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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 November 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

To translate this Bulletin into Chinese, Khmer, Thai, Indonesian, or Malay, please use the 'View this email in your browser' link above, and click the translate button. To access all links and stories, [please log in to the website with your member details](#).

FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR

Welcome to the November 2024 update. This month we:



1. Acknowledge the work of all the clubs celebrating the **day of the girl child** during October (stories below and on the website)
2. Prepare for **16 days** with the theme of Prevention (wear orange)
3. Accept new **advocacy statements** for Soroptimists around the world on violence against women, which can be viewed [HERE](#) and another on Human Trafficking [HERE](#)
4. Prepare for UNESCAP B+30 for Asia Pacific with President Joanne Yeoh and UN Rep Theresa Davasayham, read more about it [HERE](#) from CEDAW 974 to Beijing plus 30 now to EWT tomorrow.
5. Welcome our **youth representative** for SISEAP on the Global Impact Committee so we have some new eyes shaping the future. There is a process, induction and steep learning curve on the impact of our work.
6. Celebrate CHOGM held for the first time in a Pacific Country - **Samoa**. The Commonwealth is a mini UN with 56 countries world wide. See Commonwealth map [HERE](#) (our countries Malaysia Singapore, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa) and understand the impact from CHOGM [HERE](#) and celebrate Samoa club leadership and ongoing projects (below)
7. DISPAC was a conference for the Pacific countries to **dispel disinformation** (fake news) that impacts women, climate, health, elections and undermines good governance in all countries. Speaking Truth to Power is the bedrock for people's trust in democracy. We Soroptimists trust our stories and we advocate for justice.

We also celebrate the doors opening to us as we put systems in place for **attracting funding and providing clubs with grants**. There are many changes for the **Brilliant Futures Fund** due to the Charities Commission rules, including progress payments, streamlined reporting, and your Zone coordinator mentoring to help you directly with your application. Please feel free to contact your zone coordinator proactively before you start your application. The judging panel is independent. **Thank you** to all the clubs and the special donations and initiatives

to make the BFF strong again. We are investing in our own success.

CSW69 nominations close at the end of November, so please express your interest below for proper accreditation.

Thank you for reporting your good work into the programme database before the end of the year. Then, you can enter for a best practice award in any category under our 8 objectives.

Dr Donnell Davis, Programme Convenor 2024-2026

programme.donnell@siseap.org

16 Days of Activism is when Soroptimists from across the globe unite to raise awareness to gender-based violence. SISEAP has taken an active call for action in 2024, by presenting the **Preventing Gender-Based Violence** online event. SISEAP have 6 well respected panelists in their field presenting to you on **November 26th at 6pm AEDT.**

Every Soroptimist in SISEAP should be registered to attend this informative event. This informative event will discuss preventive measures, provide you with constructive toolkits so that Soroptimists can drive the change in their communities.

Club members use the **16DAYSACTIVISM** code to receive a \$5.00 discount

PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ONLINE EVENT



GUEST SPEAKERS



Naomi Pfitzner
Deputy Director of the Monash Gender & Family Violence Prevention Centre



Helena Hassani
Director of Boland Parwaz PTY LTD & Human Rights Advocate & Campaigner



Lorraine Finlay
Human Rights Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission



Richie Hardcore
Public Speaker, Consultant, Educator & Advocate



Karima El Korri
UN Resident Coordinator Malaysia, Singapore & Brunei Darussalam



Lucy Gregory
CEO, Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast

More info visit our website

siseap.org

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Can't make the event online? Then register and watch the event at any time over the next 30 days. **The registration link is valid for 30 days.**



Round 7 is now open! Nominate your Club Project Now!

Round 7 of the Brilliant Futures Fund is now live, offering the opportunity for clubs to secure funding for projects aimed at enhancing the lives of women and girls in their community. You can nominate a brand-new project or propose ongoing ones for a funding amount of up to

\$10,000. Note that the **nomination period closes on 30 December 2024**.

