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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 October 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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## FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to the October 2024 update. This month we:

1. Share 11 October Day of the **Girl Child** (with toolkit) 2 stories
2. Prepare for **16 Days - theme of Prevention** for November/December (see the toolkit)
3. Invite one from every club (movie night in), and ask you to invite corporations and organizations you want to work with to join 26 November special **SISEAP Webinar on 16 days**.

4. Invite clubs to report in the database so that we can advance systems for **Best Practice Awards** in the coming months - already some outstanding projects are being reviewed
5. Review the month of September saw Summit for the Future resulting 3 reforms - Declaration for future generations, global digital compact and Pact for the Future [HERE](#)
6. September 21 to October 24th makes us appreciate **UN Peace and Security** (Thank you SI Beenleigh & SI Logan @IDP) as worldwide we stop to plan for a safe future. We do have existing tools for this.
7. The **Brilliant Futures Fund** is under the new charity legal structure. In 2023, club donations to BFF were \$6,000, while donations elsewhere were \$300,000 funding others and strangers. Despite that - look what we achieved.
8. Acknowledge **Soroptimists in Samoa** launch of mobile medical clinic, mangroves, home economics training - and attending CHOGM forums and side events
9. Prepare **President Joanne for Bangkok UNESCAP** in November for the Asia Pacific voice for CSW69 - report cards on CEDAW for each country and Beijing platform for action (B +30)
10. Prepare for COP29 on climate
11. Prepare for CSW69 - some deadlines in November [HERE](#)
12. The Day of the Girl Child is not like International Women's Day - it's about making opportunities for girls, removing obstacles, enabling education so that she has more tools to be resilient in life, and changing cultures, because more girls across Asia Pacific are denied schooling and especially secondary schooling. **SDG 4 report card shows.** [Here](#)

Orange the World - theme of **Prevention - 16 days** (of activism, of respect, of prevention). See our Facebook tiles for every day. Join us for SISEAP webinar with Policy makers across our region on evening of 26 November as a fundraiser. Invite corporations and potential partners to attend. It is rare to have such speakers together in one place:

- Lucy Gregory – Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast
- **Lorraine Finlay** – Human Rights Commissioner
- **Karima El Korri** – UN Resident Coord Malaysia
- Richie Hardcore – Family Violence Prevention activist and educator
- **Asa Torkelsson** – Chief Rep at United Nations Population Fund

- Bridget Harris or Naomie Pfitzner (Director and deputy) from Monash Gender and Family Violence Prevention Centre.

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 Gnanalingam 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. Please register your expression of interest to allow your accreditation to attend New York in March 2025. One scholarship has been approved by the SISEAP Board. [HERE](#)

New Policy statements for us to advocate for are [HERE](#). The old ones are being reviewed periodically, and new ones include: poverty, widows, gender based violence, human trafficking, and B+30 (3 critical areas). International Day for the The Older Person, Ageing with Dignity - which can be viewed [HERE](#)

At this moment, **Human Rights #57** is meeting in Geneva for a whole month. Soroptimists are at the head table [here](#)

**What does Programme do?** View the PowerPoint [HERE](#)

Thank you to all clubs who are already documenting your work directly into the database. We can't 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. Robyn Cain, Nooraini Yasin, Pauline Glover and APD Rhonda McCormack and Dr Saradha Narayanan.

***Dr Donnell Davis, Programme Convenor 2024-2026***

[programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.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. At the moment we are sharing the load but our **busy period is approaching** and we need you now.

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 [federationsecretary@siseap.org](mailto:federationsecretary@siseap.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. Please send short articles of activities undertaken to acknowledge this day to your Zone Coordinator for inclusion in the November eSPAN.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD - TOOLKIT



### SI Penang - Blossom Girls - Girls in STEM - 3.0 STEM Career Pathways

SIP organized an interactive and engaging workshop with the hope to bring in new ideas of introducing science subjects to students in an unconventional manner. The workshop

involved Micron Memory Group, Women Leadership Network and Employee Resource Group and introduced a panel of speakers to talk about their journey - from primary school, secondary school, university and employment. The aim is for the students to see different individuals pursuing life and work in different ways.

The workshop featured a sharing segment where some employees of Micron spoke of their life experiences and how they use the opportunities to change paths in their lives. The aim is for the students to listen to life stories that may impact their decision-making. Hands-on activities to introduce them to STEM by playing games and having minor competitions with their science kit.

