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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 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



In this August edition:

What do UN80 reforms mean for women's work? See new section on UN at the end of this newsletter. What do new international laws mean for us in SISEAP?

- HLPF SDGs continue with 154 countries, so we will too
 - Climate Justice for Pacific Family now = resettlement
- Nuclear (Hiroshima & Nagasaki 80 years on),
 - Deep sea mining in Asia Pacific, view [HERE](#). You can view the impact plume [HERE](#).
 - Rights of Older Peoples - UNESCAP Mongolia June You can view it [HERE](#)
 - ICJ Afghan women & Taliban, view [HERE](#).
 - Youth film on gender justice and peace, view [HERE](#).
1. SISEAP President's message for World Humanitarian Day can be viewed [HERE](#)
 2. Thank you for your environmental videos. We are so proud of all your efforts and they will be loaded onto our website, soon. *North Shore, South Perth, Iskandar Putri, Penang, Brisbane Water, Bangsar, Ulaanbaatar, Melbourne, Moreton North Shorebirds, Waimea.*
 3. July 30 - Human Trafficking Human trafficking is Organized Crime – End the Exploitation view [HERE](#)
 4. So what? last 2 years gender sensitive funding Indo-Pacific infographics can be viewed [HERE](#)
 5. Please apply for SISEAP roles before **28 August** to lead the evolution to 2026-2028 Programme Team needs you. View it [HERE](#)
 6. A new round of Brilliant Future Fund is launched - apply by 31 October for your project or advocacy funding.
 7. New Zealand in the spotlight - 4th in the world for gender equality (WEF) and championing advocacy for women's health as a national project. Report [HERE](#)

8. Regions are preparing their **speaking competition**. See planning steps and more details below. View [HERE](#).
9. What is **advocacy** anyway? See below. We define and show how to report in top tips.
10. Preparing for 11 October - **Day of Girl of the Child** toolkits with focus on empowerment through education. (Look what Afghan girls now allowed to do - at last - use our school of the air)
11. Prepare for **16 days** with "Online Violence is Real Violence" campaign. See paper by Sarah Barnbrook [HERE](#). There is more cyber violence preventative action, view [HERE](#).

Dr

Programme

programme.donnell@siseap.org

Donnell

Convenor

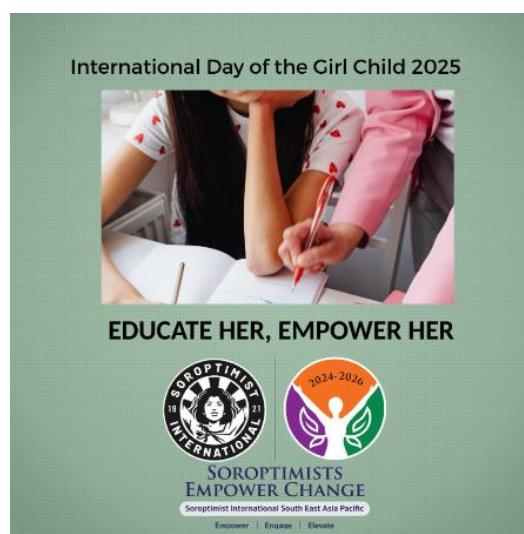
Davis,

2024-2026

International Day of the Girl Child 11th October

The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.

The 2025 SI campaign theme 'Educate Her, Empower Her' focusses attention to our tagline 'Educate, Empower and Enable' which underscores a core part of our mission. The title also reinforces the idea that education is a powerful pathway to empowerment for every girl.



The campaign aims to:

- Raise awareness about the critical importance of girls' education and the positive outcomes it brings.
- Highlight the support Soroptimist Federations (and the Soroptimist International Foundation) are providing to help girls access quality education.
- Demonstrate how Soroptimists are addressing and overcoming barriers to education for girls —such as period poverty, including the lack of sanitary products and adequate toilet facilities.
- Identify how girls have choices if they are offered non-traditional pathways - like STEM

SISEAP member Toolkit out soon



16 Days of Activism Campaign

Soroptimist International 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence 2025 campaign webpage is now available on the SI website and ready to share. You can access it [HERE](#)

This year's campaign focuses on helping to prevent online violence against all women and girls, because online violence is real violence. There are many steps for awareness and advocacy for your clubs in your communities.

SI encourages all Soroptimists to participate by sharing and promoting the campaign content across social media between **25 November and 10 December**.

You'll find everything you need on the webpage, including:

- Downloadable campaign graphics
- Downloadable Suggested social media copy

SI 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN



SISEAP Federation Public Speaking Competition

Has your club nominated to participate in this Federation activity? Empower our youth to raise their voices, present bold ideas and solutions for a sustainable future. Nominate now!