We have updated the nomination process and grant agreement, as well as reporting requirements, so make sure to review these changes on our website. Our Programme Zone Coordinators and Assistant Programme Convenors are on standby to assist applicants throughout the process. Many successful projects have emerged from this fund, demonstrating our commitment to impactful work at the grassroots level. Your club could be the next to make a significant difference.

[**NOMINATE NOW**](#)

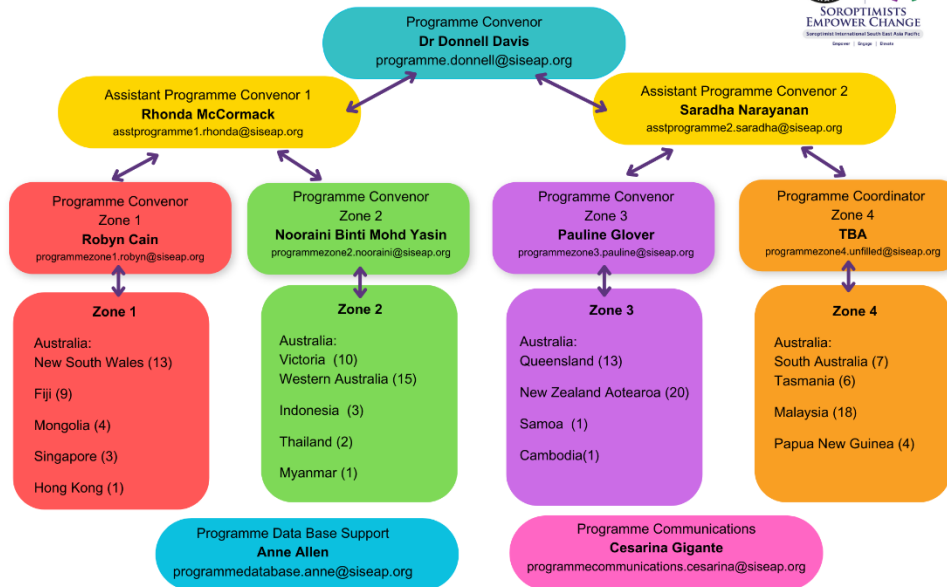
BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

The 2024 Best Practice Awards are now accepting entries! Your club's outstanding project deserves recognition. The impact of our grassroots projects on women and girls, largely thanks to the fantastic work of Soroptimist clubs, is significant. Why not let your project become an inspiration for other clubs? They may be looking for similar ideas to implement in their own communities. To nominate, your project must have been completed in 2024, submitted to the Programme database and have a valid ID number. The Programme Team eagerly awaits your nomination for these prestigious awards, set to be presented in May 2024. Don't miss this chance to shine!



NOMINATE NOW

SISEAP PROGRAMME TEAM and ZONES for 2024-2026



Updated Programme Zone map, please note who your Programme Zone Coordinators are and their new email addresses.



16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls Toolkit

Soroptimist International has made changes to the campaign materials for 16

Days of Activism 2024. The Trello board and materials have been updated. The background paper can be found [HERE](#).

The Trello board (access by clicking the link below) contains all the necessary resources for the campaign, including:

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

[16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM - TRELLO](#)

Let your presence shine brightly during the 16 Days of Activism. SISEAP has prepared activism ribbons for you, symbolizing our shared commitment to this cause. Secure your ribbon this week to ensure it reaches you in time to join the global fight against gender-based violence. Proudly wear your orange ribbon, a heartfelt emblem of our collective dedication to creating a safer world, over the 16 impactful days.



At just **\$1.70 AUD per ribbon**, order one for each club member. Simply, complete the shop order form, and send to HQ at hq@siseap.org for payment and delivery.