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### **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 (access by clicking the link below) 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

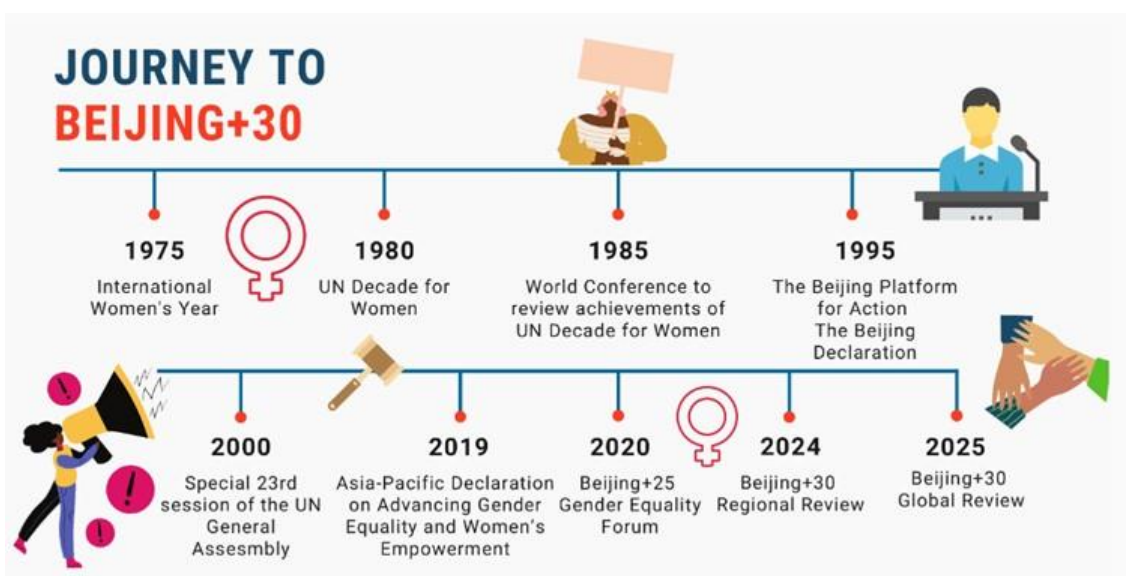
## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - TRELLO

*Save the date*

**26 NOV, 6-7:30PM AEDT**  
16 Days of Activism  
Preventing Gender Based Violence



## ADVOCACY WORK



### Have your voice heard at the Commission on the Status of Women 69

- CSW delegate application information [HERE](#)
- When do we need applications back? 30 November 2024.
- Applications will seek the results for 1 scholarship and up to 6 self funded delegates.
- Why go in person? What do we do when we get there? The answers are [HERE](#)
- Beijing Platform for action [HERE](#)
- 25 years report card is [HERE](#) - our summary of findings from Asia Pacific report card

[CSW69 Delegate Application Here](#)



The Commission on the Status of Women 69 in 2025 is a landmark event because it brings together 5 decades of advocacy across the world.

**CSW69 = CEDAW x (B+30) x EWT**

This formula is founded on CEDAW - the set of principles for the **Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women**. Thirty years ago, the **Beijing Platform for Action** advanced those principles under 12 critical areas for countries to take action, empowering NGOs and governments to introduce reforms. **The Every Woman Treaty** is like a multilateral trade agreement - is an optional protocol - a set of rules, targets, policies and laws to ensure those critical areas are addressed in culturally appropriate ways and commitments are honoured. All of these things are being reported by the governments, and independently reviewed by special rapporteurs, and NGOs.

In March 2025, Soroptimists are invited to the table to ensure gender equality for our regions continues in the right direction. Many countries are not meeting basic SDG 5 targets - in fact are regressing. Therefore, together women from all countries are empowered.

**12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN**

1 GIRL CHILD	2 WOMEN IN POWER	3 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS	4 ECONOMY	5 VAW	6 ARMED CONFLICT
7 HUMAN RIGHTS	8 HEALTH	9 ENVIRONMENT	10 EDUCATION	11 MEDIA	12 POVERTY

12 Critical Areas of Concern flagged in the Platform of Action © UN Women



The programme team are currently reviewing the processes and documents for the following:

- Brilliant Futures Fund to align with new SISEAP Charitable Status
- Best Practice Awards to effectively highlight the work being carried out by clubs

**These will be available through the eSPAN and SISEAP website in November.**

## PROJECTS & APPEALS



**Brilliant Futures Fund**  
*pathways to future possibilities*

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. **Investing in our own projects is transparent.** 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. See impact reports on our website [HERE](#) and last month's eSPAN. 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.**

Watch our video to see how the SISEAP Brilliant Futures Fund winners are shaping the future for women and girls in their communities. Their stories are a testament to the amazing work supported by your contributions.

[BFF GRANT WINNERS VIDEO](#)

Now, we need your help! By donating, you can ensure that even more transformative projects are funded and positive change continues.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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### 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

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website (link below). 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

### SI Director of Advocacy for the 2026-2027 biennium

Soroptimist International are recruiting for the volunteer role of SI Director of Advocacy. The successful candidate will commence in role on 01 January 2026, having first served as SI Director of Advocacy Elect during 2025 when she will shadow and work with the current post holder. This is a multifaceted role, leading the work of the SI Global Impact Committee and supporting the work of the Global Policy Committee. Experience of advocacy, recording and showcasing impact and the United Nations will be advantageous.

