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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 September 2025 edition of the Programme Action News

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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



This month we are pleased to share local and international stories on women's advancement, climate decisions, youth and indigenous lessons for all. Please be aware we have **extended the deadline** for applications for Programme vacancies - one at each level.

In August a delegation of Soroptimists went to **Mongolia** to celebrate SI anniversaries, where we have 4 clubs - Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan, Erdenet and Amgalan. We visited projects and fundraised enough for 8 new Gers for widows and single mothers who meet strict criteria. We supported with books, technology, medical supplies, eye-glasses and other donations. We learned about the 24 indigenous peoples who still live in traditional ways to some extent with nomadic seasonal lifestyles. We ate lots of meat from every animal that grazed. Every mouthful was wholesome and different. I attach stories and photos from our adventures, [below](#).

Furthermore, our concern for **children born with disabilities** was met with a project to address **prenatal health to prevent** the risk and severity. The background paper is [HERE](#). We could apply to any of our communities across the Federation.

Yesterday, the **2025 SDG gender lens report** was launched, view [HERE](#). Please refer to the fast facts section for ready statistics for your advocacy on any topic, and the role of women in solutions.

During mid-August to mid-September, we saw innovation in international policy as highlighted with hotlinks in the advocacy section of this newsletter. The most profound was ICJ genocide decision with 3 recommendations, one that we can pursue as Soroptimists - globally, regionally, nationally and locally. Read more [HERE](#).

For anyone considering going personally to **CSW70 please apply for your visa online** now, so we can ensure accreditation and scholarship processes can run

smoothly this year. Please use official plain-looking government application site. There will be multiple streaming systems and online access to most sessions. We should be so proud that Soroptimists are active in these advocacy negotiations. You can be too if you join Programme and other avenues for participation though SI.

**Dr  
Programme**

[programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org)

**Donnell  
Convenor**

**Davis,  
2024-2026**

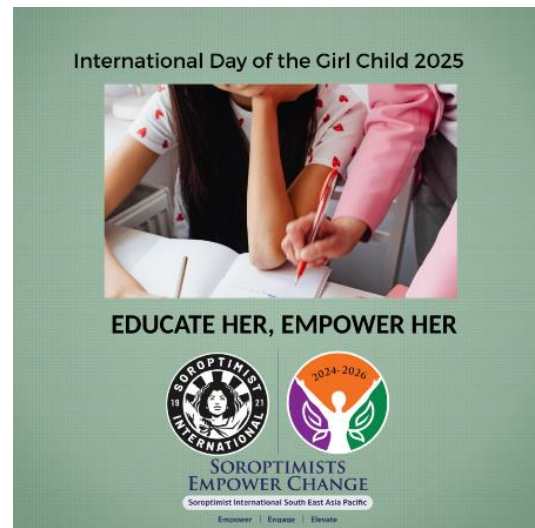
## **International Day of the Girl Child 11th October**

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

UN focus and themes can be found [HERE](#)

## [SISEAP TOOLKIT](#)

# 16 Days Of Activism

Join us for 16 Days of  
Activism to End Online  
Violence Against All  
Women and Girls.



16 Days of Activism  
#EndOnlineViolence

## 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**

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to showcase the voices and talents of your region/country! Let's make this a truly vibrant and inspiring event with representation from across our federation.

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

Regions/Countries are encouraged to hold heats from which they should find a winner or max 2 winners to represent them in each category in the Federation level of the competition. Videos of their speeches should be submitted by the country or region by **10 December 2025**. This will allow videos to be made of each finalist with a view to being able to showcase the speeches as part of the Federation activities for Education Day on the 24th of January 2026.

**If you are participating please inform Cesarina Gigante or Anne Allan.**

**GUIDELINES & DOCUMENTS**

# FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

## International

## Petitions

As our world becomes more vulnerable, we are sure our individual members would like to have a say in two very topical subjects that align with the Values of Soroptimist International.

1. Act Now- End Gender Apartheid in Afghanistan, Supporting Document [HERE](#).
2. Global Petition - No Peace without Women. Soroptimist International is a supporting organisation to this petition. Supporting Document [HERE](#). Link to add your name to petition [HERE](#).

This is one way that our members can be part of the global community and the calling for Peace.

## CSW70

The seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2026.

- **Priority theme:** Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers

**Review theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session can be viewed [HERE](#).

*Ensuring and Strengthening  
Access to Justice for All  
Women and Girls*

# FEDERATION PROJECTS

ROUND 9 CLOSED 31 JULY



**Round 8 is now being finalized.**

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](#)

# ADVOCACY WORK

**Coercive**

**Control**

**Advocacy**

In South Australia, after years of tenacity, with awareness raising and action with policy and legislation processes, clubs are celebrating the coercive control framework to protect

girls and women, prevent escalating violence and to intervene early to minimize the damage caused from family, domestic and gender violence. See results summary with videos for men and women [HERE](#). Coercive behavior is often the controlling behavior prior to more dangerous physical and psychological violence.

This is the second jurisdiction to legislate to proactively break the violence cycle. Queensland was the first so now we as a country of clubs can advocate for National systems to make states more effective with implementation. Coercive control goes hand in hand with "Affirmative consent" where a female must say yes to taking the next step in intimate relationships. This gives partners permission for next steps so long as the female is not intoxicated, drugged or coerced - under duress. This places power to decisions to be mutual. It is also called good manners.

### **Women in Executive Positions**

In Thailand in 2024, women in executive positions in the corporate world account for 41% of CEOs and 43% senior positions, ranked as third in the world. This is not replicated throughout our Federation. In fact in some countries our statistics are falling since covid. The latest report on executive women for Australia is [HERE](#).

