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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 December 2025 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Dear Sisters,

What a productive month! 16 days were honoured in diverse ways internationally, regionally and locally in our clubs. SI Webinar Coercive Control Uncovered: Awareness, Adction, Advocacy recording below; Coercive Control webinar, and "Lets Talk: Justice, Visibility and Safety" - Human Rights Commissioners and advocates Webinar is below, where they make recommendations to Soroptimists.

Social media was so vibrant despite the solemn messages. In Australia in 2024-2025, 83,000 cyber crimes were reported to federal police (42% increase), systemic reforms were introduced and 8 major players were fined and given 3 months to implement safety standards for applications and users. The age profiles of individual victims range from 8 to 88 years old. There are suite of prevention, mitigation, reporting, and after care education options [HERE](#). Every country has different rules and enforcement effectiveness. Perpetrators are now being treated as needing help with mental health, as well as financial and criminal penalties.

During our orange days, we also:

- Navigated resolutions for **UNFCCC COP30** funding actions, by negotiating a COP31 leaders meeting in the Pacific and Australian Presidency on policy, with Turkiye hosting the November 2026 event. This is a diplomatic compromise.
- Advanced in **UNEA 7**, the general assembly for environment, where women took centre stage [HERE](#) more on critical minerals [HERE](#)
- Held a special event where **SI with Commonwealth** of 56 countries tackled AI and Ethics [HERE](#)
- Negotiated in ASEAN (& Geneva with Soroptimists [HERE](#)) statement on the **Right to Development** [HERE](#), ASEAN shared future 2045 [HERE](#)
- Human Rights Council address Transformative Education included Soroptimist input. Report is [HERE](#)
- Prepared for **CSW70 - Access to Justice** - recording [HERE](#) 17 Dec session deals with **Economic Justice**.

CSW70 accredited delegates are yet to be approved by the board (Sunday).

Soroptimists International is restructuring in but we do not have to change anything in SISEAP. Advocacy will now be reported externally in a different format, but we can keep our current systems intact, honour our clubs and systems, and report externally as appropriate. How SISEAP will work with SI committees is becoming streamlined. We have lost our UN Rep for UNESCAP **Dr Theresa Davasahayam** and SI will **not have UN representative in our region**, at this stage. We thank Theresa for her years of efforts to include Asia Pacific in the international policy debates. Her story next month.

We are delighted to showcase the **Brilliant Futures Fund Project from Iskandar Putri**, below. Round 11 is now open, so we invite your superior projects to be considered for funding. **Please ask for help from Programme when applying**, so you have the best chance.

It is silly season now at the end of the year, when we ask all clubs to **submit their PFR to the database** - make sure they go from draft to submit, so we can review and approve them. Your work will be counted in our impact statements to all sorts of audiences. We also invite your proudest work to the **Best Practice Awards** (see application process below).

2026 looks exciting with **24 January Education Day** with public speaking awards webinar, March with IWD / CSW70, April with Mother Earth Day, June for Environment month, September IDP with Women Peace and Security, October as Day of the Girl Child, Nov-Dec 16 days finishing on Human Rights Day.

It has been a delight to work with you this year, so I wish you happy holidays and a peaceful yet productive 2026. Best wishes from the whole Programme Team,

Dr Donnell Davis,

Programme Convenor 2024-2026

programme.donnell@siseap.org

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



16 Days of Activism Campaign

Soroptimist International 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence 2025.

Thank you to all clubs that engaged with the campaign. See **'Around the Federation'** for club activities.

Let's Talk: Visibility, Justice and Safety.



This powerful Human Rights webinar presented by SISEAP. This powerful engagement brought together President Joanne Yeoh, Programme Convenor Dr Donnell Davis as they meet with panellists: Lorraine Finlay, (HR Commissioner Australia), Sunjid Dugar (Chief Commissioner Mongolia), and Srividhya Ganapathy (Co-Founder of Child Right Innovation and Betterment (CRIB Foundation). Sylvia Heywood presented a statement addressing our 3 questions from New Zealand Human Rights Commission. Discussions centred around regional challenges, policy advocacy and positive human rights changes. Each speaker recommended specific action from Soroptimist clubs and Federation.

If you missed this live webinar, you can watch it on the **SISEAP YouTube** channel via the link below.

[SISEAP YOUTUBE](#)

Coercive Control Uncovered - Awareness, Action, Advocacy Webinar

Coercive Control Uncovered: Awareness, Action, Advocacy

This informative webinar was hosted by SI Australia in conjunction with the ACT coercive control working group consisting of Soroptimist International Canberra, Zonta Canberra, National Council of Women Canberra, Rotary Canberra and CSW Canberra.

You can catch up on this webinar on the **SISEAP YouTube channel** via the link below.

Soroptimists International summaries of sessions can be viewed [HERE](#). Cyber violence does not stay online.

Preventing harm online - building safer digital spaces, can be viewed [HERE](#).

[SISEAP YOUTUBE](#)

ADVOCACY WORK

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



SISEAP Federation Public Speaking Competition

"**Empowered Voices, Sustainable Choices**," encouraged young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. Participating Clubs have now sent in their nominated entrants. There are 19 confirmed who will now go onto the Federation judging process. Entries were received from Australia, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia. Thank you to those clubs who participated.