[RECRUITMENT PACK HERE](#)

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SISEAP EVENTS HERE

# AROUND THE FEDERATION

SI Aotearoa New Zealand  
National Project 2nd Annual Report 1 May 2023 – 30 April 2024  
Reducing the impact of [Ovarian Cancer](#)

**Nelson Soroptimists March 2024**  
PANUI

*Join Us. Create Change*

**Upcoming April events:**  
Club meeting - Tuesday 2nd April 8pm - Karen Scott visiting from local Breast & Gynaecological Cancer Trust. Group discussions - Ovarian Cancer, Domestic Violence, Environmental, Youth/student group?  
Please send all apologies to Shiona.shionamckenna@hotmail.com

Positive Aging Forum - Sat 6th April, Headingly Centre 10am-2pm  
Help needed for catering - baking and/or serving please contact Shiona.shionamckenna@hotmail.com and Wendy Logan wlogan@xtra.co.nz  
Information stall & shifts: 9:30am - 12:12 - 4pm. Need 1 pot per shift. Please contact Marloes.papercraft@thamarloes@gmail.com

Clubs 60th birthday celebration - Saturday 13th April 2pm  
with High Tea at Broadgreen House, Nayland Road  
RSVP by 5th April to Joy. Email: j.oakley@xtra.co.nz Or phone 5453867

Monthly coffee catch up - Saturday 27th April 10:30am at De Ville Cafe, New St

**Save these dates in your diary:**  
- Saturday 25th May - Repair with Flair - will need Club members to help with catering  
- Sunday 16th June 2:00pm - Breast & Gynaecological Trust Girls Day Out event  
Thursday 4th July Victory Community Centre Matariki  
Saturday 21st September Waimea Club 50th

READ REPORT

## SI Damansara School Holiday - Story Telling at Taman Sri Segambut

The office of member of Parliament for Segambut and Damansara - Hannah Yeoh - reached out to SID to participate in their school holiday programme for about 40 children from the B40 community in

Taman Sri Segambut, Kuala Lumpur. The programme was held in the community hall in Taman Sri Segambut for B40 children in her constituency as these children do not usually get the chance to participate in interesting activities during the school holidays to enhance their learning experience. The programme was held between 8.30 – 11.30 am on 9 March 2024 and was conducted by 2 volunteers from the BBBB programme – Harriet Rogan and Max Humphrey. Both these volunteers are from the University of Bath, UK. 41 children ( 24 girls, 17 boys) between the ages of 5 – 12 years participated in the activities which consisted of a story-telling session, creative arts workshop, and both indoor and outdoor games. The children were divided into 2 groups – 5- 9 yrs old and 10 – 12 yrs old. Harriet conducted the story telling and creative arts session while Max conducted the games which included a 3-legged race, egg in spoon race, and musical chairs. A 10-yr-old girl took the initiative to perform a story -telling session of her own which was well received. The children enjoyed themselves immensely, and benefitted from the physical activities, team building and chance to showcase their creative talents. SID members (Kala, Noorma, Saradha and Miza) and volunteers from MP Hannah Yeoh’s office also participated and helped organize the activities. SID donated the art supplies as well as simple gifts for the sports events. Refreshments and stationery were donated by MP Hannah Yeoh’s office.

## PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

### PROGRAMME DATABASE TIP SHEET



#### TOP TIP for October

This tip sheet covers:

New emails

Project entries

Brilliant Futures Fund

*Click on image to open Tip*

*Sheet*

#### Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org)





**New contact emails for Programme team, looking forward to hearing from you:**

Programme Convenor	<a href="mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org">programme.donnell@siseap.org</a>
Assistant Programme 1	<a href="mailto:asstprogramme1.rhonda@siseap.org">asstprogramme1.rhonda@siseap.org</a>
Assistance Programme 2	<a href="mailto:asstprogramme2.saradha@siseap.org">asstprogramme2.saradha@siseap.org</a>
Programme Communications	<a href="mailto:programmecommunications.cesarina@siseap.org">programmecommunications.cesarina@siseap.org</a>
Programme database	<a href="mailto:programmedatabase.anne@siseap.org">programmedatabase.anne@siseap.org</a>
Programme zone 1	<a href="mailto:programmezone1.robyn@siseap.org">programmezone1.robyn@siseap.org</a>
Programme zone 2	<a href="mailto:programmezone2.nooraini@siseap.org">programmezone2.nooraini@siseap.org</a>
Programme zone 3	<a href="mailto:programmezone3.pauline@siseap.org">programmezone3.pauline@siseap.org</a>
Programme zone 4	<a href="mailto:programmezone4.unfilled@siseap.org">programmezone4.unfilled@siseap.org</a>

## DID YOU KNOW?



## Be the Change

*Click the image to download.*

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 November 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 4 2024**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org) .Thank you.



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