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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 February 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Dear Sisters,

Happy New Year 2026. We may have mixed memories of 2025 - the fond ones with special people and innovative projects achieved, and sad ones where a few of our clubs have folded or blended with others. Our impact is being felt in our countries, with females, families and futures. Well done everyone. Preliminary results from database reports include:

- 31,312 girls and 56,975 women helped
- \$ 984,846 donations, both in-kind and in cash
- 95 scholarships
- 74,522 hours service to communities
- 237 formal projects with \$838,013 investments
- 78 advocacy efforts.

Over December and January, much eventuated: World first treaty for climate refugees for Pacific, find out more [HERE](#), e-safety for children under 16 impact, read more about it [HERE](#) , Women Peace and Security strengthening, read more [HERE](#), Cultural Rights for all indigenous peoples being advanced, read [HERE](#), feminist foreign policy under the microscope (how we do international development work and funding to go directly to women for sustainable communities). But also worries: a quarter of the world's countries regressing in gender equality, and femicide legalised in Afghanistan. So, we need to stand our ground in our own backyard. UNESCAP met in January to incorporate our Asia Pacific voices. An intervention through SISEAP was included in the final resolutions, read [more](#) [HERE](#).

In February and March we have much to look forward to - UNESCAP action for both CSW70 [HERE](#), and SDG priorities for 2026 - SDG 6,7,9,11,17 Water, energy, infrastructure - including cyber, sustainable communities, and partnerships. SISEAP is strong in all these areas. [HERE](#) The UNESCAP IWD webinar is live-streamed **6 March 10:00-11:30** (Bangkok, UTC+7) Watch [HERE](#).

UN events in Bangkok APSDF13 in February and CSW70 in New York in March are available to you online free as an observer, albeit at strange hours. Each day has a special theme - so choose your passion. We will also be recording our special events to put on our website for you to access. See below. How does the UN impact on our lives? See 80 stories [HERE](#)

This month we encourage you to consider your best practices during 2025, your innovative approaches, your advocacy and apply for a best practice award before April 2026. (see below) We also share lessons from the past 5 years of work in

dementia and mental health, so we can build upon experience of others, see below in 'Around the Federation'. The other lessons learned are in **gynaecological cancer(s)** support.

We are counting the days until the Kota Kinabalu conference, where you are invited to plant a mangrove [HERE](#) and register for the AGM and Federation meetings.

Thank you for your continuing professionalism and compassion during 2025, and your good intentions for 2026.

*Dr
Programme*

*Donnell
Convenor*

*Davis,
2024-2026*

programme.donnell@siseap.org



International Women's Day- 8th March

A day when women are recognised for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

This year's UN theme "**Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls**", marks a moment in time to amplify our collective determination. Working together – for the rights and empowerment of all women and girls.

Clubs are well on their way to acknowledge one of our pivotal campaign days. We look forward to showcasing club projects and activities.

Further information can be found on the UN site [HERE](#)

The UNESCAP IWD webinar to be live-streamed **6 March 10:00-11:30** (Bangkok, UTC+7) Watch it [HERE](#).

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 2025

"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. Thank you to all clubs who participated. All participants are congratulated.

The finalists truly showcased an informed response to the category topics. They spoke with conviction and passion. We were inspired by bold ideas, passionate perspectives, and thoughtful solutions from the next generation of changemakers.

Congratulations to our winners:

Category

One

1 st Place	Olivia Yun	SI Hills District, Australia
2 nd Place	Jiamirza Kaur	SI Damansara, Malaysia
3 rd Place	Soyol- Erdene Yargul-Ujin	SI Erdenet, Mongolia
Highly Commended	Anabia Muntaz	SI Lautoka, Fiji

Category

Two

1 st Place	Grace Poong Qi Hui	SI Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
2 nd Place	Holly Buganey	SI Beenleigh/Logan, Australia
3 rd place	Bianca Mina	SI Hills District, Australia

Missed the webinar? Then view the recording on the SISEAP Youtube channel below.

[PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION VIDEO](#)

SISEAP Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026

Clubs are invited to consider participating in the public speaking competition for girls in 2026.

