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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 May 2025 edition of the Programme Action News

To translate this eSPAN 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 May news. We are reflecting at our AGM and Federation meetings on **our clubs achievements** in 2024 in contrast to 2023 and previously. It's also time to consider the future in the new contexts that we are working - smarter, faster, more innovative in many ways, but we need to ensure our legacy of compassion, our impact, and our basic concerns that gender equality is not regressing. It is such a balancing act. We need to spice for all of our 8 objectives, and SDGs.

Our Company Annual Report (outward facing) is [HERE](#).

Our Federation inward facing report is [HERE](#)

We appreciate the hard work behind the scenes for those invisible governance women who work across the Federation, the charities, and the national presidents who advocate in their own respective countries. Thank you. We also welcome new Directors who join us.

We will congratulate our 2024 Project and Advocacy **Best Practice Award** winners and the highly commended achievers. We acknowledge those who formally applied and continue to invite others who were recommended to apply through their database peer reviews. These are announced at the **Federation Meeting on Sunday 18 May**.

Soroptimists across our Federations made special efforts to do special things like:

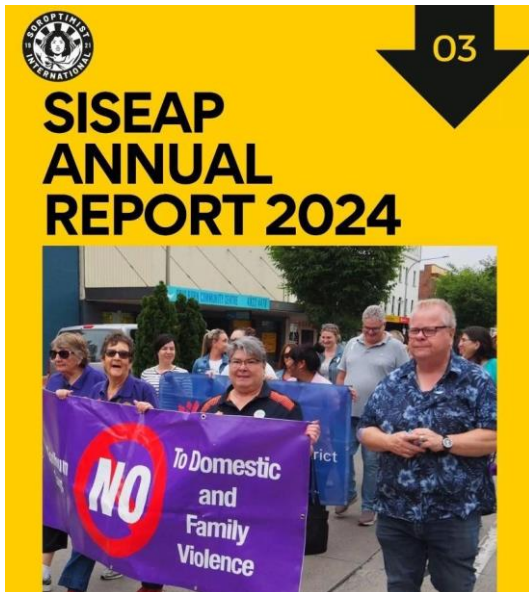
- 25th of every month: Wear orange and talk about the elimination of violence
- 8 May: Wear white for Gynae Cancer. "Check Yourself" cards available. Thank you Joy Oakley and the **SI Nelson** team for raising \$7000 for Ovarian Cancer early detection.
- 23 June: Consider widows (some **very young brides** still have no rights) [HERE](#)
- Promote the role of women in peace and security as they bring new perspectives, skills, and influence to conflict prevention, mitigation, decision-making, diplomacy and recovery, and specific Peacekeeping functions, view [HERE](#)
- Promote sustainable communities at local levels where NGOs implement two-thirds of the SDG 11 suite. (See how soroptimists do these things locally) [HERE](#).
- With so many people on the move we highlight the position paper for Refugees and Migration, view [HERE](#)
- Migratory Bird Day is celebrated in conjunction with many May dates including International Biodiversity Diversity. Deceptions Bay's RAMSAR migratory birds were explored in **Save Mother Earth initiative** which was showcased in New York. Bettina Nissan with Zoologist ultra-lite pilot and children's book author brought 3 years of hard work to life for 4010 students who live next to

RAMSAR sites around Australia. Soroptimists started this school and community project protecting shore bird habitat.

- The most frightening research is in our Environmental Toolkits as we delve deep into **microplastics** and health. We developed a card to guide us to do things differently to reduce microplastics impacting our families and communities, which you can view [HERE](#)

Every day I am so thrilled to see the diverse and important work undertaken by our members. Every day I learn something new, and how to tackle wicked problems in different ways. I hope you do too.

*Dr* **Donnell** **Davis,**  
*Programme* **Convenor** **2024-2026**  
[programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org)



## SISEAP Company Annual Report 2024

The Company Annual Report for 2024 showcases the impact and transparency of our members commitment to positive social change through advocacy and project actions.

[COMPANY ANNUAL REPORT](#)

Federation Annual Reports

Annual Reports to the Federation meeting are available for download. View reports by the Executive Committees, Programme Committee, Membership Committee and the National Presidents.

These reports present the impactful work undertaken by all SISEAP members to meet our vision and mission to improve the lives of women and girls.