Save the date: **World Education Day Webinar - Saturday 24 January 2026 4pm AEDT**. This webinar will showcase entrants in the public speaking competition, and the winners will be announced.

The competition will continue in 2026, and details will be sent out in February 2026, to be concluded for the International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October 2026.

Best Practice Awards

The 2025 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 2025, 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 2026. Don't miss this chance to shine!

[**BPA NOMINATION FORM**](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

CSW 70 NEWS

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](#).

SISEAP CSW 70 Live Webinar

SISEAP are planning an online parallel event titled: "**South East Asia Pacific Sisters - Learning for Life**" which will showcase our region's projects and advocacy. That's what makes us special because many NGOs only do advocacy, not projects. We have credibility here.

SI have released their draft for CSW 70. This can be read [HERE](#).

CSW70 kits will go directly to those who have registered an interest and been approved. Applications have now closed. Successful delegates will be navigated through bureaucracy. **Thank you** to those who chose to go in person. There are opportunities for Soroptimists to go online for virtual sessions. SI only has 5 events and SISEAP has one dedicated virtual event. However, our delegates will participate in other joint events. More information closer to the dates.



SI On the Road to CSW70 Webinar

Calling all Soroptimists preparing for CSW70! Join us for a special Soroptimist International webinar “On the Road to CSW70,” designed to support and empower SI delegates as we head toward the Commission on the Status of Women.

This webinar is open to all Soroptimists, this session will help you navigate CSW70. Join the Zoom meeting on **15 January 2026 at 15:00 GMT (Friday 15th January 2am AEDT).**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Nomination for SISEAP Delegates

Nominations for SISEAP accredited Delegates to CSW70 has now closed. We thank all the Soroptimist members who nominated. The successful scholarship winner and the self-funded delegates will be announced shortly. Maybe in the next Bulletin.



PROJECTS & APPEALS

FEDERATION PROJECTS



Round 11 is Now Open

Round 11 is now open and closes 28 February 2026

Applications are welcome and mentoring is available for prospective clubs. Please contact the Programme Team

Thank you to those who applied to previous rounds.

[READ GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

Congratulations SI Iskandar Putri. Round 8 Winner!

EmpowerHER Futures Project aligns with SISEAP's vision of fostering equitable opportunities for underserved communities by equipping refugee girls and women with digital literacy, vocational skills, and entrepreneurship training. The project directly supports SISEAP's mission of empowering marginalized individuals through education and skills development, enabling participants to access economic opportunities and achieve financial independence.

By strengthening digital inclusion, promoting women-led businesses, and enhancing financial literacy, the initiative fosters economic resilience and gender equality. Through its train-the-trainer model, the project ensures sustainability, allowing knowledge to be shared within the community. This approach not only reduces educational gaps but also creates long-term social and economic impact, empowering refugee girls to become self-sufficient and active contributors to their communities.

Brilliant Futures Fund

As 2025 draws to a close it is a time of giving by our clubs to the SISEAP Federation Project. Your valuable contribution both via your club and personally will ensure that clubs are able to implement transformative projects with positive change to the lives of women and girls. We are investing in our own projects in our own Region.



[DONATE NOW VIA YOUR CLUB OR PERSONALLY](#)

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](#)

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**

December 10 is Soroptimist International Foundation Day, traditionally the day Soroptimists support the SI Foundation appeal, by donating via

your club or individually to continue the foundation work.

[DONATE NOW - SI FOUNDATION DAY](#)

UNITED NATIONS NEWS

United Nations News

Every month we are asked to support or jointly sign statements that impact on women and girls, communities and regional safety. All documents need Board authority, but there are other ways we can support locally.



[READ AND SIGN HERE](#)

Women Peace and Security asks us to:

1. Stop arming conflict
2. Uphold international law
3. Defend women's rights and gender equality
4. Support civil society

In our region, there is some unrest in our countries. There are limited things Soroptimist clubs can physically do except support survivors, at this stage. Any advocacy is safer when women's groups join together.

During November and the beginning of December, we :

- Navigated resolutions for **UNFCCC COP30** funding actions, by negotiating a COP31 leaders meeting in the Pacific and Australian Presidency on policy, with

Turkiye hosting the November 2026 event. This is a diplomatic compromise. Youth played a big part in this event supported by UNICEF.

- Advanced in **UNEA 7**, the general assembly for environment, where women took centre stage, view [HERE](#)
- **First ever Women's Environmental Assembly @ UNEA7** View [HERE](#)
- UNEA7 - more on critical minerals, Read more [HERE](#). The Pacific is at risk of marine mining
- Held a special event where **SI with Commonwealth** of 56 countries tackled AI and Ethics, view [HERE](#)
- Negotiated in ASEAN statement on the **Right to Development** view [HERE](#)
- ASEAN shared future 2045, read more [HERE](#)
- Right to Development in Geneva with Soroptimists, read [HERE](#)
- Human Rights Council address Transformative Education included Soroptimist input. The report can be [HERE](#).
- Prepared for **CSW70 - Access to Justice** - recording can be viewed [HERE](#)
- 17 Dec session deals with **Economic Justice**.