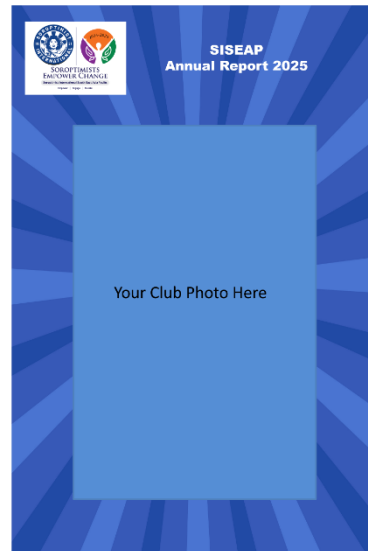
This year the competition final will be aligned with the Day of the Girl Child in October.



BPA NOMINATION FORM

Company Annual Report Photo Competition

Every day, our members turn compassion into action. This year, we want the world to see the faces behind the impact. We are looking for high-quality, vibrant images that capture the heart of your projects—from the smiles of the recipients to impactful images of projects in your communities.



Why, your image could be the one chosen to appear on the front page of the Company Annual Report. Images will be required for the Front and Back pages of the company annual report the inside articles of the company annual report, The impact statement cards and the website. Start submitting NOW.

Competition is open until the 10th of April.

[UPLOAD YOUR IMAGES](#)

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**.

SISEAP CSW70 PAGE FOR SOROPTIMISTS

For all information relevant to Soroptimist SISEAP and CSW70, head to the **SISEAP website** via the link above. What is CSW, our participation, how to join and participate in Side and Parallel events, links to SI and SISEAP parallel events. Keep coming back as this page is updated regularly.

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: "**Asia Pacific Sisters - Access to Justice - 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. **Thank you** to those who chose to go in person. There are opportunities for Soroptimists to go online for virtual sessions. Each day its own theme. 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. Summary (interim) [HERE](#)

9 -20 March 2026



**Participation in CSW70 Parallel events
is now open**

NGOCSW have opened up the Whova platform for interested Soroptimists to register to attend any parallel events.

To register your interest, visit the
NGOCSW website via the link below.

[NGOCSW WEBSITE](#)

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.

JOIN SI @CSW70 (2026)

“On the Road to CSW70” Zoom Webinar
Thursday 15 January 2026, 15:00 GMT



This webinar is open to all Soroptimists, this session will help you navigate CSW70. Join the Zoom second meeting on **19 February 2026 at 15:00 GMT (Friday 15th January 2am AEDT)**.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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.

Successful projects are on the website.

[READ GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

[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](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

Your Donations at Work: Transforming Lives in Cambodia

Cambodia, one of our Federation countries, was a beneficiary of an SI Foundation project. Today we celebrate the power of collective action! SI is excited to share the impactful outcomes of the SI Foundation Cambodia Community Dream Organisation project in Siem Reap. From education to vital life skills, the "Women and Girls Empowerment" project has delivered measurable change for rural communities in Siem Reap.



Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation; your donations are the heartbeat of this project, turning our mission into a reality for the women and girls we serve.

Read the full closing report on the **SI Website** via the link below

[SI WEBSITE](#)

[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.



[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

Wear What Matters – SI Melbourne


SI Melbourne members participated in a video showing how we are making an impact on climate change. Members took photos of themselves in outfits from their wardrobes,

revitalising the fashion instead of purchasing new items of clothing. Some of the revitalised items of clothing were over 30 years old.

SI Erdenet - Public Speaking Competition

In order to involve students from our local schools in this competition announced by the SISEAP, Soroptimist Erdenet made guidelines and invitations, and sent them to all schools. Social workers, administrators and English teachers from each school prepared the best presentations for their school, selected them locally, and sent them to the National committee.

The goal was to select the best speeches at the local level and advance them to the next stage. The children who participated in these speeches, by age group, had the opportunity to express their strong voices beyond their native language and in to English, which was a great achievement in improving their speaking skills. In this speech contest, Soyol-EddeneYargui-Ujin, a student at the Erdmiin san school of Erdenet, won first place out of the 3 students in her category.

 Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

Gynaecological Cancer Symptom Quick-Check
Know Your Body

If you regularly experience any of these symptoms, especially if they are new or unusual please consult a health care provider

SYMPTOM	CERVICAL	OVARIAN	UTERINE	VAGINAL	VULVAL
Bleeding outside your menstrual cycle e.g. After menopause, between periods or after sex.	X	X	X	X	
Unusual or watery discharge, not limited to menstruation, discharge from sore/lesions on vulva	X		X	X	X
Pain, pressure, bloating or discomfort in the abdomen, pain during sex	X	X	X	X	
Persistent itching, burning, soreness or tenderness of the vulva or vagina				X	X
Skin changes - Moles, wart-like growth on the vulva or vagina				X	X
Bowel or bladder changes - constipation, urgent/frequent urination, blood in urine		X	X	X	
Unexplained tiredness, leg pain/swelling, rectal pain, or swollen groin lymph nodes		X	X	X	X
Appetite loss, indigestion, unexplained weight change		X			