[SHOP ORDER FORM](#)



Programme Zone Coordinator 4

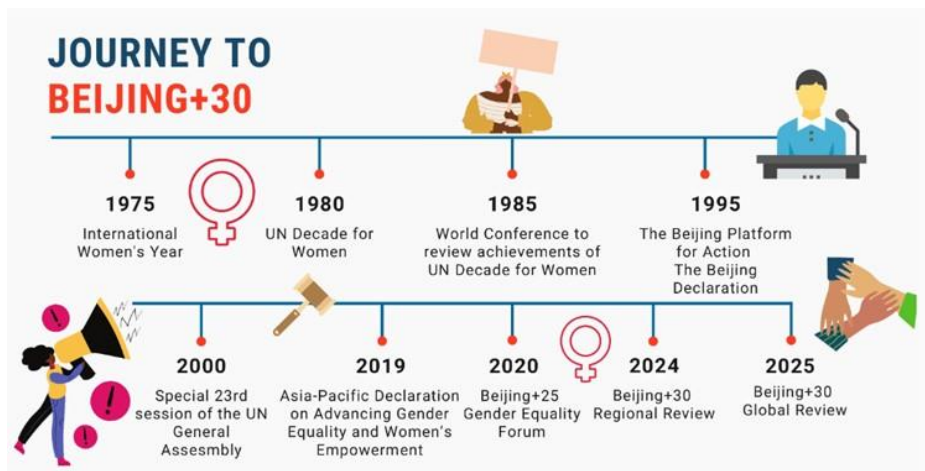
Expressions of Interest are called for from eligible members to take on the role of Programme Zone Coordinator 4, this is a 2 year term of office (2024 to 2026). The successful applicant will be able to take up the position for the remainder of this biennium. At the moment we are sharing the load but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

[CV TEMPLATE](#)

[ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES](#)

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 year report card is [HERE](#) - our summary of findings from the Asia Pacific report card

UNESCAP B+30 is our Asia Pacific voice in preparation for CSW69. It starts next Monday and Soroptimists will be there too. Each of our SISEAP countries has a CEDAW report, a B+30 report, and sometimes a shadow report written by Civil Society in that country. More to share next espan.

[CSW69 DELEGATE APPLICATION](#)

Soroptimist International voice at CHOGM





Programme Convenor Dr Donnell Davis, IPP Christine Johnstone, SI Samoa President Sabrina Percival, SI Samoa Treasurer Joan Langton, along with Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam and SI Advocacy Director Leigh Ellwood Brown, attended CHOGM 2024 held in Samoa. This provided an excellent opportunity for SI Samoa and SISEAP to advocate for women across the Asia Pacific Region. Siew Yong was a panelist for a session on Domestic Violence and spoke persuasively of the need for governments to sign the Every Women Treaty to advance a treaty to end violence against women and girls in the form of a new Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Each of us attended many sessions and workshops covering topics such as AI, cybersecurity, media misinformation and elections, health and climate action. It was pleasing to see a high contingent of Pacific women representing both governments and civil society groups participating and voicing their concerns. Outcomes: Communique with hotlinks for Commonwealth Declarations on Oceans, Youth statement, Principles of role of media in governance, Pacific Leaders statement and Secretary Generals' report card. View them [HERE](#).

Baroness Patricia Scotland is the first women Secretary General for Commonwealth, (lady in orange) and will finish her 8-year term in January 2025. Hon Shirley Botchway of Ghana is SG elect and her interview is [HERE](#).



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.

Round 7 is now Open! . 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.**

[BFF GRANT WINNERS VIDEO](#)

[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](#)

This year SISEAP members have donated \$6400.00 to the SI Foundation. Your contribution is valued and delivers life-saving work. December 10th is the Soroptimist World is the day that Soroptimists **Give up for a cause!** Instead of that cup of coffee, cake or icecream, make a personal donation to the SI Foundation.

[DONATE NOW](#)

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



SISEAP EVENTS

AROUND THE FEDERATION

SI Hornsby supports Day of the Girl Child with Scholarship



SI Hornsby continues to support Sara as she is currently completing years 11 and 12 at TAFE (Technical and Further Education in NSW). Sara wishes eventually to study Criminology and join the police force. Her inspiration for this endeavour is that her grandfather, a high-ranking police officer was killed by the Taliban in 2001. SI Hornsby is aware of the difficulties for refugee students coming to Australia to get a good education. We hope to provide support to a young woman who has escaped from a war torn country and is

aiming to complete her education and fulfil
her dreams of a better future.