### **Gender Equality Performance by Country**

New Zealand consistently performs in the top 10, and top 4 for last four years. The World Economic Forum measures education, health, economic security and participation. [HERE](#).

## 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.

**UNITED NATIONS NEWS**

## United Nations News



During mid-August to mid-September, we saw innovation in international policy through:

1. ICJ genocide decision with 3 recommendations [HERE](#)
2. Resolution- AI and UN human rights [HERE](#)
3. Myanmar statement from UN Human Rights [HERE](#)
4. Response to the UN Rapporteur on cyber safety and Sexploitation. Read more [HERE](#).
5. Examples - New Rules for cyber care for adolescents - 'Nudify' risk [HERE](#) and more [HERE](#). Age limits [HERE](#).
6. The Rights of Nature as a 'legal person' to take legal action against companies posing environmental damage.
7. The International Court of Justice has produced an opinion on respecting indigenous wisdom in climate management techniques in decision making. Read the summary [HERE](#). Women at the Centre of climate, peace and security read [HERE](#) Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) update is [HERE](#).
8. New Treaty Bill introduced for processes for Indigenous peoples in September 2025. Other countries have implemented these for decades, so we learned from their experiences. Read about it [HERE](#).
9. Due diligence guidance to end modern slavery in corporations, view [HERE](#).
10. Y20 - Youth statement for 2025 (G20 wants to lock out youth after inviting) view [HERE](#).
11. Scholarships for Joint UNY - UNICEF Pacific Youth for Climate for COP30 (Belem Brazil in November) and Cop31 preparation for 2026. Read about it [HERE](#)
12. Geneva humanities funding and impacts on UN agencies and our NGOs doing good work and how this impacts Soroptimists. Read more [HERE](#).
13. New Feminist Playbook [HERE](#) Help write it.

[UN DAYS](#)



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

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### **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](#)

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## SISEAP Conference

1-3 May 2026

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Stay 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 Gold Coast

Read about SI Gold Coasts activities [HERE](#).



### SI Victoria

SI Victoria Australia is now supported by a funding model that optimizes ongoing financing, moral integrity, and upholding the high standards expected as a charity.

Big decisions. Read more about them [HERE](#)

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## SI New Zealand

Read the six monthly summary Project Report from New Zealand [HERE](#).

SI Nelson in New Zealand has awarded another 17 scholarships and bursaries this year, recreating such an achievement last year.



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## SI Joondalup - Remote Op-Shop Project

The Remote Op-Shop project supports the development of op-shops in remote Aboriginal Settlements. The object is to supply cheap clothing and to generate community social enterprises which will provide independent funding for Community needs. Supporting the development of op shops in Aboriginal communities throughout remote Australia, creates positive social outcomes for women, their families and communities.

SI Joondalup members packed the clothing into satchels, which were sent to Fitzroy Crossing in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. They partnered with Remote Op-shop Project and received a grant from the Stan Perron Foundation.

The op-shops are run by the women and are teaching them the basics of the retail trade - pricing, displaying, selling and profit taking. How the profits are spent must be a democratic decision by the whole community. Some of the profits have been spent on

buying football boots for the local team, buying a trailer for community use, buying an outdoor picture screen so that outdoor movies can be run. This project helped 150 women and 75 girls.

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## SI Mongolia

Mongolia Soroptimist anniversaries for Ulaanbaatar (25) and Darkhan (20) were celebrated by Soroptimists from Switzerland, Malaysia, Australia, Indonesia. What wonderful unique opportunities are presented to us as members!



# PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

## September Tip

Which SDG should I use?

Entering Reports into the database and choosing the appropriate Goal, SDG and Target can often seem overwhelming, especially when projects are diverse and could fall into more than one category.

This is something that the Federation Zone Programme Coordinators and Assistant Programme Convenors can help you with. They have the opportunity to see many projects reported and can guide you with your selection. In addition there are some recommendations provided as inline help in the database itself.

Some people may find it easier to look at the SDGs before entering their information into the Database and here is a link to the SDGs [HERE](#).

Choosing the correct Target can often be the most difficult selection and in some cases none will fit your particular project. Or in the case of donations, for example to the Brilliant

Futures Fund, you will not know where the final expenditure will be made. In these cases choose the Not Applicable option. This is an option available for each SDG. However in some cases you will need to scroll to the very end of all the Targets to see that option in the drop down menu.

Copied below is some of the information you will find in the database as inline text under each heading based on previous frequent entries:

Objectives:

SI Foundation - Objective 1

Federation Project Brilliant Futures Fund - Objective 1 (Education)

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN DONATION - Objective 7.

SDG:

Federation Project Brilliant Futures Fund - SDG 4

SI Foundation -SDG 17

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN DONATION - SDG 16.

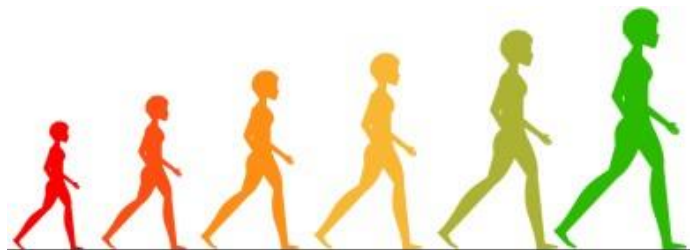
Target:

If you are submitting a donation report on UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN DONATION - use Target 16.3. NOTE: Select a target which is relative to your report. If none are suitable use Not Applicable option.

As always please feel free to contact the Programme Team if you need any assistance.

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## 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.

[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



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 **Wednesday 1 October 2025**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org) Thank you.



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