This year's theme, "**Empowered Voices, Sustainable Choices**," encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. The categories are:

12 years -15 years

16 years - 19 years

If you are participating please send your plan to Cesarina Gigante or Anne Allan by 19th September

[GUIDELINES & DOCUMENTS](#)

Promote SISEAP's 2024 Impact

SISEAP has created graphical promotional images to help clubs promote impactful grassroots project work in 2025. Use these images at events, on social media, and in print to highlight our contributions toward empowering women and girls.

[VIEW & DOWNLOAD](#)

[Have you explored the updated Programme Members website page? All the information you will need is contained here.](#)

Quick Links

There are now dedicated articles to assist members in all aspects of programme. Use the quick links to quickly jump to the page.

Programme
Reporting
Database



Programme
Downloads



Brilliant
Futures
Fund



CSW
Information



Programme
Committee



Best
Practice
Awards



Goals &
Objectives





FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

'Soroptimist Action: Improving Our Environment'

SI President Siew Young 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.

Thank you to those clubs who submitted videos, these have now been forwarded to Soroptimist International. SI has also expressed their thanks for your support of this initiative and for submitting your video clips; they have been absolutely delighted with the incredible response.



The 2025 Soroptimist International Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtually on Saturday 12 July, uniting members and leaders from around the world.

More information can be found [HERE](#)

For those of you who were unable to attend, the recording is now available to watch in the SI Youtube channel [HERE](#)

Soroptimist International Annual Report 2024

Soroptimist International is pleased to present their Annual Report for 2024. The report showcases the impactful and life changing work undertaken by Soroptimists commitment to grass roots project driven work which creates lasting change for women and girls. Contents include Finance, Global Impact, Youth Forum and Foundation work.

Soroptimist International Annual Report 2024



a global voice for women



[READ THE SI ANNUAL REPORT 2024](#)

FEDERATION PROJECTS

ROUND 9 CLOSED 31 JULY



Round 8 is now being finalised.
Announcement of recipient in next eSPAN
Round 9 now closed. Thank you to those
who applied.

Does your club have a project which
requires funding? Consider applying now
for funding of **up to maximum of \$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.

Round 10 is now open & applications
by 31th October

[READ GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)



**President's Special Appeal: "Myanmar Rising: Earthquake Response Fund" HAS
NOW CLOSED**

The Myanmar Appeal was closed on 31 July 2025 and there has been donations of

\$3,123 approximately received. These were directed to the Emergency Action Alliance.

A recent review of the Emergency Action Alliance website confirms that their centralised appeal for Myanmar is now closed. However, the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar remains critical. It has been decided that the monies donated will go to Action Aide Australia who are working directly with organisations in Myanmar <https://myanmar.actionaid.org.au/>

ADVOCACY WORK

See August TIP in Database section

I invite expressions of interest from Soroptimists to help shape statements and zero drafts for CSW, UN and regional policy meetings. We already have some serendipitous email lists of people I have met but a more inclusive approach is needed so we get proper representation in SEAP.

- Medical women - doctors, nurses, carers, health policy
- Teachers and education policy and practice
- Science women (including engineers, urban designers, IT, environmental)
- Justice women - police, victim services, court preparation, lawyers)

If you have not already done so, please log onto the members area of the website and update your "MyPage" with your professional details, that way we can always run a report to connect with the members who wish to connect and assist our advocacy efforts.

Blogs from our Representatives at UN centres:

- Alarming voices from the 37th Meeting of Treaty Body Chairs in Geneva-Berthe De Vos Neven, SI Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.
- Digital transformation and AI in public services-Evelyne Para, Soroptimist International Representative at UNESCO, Paris.

- Harnessing AI for Sustainable Development: Bridging Financing Gaps Through Innovation-Maria Fornella-Oehninger, SI Representative to the UN in New York and Tania Gómez Herazo, SI AI Advocacy Advisor.
- Women's Leadership in Diplomacy, Where Are We Now?- Evelyne Para, SI Representative at UNESCO, Paris.

The blogs can be found [HERE](#).

[UN BLOGS](#)

PROJECTS & APPEALS



Your contribution assists in clubs continuing their valuable grass roots project driven work to improve the lives of women and girls.

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.

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](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)



**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

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](#)

During 2024 SISEAP members donated **\$9,623 to the SI Foundation**. Your contribution enables value club driven project work to be delivered.

UN DAYS

United Nations

The United Nations is undergoing major reform with 4 significant changes in funding, merging structures, locations and shuffling human resources. See a summary [HERE](#)



What does that mean for women of the world? Read [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

CSW revitalization update [HERE](#).

What do 120 women's groups in SEAP want from O4W about CSW reforms? View [HERE](#).