[FEDERATION ANNUAL REPORTS](#)

[IMPACT IMAGES FOR DOWNLOAD](#)

**SISEAP PROJECTS 2024**

- ✓ **\$701,790**  
Total Project costs
- ✓ **41,609**  
Hours undertaken
- ✓ **43,903**  
Women and Girls assisted

Soroptimists Empower Change



[www.siseap.org](http://www.siseap.org)

**SISEAP SCHOLARSHIPS 2024**

- ✓ **95,608**  
Total
- ✓ **83**  
Total no of Scholarships

Soroptimists Empower Change



[www.siseap.org](http://www.siseap.org)



**World Environment Day/Month - June**

[UNEP](#)

World Environment Day 2025 has a thematic focus on ending plastic pollution. UNEP’s global campaign uses the symbolism of nature—balance, circularity, and unity—to inspire reflection and action to #BeatPlasticPollution.

SISEAP will be taking up the challenge to end plastic pollution with a focus on microplastics and how they are affecting all aspects of life on Earth. The key messages will revolve around SDG 3/6/12/14.

Toolkit and resources can be found on the Trello board.

Looking forward to receiving articles and reports from clubs on their activities.

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY/MONTH

### 'Soroptimist Action: Improving Our Environment'

SI Voices podcast episode featuring SI President Siew Yong Gnanalingam. In this inspiring podcast episode, Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam shares her deep personal connection to the environment and why protecting Mother Earth is so close to her heart. She reflects on growing up surrounded by nature and how that shaped her values and commitment to sustainability. At home, she takes small but meaningful actions—like reducing plastic use and conserving energy—to live more mindfully.



As SI President, she has placed climate change at the centre of her advocacy, urging Soroptimists to act locally while thinking globally. One of her key initiatives has been raising awareness about the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls.

She now calls on Soroptimists around the world to help create a powerful legacy by submitting short video clips of the environmental work they are doing. Whether it's tree planting, recycling drives, or renewable energy projects—every contribution counts. The best clips will be featured in a special SI climate action video to be shared on 24 October, the International Day of Climate Action. Full video guidelines and submission details are available on the Soroptimist International website: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org). Let's unite for our planet and let the world see what Soroptimists can do!

Listen to the podcast [HERE](#).

Information that explains this project and lists the guidelines for sending in video clips [HERE](#).



## **President's Special Appeal: "Myanmar Rising: Earthquake Response Fund"**

Dear Soroptimists and Friends,

The powerful earthquake which has shaken Myanmar, left families homeless, communities in ruins, and futures uncertain. The devastation is immense — but so is our determination to help.

**Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific** has launched the **"Myanmar Rising: Earthquake Response Fund"** to bring urgent relief and long-term recovery to those most affected — especially women and children.

We are proud to support the **Emergency Action Alliance**, a trusted collective of leading Australian aid organisations, who are working together to deliver fast, effective, and coordinated help on the ground in Myanmar.

**All donations to this fund will go directly to the Emergency Action Alliance.**

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)

Your contribution will help provide: Emergency food, water, and shelter, medical aid and trauma support, recovery and rebuilding of communities, empowerment and livelihood support for women and families.

Let us stand with Myanmar. Let us help them rise again — stronger and safer.

Every donation counts. Every act of kindness matters.

Please give today.

## ADVOCACY WORK

Key Takeaways from CSW69

Analysis of the 12 Critical Areas of the Beijing Platform for Action. This document articulates the progress or regress on each of the 12 critical areas from Beijing Platform for Action over 30 years. It also calls for Soroptimists to take action for the future. Read more [HERE](#).

[INFORMATION CSW69](#)



Federation

Public

Speaking

Competition

It is with great excitement that I introduce our Federation-wide Youth Public Speaking

Competition — a dynamic initiative that not only empowers young voices but also strengthens the bonds between our clubs, regions, and countries.

This competition represents the very heart of what Soroptimist International stands for: education, empowerment, and collaboration. By bringing together our clubs across South East Asia Pacific, we are creating a platform for our youth to share their ideas, showcase their talents, and most importantly, speak passionately about the issues that matter most — the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through this competition, we are offering our youth not just an opportunity to build confidence and develop leadership skills, but also the chance to be heard on an international stage. We are equally offering our clubs the chance to collaborate across borders, forge new friendships, and deepen the spirit of unity within our Federation.

I warmly encourage all regions and countries to actively participate and support this exciting initiative. Together, let us inspire a generation of powerful speakers and passionate changemakers — and show the world what the Soroptimist spirit can achieve when we unite for a common purpose.

**Joanne**

**Yeoh**

***SISEAP President 2024-2026***

To register your interest please complete the expression of interest form by the **20th May, 2025**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

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## UN Pact for the Future

This is guided by UN Pact for future framework, Global Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations. These tools were introduced in our Adolescents Agents for Advocacy webinar.

**Your thoughts are important.** So this questionnaire helps us articulate and shape our submission on the future CSW we need. What women want, need and the role Soroptimists play.