*Uterine includes endometrial and uterine cancers
Note: This is not a diagnostic tool but a guide to increase awareness.
Always consult a qualified medical professional if you notice persistent symptoms
(IJC/ICGC Research - adapted for awareness by Dr. Doreen Davis 2020)

www.siseap.org

SI Logan - Self Check Postcard

SI Logan have designed a self-check postcard for gynaecological cancers (as have some other clubs). The card lists symptoms which can be identified by a women to take to their doctor. The doctor has a duty of care to test for appropriate diagnosis with those indicators. It may save you weeks or months of anxiety or even save lives. The template is available from the club.

SI Aotearoa New Zealand - Impact Postcard

SI Aotearoa New Zealand has taken the SISEAP Impact postcard and personalised it for their impact. A practical way to highlight your work to others at National, Regional or Club level.



Soroptimist International Aotearoa New Zealand



Soroptimists make a positive difference to the lives of women and girls every day by providing opportunities to Educate, Enable and Empower.

SIANZ contributed AUD \$102,442 in project work and scholarships assisting 35,291 women and girls.

SIANZ donated AUD \$60,888 to third parties.



2025 Impact on Women and Girls



Expended AUD\$39,935 to improve the Health of 33,953 women and girls



Scholarships and donations of AUD \$25,000 provided to 363 women and girls through projects



Provided AUD\$5,886 to protect and assist 418 women and girls



Strengthened food security by providing AUD\$5,000 food and cooking initiatives to 434 women and girls



Provided 214 volunteer hours to economically empower 61 women and girls



Contributed AUD\$1,059 to environmental projects which assisted 62 women and girls



Donations of AUD\$1,760 to Disaster relief, mitigation and resilience.

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

February 2026 - Database Tips

Just a reminder that Clubs can create an Annual Report from the Database to use at their AGM's or to provide a great summary of their work to share with their community and project partners. Please check your Annual Reports and if you feel there are any items missing, please contact your Zone Coordinator.

HOW TO CREATE AN ANNUAL REPORT

On the left of your screen

- Click on Annual Reports
- Choose Club Report from the drop down menu
- Create your Club Report by filling in the details on the FORM.
- Your Club name is automatically populated.
- You will need to give your Report a Title (eg 2025 Annual Report).
- Enter the Start Date (using the calendar) 1/1/2025 and
- End Date 31/12/2025.
- Press on the Blue button to Create Report.

Your new Report will be the first one on the list of Club Reports.

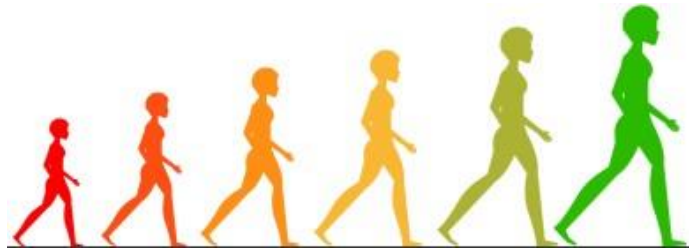
- You can then view your Report using the eye icon; or
- Download it to share with Club members or others.

You can come back to this Report in the database at any time using the title of your report in the Search box.

Anne

Programme Database Support

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.

[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



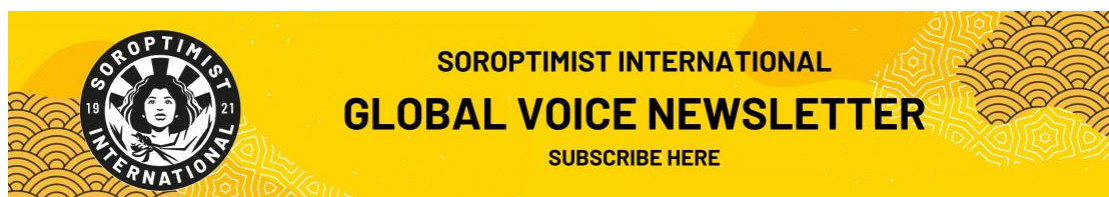
Programme
Committee



Best
Practice
Awards



Goals &
Objectives



SI

Global

Voice

Newsletter

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Copy for the March 2026 eSPAN edition is required by **Sunday, 1 March 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

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