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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



# SPAN

## Soroptimist Programme Action News

**Welcome** to the March 2026 edition of the Programme Action News

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## FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



The future of CSW will be different. This year was procedurally different. SI was and is very active in partnerships across the spectrum of priority theme - Access to Justice. Furthermore the review theme of rural, remote, island and maritime matters cross pollinated our work.

It has been a pleasure to work with so many clubs over the past 4 years. This past week in UN Commission for the Status of Women 70 in New York, we have been very vocal for such an under-represented part of the world. We have been proud to showcase our clubs for digital literacy, water management catalyst for life, climate refugees and survivors systems, and 4 special areas of access to justice (climate justice, economic justice, intergenerational pathways, and youth advocacy) specifically designed for our circumstances in South East Asia Pacific. We have average 60% population under 25.

- SISEAP Parallel event online from New York [HERE](#)
- SISEAP Lifelong Learning AI and Education (soon on SI website)
- SISEAP Women Water and Health - PowerPoint [HERE](#)
- SISEAP Pacific focus - climate refugees living on the edge. PowerPoint [HERE](#)
- SISEAP Summary one minute video (soon on website)
- SISEAP Lessons from UNESCAP (Bangkok preparation) with IWDA
- SI Cyber advocacy - special edition next espan

#### **Thank you for the clubs in**

- Malaysia: Penang, Bangsar, Kota Kinabalu, Petaling Jaya, SIROM (Borneo Panan Village Sarawak).
- Australia: Griffith, Adelaide, South Australia, Moreton North
- Fiji: Ba, Lautoka, Nadi Jetset, Sigatoka,
- New Zealand: SI Nelson and SI Taupo, SI North Shore
- Papua New Guinea: Murik Lakes Project
- 7 commonwealth countries in SISEAP were further highlighted - Singapore and Samoa.

Our delegates did us proud, including

- SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh
- SI Treasurer from SI Nelson - Wendy Logan
- Australian Advocacy - Sarah Barnbrook - invited on panels on cyber matters.
- Australian Exec, President SI Melbourne Cherrie Power
- President SI Griffith Filomena Pingiaro
- SISEAP CSW Scholarship winner | Youth Ambassador - SI Global Impact Committee & President Elect Fremantle - Petrice Pesick
- SISEAP Programme SI Logan - Dr Donnell Davis
- other delegates not in speaking roles are Aray Saniyazova SI Ulaanbaatar and Christine Paton SI Melbourne.

**So what?** In some parts of the world Gender Equality is regressing if not in law, then in practice. The best we may be able to do is **hold the line** on the rights and responsibilities that we currently have by protecting and enforcing, and expecting justice at local level. Despite the challenges, we represent half a billion people with climate, conflict, social inequity and economic risks. These include poverty spirals, modern slavery, teenage pregnancy, family violence, maternal and child mortality. However, some of our countries are leading in cyber safety, glass ceiling index, women in politics, gender pay gap minimised, youth and adolescent rights, climate treaty, climate justice and environmental stewardship. Our issues are unique and our grassroots approaches can be very innovative.

**What can we do for Afghan women and girls?** Donate one hour a month to teaching online. Contact [Donnell.Davis@siseap.org](mailto:Donnell.Davis@siseap.org). The UN Secretary General and USG Policy Guy Ryder, SG UN Women and UNFPA have addressed our concerns about **amalgamation of these 2 agencies** now based in Gigeri Campus (Kenya) see the slide deck [HERE](#)

I am so proud of the work your clubs have undertaken. The 2025 SISEAP Impact statement is below. I look forward to seeing some of you in Kota Kinabalu for the Conference of Clubs and biennium changeover.

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

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# ADVOCACY WORK

## SISEAP CSW70: Blogs

Read the Blogs by our SISEAP Delegates



**SISEAP Delegate Blogs: Empowering Women**

Read all the latest CSW70 News and Blogs by our SISEAP Delegates Click on the image above to take you to the website.

136 Global Soroptimists attended CSW70 in New York, read a selection of their blogs on sessions they attended. Click on the image on the right to go to the Soroptimist International website.



## Asia Pacific Sisters : Access to Justice and Life Long Learning Webinar

This webinar was presented live from New York. If you missed the session live you can now watch it on the SISEAP YouTube site.

SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh, Programme Convenor Dr Donnell Davis, Nayomi Kannangara – CEO, International Women’s Development, Agency - Australia, Soroptimist CSW Delegates Filomena Pingiaro, Cherrie Power, Wendy Logan, Petrice Pesick

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific explores the topic through the ASEAN lens. Today’s session visits the transection of access to justice in its legal form and how our grassroots projects deliver justice, economic independence enabling women to claim their seat at the table and their day in court. This is achieved through our belief that access to life long and life wide learning for All age groups, all levels of education and all modalities. Soroptimists this belief into reality to reskill, upskill, create economic empowerment opportunities and promote tolerance

[SISEAP YOUTUBE HERE](#)

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### **World Environment Day, SISEAP Environment Month**

UN Environment Program World Environment Day 2026: A Global Call for Climate Action

World Environment Day 2026 will rally the world around the urgency of climate action. With rising temperatures, collapsing ecosystems, and disruptive weather extremes, humanity stands at a tipping point. But we are not powerless.

The 2026 theme underscores that climate action is not just about reducing carbon emissions—it is about rethinking the systems that power our economies and repairing our relationship with the climate. By doing so, we can secure a safer, healthier, and more just future for all.

Resources coming soon.

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### **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.



Send us your IWD stories so that we can share them with our Federation.



### SI Gold Coast

Soroptimist International Gold Coast enjoyed a truly special celebration marking International Women’s Day by recognising the strength, achievements and contributions of women in our community this was highlighted by the incredible 106th birthday of member Florence. She is truly an inspiration to us all. At 106, she continues to show us how to live with purpose, curiosity and grace. Not only did they celebrate a birthday, but a remarkable life — and the power of women making a difference.

We were also delighted to recognise our Scholarship recipients, Jorja and Aleria, whose dedication and achievements make us very proud. Along with our members, it was wonderful to celebrate and acknowledge their inspiring journeys.

## SISEAP IMPACT FOR 2025

**Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific**

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

**SISEAP contributed AUD 58.6 M value to society in volunteer hours**  
**SISEAP donated AUD \$986,000 to 3rd parties**

**2025 Impact**  
On Women and Girls

- Strengthened **FOOD SECURITY** by providing training and food to **1680** women and girls
- Contributed **AUD\$9740** to **DISASTER MITIGATION**
- Assisted **10,000** women and girls from **VIOLENCE** through **1555** advocacy hours and expending **AUD\$70,458**
- Provided **AUD\$443,785** project funds to **ECONOMICALLY EMPOWER** **2231** women and girls
- EDUCATIONAL** opportunities given to **25329** women and girls **AUD\$150,000** Scholarships **AUD\$510,000** Projects
- Expended **AUD\$6750** on scholarships and **AUD\$211,000** in donations to improve the **HEALTH** of help women and girls
- Tackled **CONFLICT RESOLUTION** through **675** service hours assisting **1650** women and girls
- Contributed **AUD\$15,000** to **ENVIRONMENTAL** projects which assisted **2400** women and girls.

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific  
www.siseap.org

# BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

## Best Practice Awards

Nominate your clubs project/advocacy work now for recognition and Best Practice Award. Don't be shy. If you are proud of your work, please put in half an hour to apply.



Nominate a project or advocacy action which your club undertook during 2025. Your report must have been submitted to the SISEAP Programme database and had been approved. **Applications close on the 1st of April 2026.** Awards are open for each of the 8 objectives and Award recipients will be announced at the Federation Meeting in May 2026

[SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION](#)

# PROJECTS & APPEALS

Learn more about the projects and appeals and to make a Donation please click on the image. SISEAP values and encourages you to support our projects and appeals, your donation DOES make a huge difference to the lives of women and girls.



# FEDERATION PROJECTS



## Brilliant Futures Fund

Our Federation Project, the **Brilliant Futures Fund** (2021–2026), is at the heart of our mission to **educate, empower, and enable**. By pooling our resources, SISEAP clubs can fund high-impact initiatives that a single club might not achieve alone.

From digital literacy for refugees to maternal health and vocational training, this fund transforms lives across our 13 member countries. Your support ensures we can continue funding grassroots projects that provide real, lasting change. Every donation helps a woman gain independence or a girl access the education she deserves. Let's work together to build brilliant futures—please donate today!