**Have your say! Complete the** questionnaire by responding to these 3 questions.

- The world WE want
- The (UN) systems that we NEED
- The role WE play

All members are asked to respond, we need your quick response so we can submit formally by end of March through the UN system. A copy of our final submission will be in April eSPAN before Easter.

[HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

**BEST PRACTICE AWARDS**

## Best Practice Awards

Thank you to all clubs who submitted Best Practice nominations. The Programme team are looking forward to sharing information on the clubs and their projects that have received a Best Practice Award.



## PROJECTS & APPEALS



**Round 9 is now open & closes on the 30th June**

Does your club have a project which requires funding?, consider applying now for funding of up to \$10,000 AUD to bring your club project to life. Read the guidelines document, and the supporting documents and then make your application. Members of the Programme Team are ready to assist you in completing your application.

[READ THE GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

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. We are investing in our own projects in our own region.

[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](#)



**SOROPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL  
FOUNDATION**



Listen to Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam's presentation about the projects currently being delivered by the foundation [HERE](#)

## UN DAYS

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



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

### **SI Convention 2027**

**30 September to 2 October 2027**

Soroptimist International (SI) is excited to announce that the 2027 Soroptimist International Convention will be held in the stunning city of Prague, in the Czech Republic.

Hosted by Soroptimist International Europe (SIE), this highly anticipated event will bring together Soroptimists from around the world to re-connect, collaborate, and advance our global mission of achieving human rights and gender equality for all women and girls.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

SISEAP will be publishing a quarterly calendar, to view important dates for action and events, which can be viewed [HERE](#). The calendar is viewable from the front page of the SISEAP website, under the EVENTS tab.

# AROUND THE FEDERATION



## SI Penang

SIP is developing a new project on Adolescent Health (Mental Health & Wellbeing) which is aimed at helping students especially underprivileged girls in managing their academic life as well as challenges at home.

Guided by findings in the Malaysian Youth Mental Health Index Study and National Health and Morbidity Survey, this new project aims to raise awareness on mental health which is fast becoming prevalent amongst secondary school students. Both surveys consistently report that depression, suicide, self-harm, substance abuse, sexual misdemeanour and bullying/cyberbullying are the most prevalent concerns amongst adolescents today.

SIP is working with adolescent health specialists, paediatricians, school teachers and counsellors to develop a program that is customised to the specific concern, challenges and needs of students of each school.

SI Penang conducted a workshop on Adolescent Health & Wellbeing On the 6th May at a local secondary girls school yesterday. This school has 368 students and almost 300 of them are from low socio economic background and broken homes. SI Penang has been working with the school for more than 5 years now, delivering different programs to suit different needs at different times.

Facebook link as it has the details of the workshop. Facebook post about program [HERE](#)

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## SI Melbourne

Read about Sarah Barnbrook who was honoured with the Volunteer of the Year and Youth Impact awards at the Women Changing the World Global Awards in London [HERE](#).



## SI Joondalup

SI Joondalup packing Aus Post plastic satchels for Remote op-shops  
This is a club project and members have been collecting suitable good quality clothing for indigenous run op-shops in Northern Western Australia.

The community members in the settlements receive the goods at no cost. They can then sell them for a few dollars to those who need them. The profit they make is spent on a community selected projects. There are valuable lessons learned from this - rudimentary retail experience, displaying and pricing goods and community decision making This day SI Joondalup sent off 10 bags of clothing to various remote areas of Western Australia

2025 Soroptimist "The Floor is Yours" Public Speaking Competition, hosted in the ECU Moot Court Room for the Joondalup heat this year. Read the response from one of the judges [HERE](#).

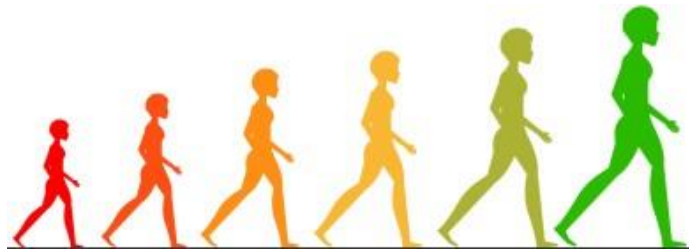
**PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE**

Tip Sheet - Multiply your impact

This month's tip sheet assists clubs to reflect on their International Women's Day events and how reports can be written to capture what has been done. The tip sheet can be accessed below.

[TIP SHEET](#)

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.



SI

Global

Voice

Newsletter

Stay connected and informed from Soroptimist International! Click on the image above to

subscribe and receive the SI Global Voice monthly updates directly in your inbox. Don't miss out—subscribe today!

## 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 April 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 2 June 2025**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org) Thank you.



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