In 2026, women deliver will held held in Melbourne at the end of April. More information and Feminist Playbook can be found [HERE](#). Many of us will be in KK.

[UN DAYS](#)



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)



SISEAP Conference

1-3 May 2026

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Early Bird Registrations close **31st January**

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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

16 Days Of Activism

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



16 Days of Activism Campaign

There was a great variety of activities carried out over the 16 Days Campaign.

SI Nelson

SI Nelson's 16 Days of Anti-violence Advocacy can be viewed [HERE](#)



SI Brisbane Water

Powerful work from SI Brisbane Water on the final day of the 16 Days of Activism, marching alongside more than 300 community members to shine a light on all forms of domestic violence — physical, mental, emotional, coercive control, and

online abuse.

Their continued commitment shows how vital this advocacy is, especially as violence against women continues to rise and the Central Coast remains one of the most impacted regions in NSW.

Watch the video [HERE](#).

SI Ulaanbaatar

SI Ulaanbaatar Club Holds “Orange Meeting” as part of the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Soroptimist International Ulaanbaatar Club convened its December meeting under the theme: “ORANGE MEETING: End Online Violence Against All Women and Girls.”



The gathering featured a presentation by Ms. Odonchimeg, lawyer at the National Centre Against Violence, who shared valuable insights on the campaign’s objectives and highlighted ongoing activities aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence in Mongolia.

Club members contributed donations of clothing and food products, which will be delivered to shelter houses to support victims of violence. This initiative reflects the Club’s strong commitment to advocacy, awareness, and tangible support for women and children affected by violence, echoing the international call to “Orange the World.”



SI Townsville Breakwater

Soroptimist International Townsville Breakwater wrapped Soroptimist Park in orange yarn bomb to encourage our community to wrap the world in respect for women. It was a creative, eye-catching way to spark conversations about respect, safety, and empowerment for women and girls everywhere. For further news on their activities go to their Facebook page [HERE](#).

SI Perth

SI Perth in Western Australia recently made the difficult decision to sell their club rooms. The club was chartered in 1949 and had held their club rooms for many of those years.



Club members decided that they would like to return some of the income of the sale of their building back into bricks and mortar and have signed up to fund one apartment in the development of Lot 1004 Raleigh Street and Lot 1005 Bishopsgate Street, Carlisle. The Carlisle development will consist of 24 homes and the residents will be a mix of mothers who are homeless and their newborn babies. Mothers who have had their children removed from them because they are homeless and they can now be reunited because they have a permanent address. Also, older women who are homeless. The development is being undertaken by "My Home". "My Home" Australasia Limited is a facilitator for housing and land developments to accommodate disadvantaged people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

TOP TIP December 2025

I know that for many people this is an especially busy time of the year as we rush to put in the final reports for activities, donations, projects, advocacy and scholarships.

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted their club activities into the database. The programme team members are working hard to finalise these so that you can see them published in the database.

Deadline for 2025 is 31st December 2025. This will ensure your hard work is included in the 2025 Annual Report. The Programme team will be working through January to have these approved and published. Anything entered after this date will still be reviewed, but may not be reviewed in time to be included in the Federation reports.

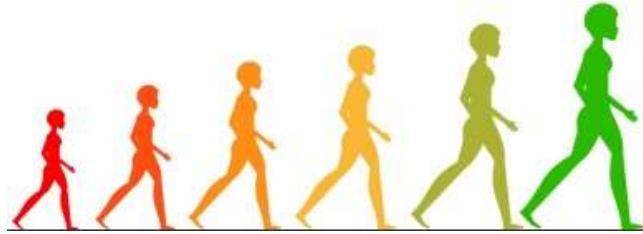
Please check your club emails. If there are any queries we will send emails to the club email address. Often this means we can correct any oversights quickly for you. You will also get an email confirming that your entry has been published.

A couple of things to remember:

1. The Reporting year is a Calendar Year, from 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025.
2. Check your drafts in the database to make sure you have submitted all your entries.
1. Always include a Donation Report when you donate money or goods, even if it was part of an Activity or Project. This will enable a Report showing the total value of Soroptimist donations from SIEAP to be created. Clubs will also be able to run their own Report showing their Club total for the year. A useful tool when applying for Grants or reporting to your community.
2. Check the in-line help in the database under each field for some additional help in entering the correct information. These include some of the Objectives and SDGs for donations to our current Appeals.
3. Remember you can Re-use previously published Reports, so if you have an activity you undertake every year, Re-use the previous report, and update it with current dates and information. You can also Re-use a Rejected Report and use this as a basis to improve and change your Report.
4. Start dates and end dates should include your preparation and planning time not just the actual date of the event.

As always, if you need any help, please contact your Zone Programme Coordinator.

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
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CSW
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Goals &
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Copy for the December 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Sunday, 1 February 2026**. Please email your submissions to programme.donnell@siseap.org Thank you.



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Our mailing address is:

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific
PO Box 1400
STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012
Australia

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