**Round 12 now open.** Nominations close April 30th 2026. Apply via the button below.

[APPLY FOR THE BRILLIANT FUTURES FUND](#)

[READ HOW BFF PROJECTS HAVE CHANGED THE LIVES](#)

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**Federation Public Speaking Competition 2026**

Clubs are invited to consider participating in the public speaking competition for girls in 2026 through their Country/Region Representative.

Public speaking is more than just delivering words—it's about owning your voice, sharing your perspective, and stepping confidently into spaces where ideas matter. For girls, the ability to speak publicly isn't just a skill; it's a catalyst for empowerment, leadership, and self-expression. In a world where female voices have often been sidelined or underestimated, teaching girls the art of effective communication helps them challenge stereotypes, advocate for themselves and others, and inspire change.

Countries/Regions (Australia) are encouraged to hold heats to determine finalists who will represent them in the Federation level of the competition. A maximum of two finalists for each category are permitted from each country in the Federation. Australia is permitted two finalists, per category per Region.

**Theme**

"The Power of My Voice" encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. It also gives Sorooptimists the opportunity to hear for themselves the thoughts and aspirations of these leaders of the future. The finals this year will coincide with the International Day of the Girl Child Sunday the 11th October.

The competition invites girls from 12 years to 19 years (age as at 31 December 2026) to participate. There are two categories: Category 1: 12-15 years, Category 2: 16-19 years. The theme this year is **"The Power of My Voice"** with the following topics:

**Category 1:** Describe one change that would help make life fairer for girls — and explain why this change benefits your community

**Category 2:** Why a girl's opinion matters in creating change for the future.

Please indicate your Countries/Regions participation using the following form [HERE](#) by the 30th April 2026.

Information can be found on the Federation Website [HERE](#) for Countries/Regions/Clubs.

Heats and sending of finalist information to Federation is to be completed by the **8th September 2026**.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION INFORMATION

# FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



5 Federations are pictured together @ CSW70.

SI Africa, SI President Renata Trotman,  
SI Director Advocacy Berthe De Vos,  
SISEAP Programme Donnell  
Davis, SIGBI President Ruth Healey, and  
SI Europe Youth Ambassador.

SI convened many sessions with partners,  
Ministers, Permanent Missions,  
Commonwealth Secretariat, and  
Caucuses.



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

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



In 2003 a korowai, Māori cloak, named Te Amo Oranga Nui Ki Te Ao, was made by the acclaimed weaver Whero Bailey (Te Atiawa) for the highest ranking member of Soroptimist International (New Zealand) (as it then was) to wear on special occasions, such as university graduation, charter celebrations, marriage, or receiving a civic honour. The cloak included blue and gold feathers, the Soroptimist colours, and was presented to Elaine Moffat of SI Lower Hutt, president of the South East Asia Pacific Federation

(SISEAP), at the Federation conference held in Wellington in July 2004.

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**SI Lautoka “Pinktober”** - taking important medical services and awareness to the women in their community. SDG.3 and helping 45 women.

As we know women are very busy, they have families, they do work for extended families as well as for their kids and therefore they do not take time to prioritise their health. Every year there are more cancer patients. SI Lautoka members decided to take the awareness into the community and also provide diabetes and high blood pressure services to these ladies



Members were able to use a local church hall and then requested the Medical Services Pacific (MSP) team to carry out the Pinktober awareness and pap smear on this day. Once this was organized, our members were delegated the tasks to ensure that we capture the correct data regarding the number of women assisted by this awareness. The members also organized light tea for all present on that day.

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### **WOW Festival Plans – SI Brisbane Water**

After the Tweed Heads Conference of Clubs in 202 SI Brisbane Water members were keen to look into the possibility of holding a WOW Festival on the Central Coast of NSW. The WOW (Women of the World) Festival is a global movement

and series of events launched in 2010 that celebrates women, girls, and non-binary people while confronting gender inequality. These festivals feature talks, workshops, performances, and networking to drive change, attracting millions across six continents.

Soroptimists and members of the Central Coast International Women's Day Committee have been meeting on a regular basis investigating venues, planning and holding "Think-ins". On Saturday we held the second think-in, where local artists, creatives of all kinds, and young and not so young got together and discussed what we would like to see at a Central Coast WOW festival. We were given a taste of how it all works with a panel presentation on Financial Literacy. We were entertained by a local singer and poet. We identified some of the challenges in our community, expressed who we would like to invite to speak and hear perform. It is proving to be a huge event to organise, but we are all still keen to make it happen.

## PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

### Calculating Service Hours

Calculating your service hours can often be a difficult task. It is however an important component of what we use to calculate the impact that Soroptimists have in their community.



**Service hours** are those hours that club members are engaged with for a project or activity. This includes time actually spent on planning and preparation, e.g. writing and requesting donations, collecting donations, sending out thank you messages following the event etc. It should include the hours worked by each Soroptimist at the function, e.g. fundraising stall, sausage sizzle.

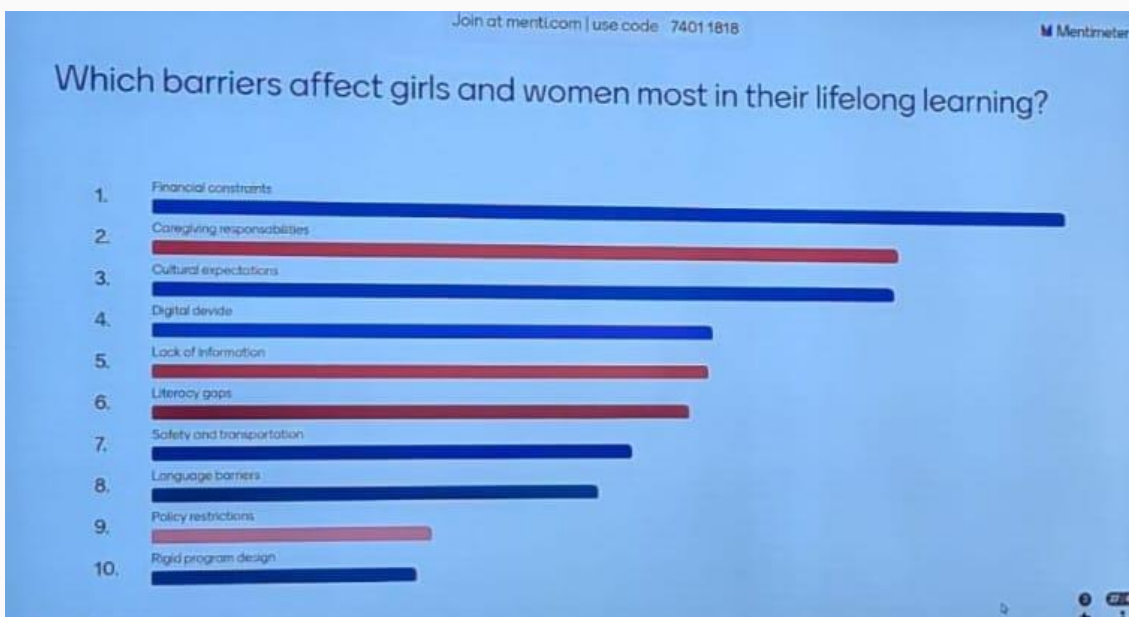
These hours are used in the calculation of Soroptimist volunteer hours used in our Impact Card circulated at CSW and should reflect hours where Soroptimists actively contributed on the project or activity.

We appreciate that many clubs often have non-members assisting them and to recognise their contribution we recommend that their hours be included in the description section in the reporting data base on What You Did.

Also a reminder that you can enter data into the database at anytime during the year, however if your project or advocacy has many components undertaken during the year, please save these up to enter all the detail at one time at the end of the year. Why? So, we can appreciate the impact of your advocacy and your progress made during the year.

As always if you need more clarification contact your Zone coordinators.

## DID YOU KNOW?



The slide above captures the opinions of the youth attending CSW70.

A reminder to report your work as soon as you have completed it in full. 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.

**UN news**

The UN Secretary General and USG Policy Guy Ryder, SG UN Women and UNFPA have addressed our concerns about **amalgamation of these 2 agencies** now based in Gigeri Campus (Kenya) see the slide deck [HERE](#)

**UNDP and UN Operations** are undergoing similar amalgamation process. Similar deadlines.

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**Programme Members Page**

Have you explored the updated Programme Members website page? All the information you will need is contained here.

*Click the image below to access the page*

### 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



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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 March 2026 eSPAN edition is required by **Wednesday, 1 April 2026**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org) Thank you.



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