click the image to download.

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 **Wednesday 2 October 2024**. Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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