SI Melbourne - STEM initiatives to promote Day of the Girl Child actions

The Dame Margaret Blackwood
Soroptimist Scholarship, SI
Melbourne is represented by (Dr
Chris Paten and Dr Anne Binkley)
on the selection panel with
Melbourne University
representatives to select Dame
Margaret Blackwood Soroptimist
Scholarship to assist a
postgraduate student of Genetics
in plants, animals or viruses.



In the last 3 years we have invited Scholarship recipients to present a talk to our members about their work. Visit the website [HERE](#) to find out more about the beneficial scholarship. Pictured right is Bridget Walker the recipient of the 2023 award.

The speaker at our September 2024 meeting was Sarah Seung-Hee Yang, a qualified and practising Pharmacist who gave a talk on “The Latest Developments in Australian Pharmacy” and is completing her Master in Pharmacy.

In 2022 we donated to the Niemann Pic Type C conference to support parents of children with the disease.

In late 2023 we donated \$700 to the Smith Family to financially assist a child with their education in 2024.

Every year SI Melbourne donates \$150 to the Dame Joyce Daws debating prize run by National Council of Women Victoria held at the Victorian State Parliament with 66 students involved. This year on 9 August 2024 the topic was "Is Social Media – A Blessing or a Curse".

SI Phnom Penh - Toilets - Day of the Girl Child



Access to a safe, private toilet can make a crucial difference in whether a girls continues her education.

SI Phnom Penh members recently conducted a situational analysis and needs assessment at two identified schools in Kampot Province, Cambodia. The goal of this activity was to determine which schools in remote areas have the highest need for toilets for children and to select the best location for our upcoming toilet project.

We are excited to announce that we have successfully identified the right schools for our next actions! This project is a crucial step towards improving the health and hygiene of children in these communities, ensuring they have access to proper sanitation facilities.

Thank you to all our members for their hard work and commitment. Together, we are creating a brighter future for women and girls.

New Zealand National Association - Ovarian Cancer National Project

Recently SI New Zealand partnered with the Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ in a joint presentation on Ovarian cancer. The webinar covers topics such as symptoms, treatments, and support. If you missed the webinar, you can still watch the webinar [HERE](#).



PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

PROGRAMME DATABASE TIP SHEET



TOP TIP for November

Have you submitted your 2024 work into the Programme Reporting Database ?

Now is a good time to check if all the work you have done throughout the year has been submitted to the Programme Reporting Database

<<https://www.reports-siswp.org>>

You can check by using the Search Reports Function or running an Interim Annual Report and comparing the resulting Report with your Club Minutes to make sure you have included all your Activities/Donations/Scholarships/Projects and Advocacy for the year

Click on image to open Tip Sheet

Having problems with the Programme Database?

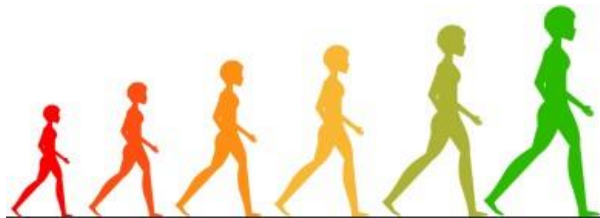
If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: programme.donnell@siseap.org



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

Programme Convenor	programme.donnell@siseap.org
Assistant Programme 1	asstprogramme1.rhonda@siseap.org
Assistance Programme 2	asstprogramme2.saradha@siseap.org
Programme Communications	programmecomunications.cesarina@siseap.org
Programme database	programmedatabase.anne@siseap.org
Programme zone 1	programmezone1.robyn@siseap.org
Programme zone 2	programmezone2.nooraini@siseap.org
Programme zone 3	programmezone3.pauline@siseap.org
Programme zone 4	programmezone4.unfilled@siseap.org

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 December 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 4 December 2024**. Please email your submissions to programme.donnell@siseap.org Thank you.



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