Where will UN Women, UNICEF and UNFPA live in 2025? In Gigeri UNOPS compound, near Nairobi Kenya with UNEP and UN Habitat. This center is inclusive, relatively safe, and affordable if our members need to attend conferences, summits, or CSW there.

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 Day Against Nuclear Testing on the 29 August. Read about it [HERE](#).

[UN DAYS](#)



[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 Conference

2-3 May 2026

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Stayed tuned for further updates and launch of Conference Website.

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 Port Moresby

Latest Information from SI Port Moresby read [HERE](#).





SI Albany's Kare Kit Project 2025

This project began in 2017 and each year SI Albany provides the support agencies require. This year there was again a call for more Kare Kits. This year we had some 60 collection points in the communities of Albany, Denmark and Mt Barker - businesses, government and non-government agencies, and school staff rooms. There is a steady core of about 50 participating entities and some new entities joining in. A list of required items is placed with each collection box.

Prior to the Drive our collection boxes from 2024 were retrieved and refurbished and the distribution list was compiled.

176 Adult Kare Kits were compiled, containing shampoo, conditioner, body wash or soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, face washer or body scrubber, comb, sanitary packs, moisturizer, and deodorant. Children's items of toothbrushes, toothpaste, children's shampoo and bodywash, school items (Backpacks, drink bottles, lunch boxes, exercise books, pen and pencil sets, pencil cases), books and toys were packed in separate bags so Albany Women's Centre staff could issue items as required. AWC staff worked with SI members to assemble the kits and AWC staff took all the kits as well as the all the extra items donated. These included tissues, children's and women's clothing, travel toiletry kits, bath packs, facial care masks, hand/nail/foot care items, hair ties, lip balm, make up, baby items, blankets, shower caps and commercial pamper packs were among the donation.

SI Albany members distributed the boxes and collected when full and assembled the kits at an SI members home. AWCKK, SI Albany and Anglicare Facebook pages continue to engage and advertise the drive, with posters promoting the participating entities involvement at box drop off and collection. These Facebook pages also disseminate information about prevention of family violence and helplines. Regularly throughout the year people contact the page to give donations. Soroptimists will pick up and deliver to

Anglicare or the AWC. Those items not needed by the Albany Women's Centre were donated to Days for Girls (travel size soap), and Shalom House shelter for homeless men (men's toiletries and clothes). This year \$1310 was raised through cash donation and direct bank transfer to the Kare Kits account held by Anglicare. \$300 worth of local store vouchers was donated.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

August

Tip

What is Advocacy?

Soroptimist International advocacy aims to achieve a desired change in legislation, policy or practice which will benefit women and girls of all ages, at the local, regional, national, and global levels.

For Clubs the key aspects are that Advocacy aims to achieve a desired change to benefit women and girls in either:

- Legislation
- Policy
- Practice

How do clubs advocate?:

- Identify the needs for improvement in their community - research the issue/ gather facts and statistics
- Communicate the needs for improvement with facts and figures with local decision-makers
- Form partnerships with clubs, organisations and interest groups to amplify their efforts

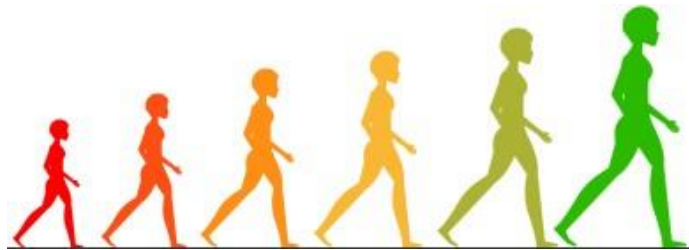
To Report advocacy clubs should check that they have included:

- AWARENESS - Do you have the facts?
- ACTION - Are you clear about the action you want?

- ATTENTION - To the outcome, results. Follow up.

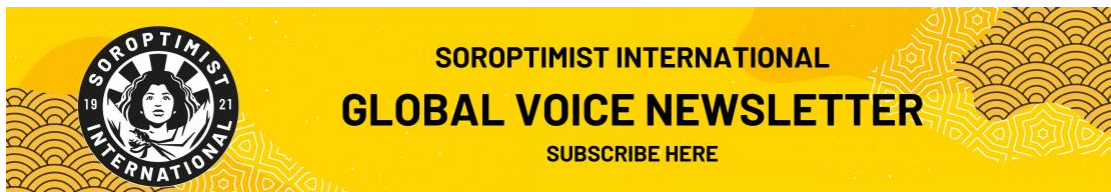
In each instance of advocacy, you must be able to explain the issue (indicating your research in identifying the issue) AND be clear about what action you are requiring the club members or recipients to take.

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 used 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!

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Copy for the September 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 1 September 2025**. Please email your submissions to programme.donnell@siseap.org Thank you.



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