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Soroptimist International



South East Asia Pacific

ACN 147 990 627



SPAN

Soroptimist Programme Action News

Welcome to the July 2024 edition of the Programme Action News

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FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR



Welcome to the July edition, where we revisit the achievements of June policies into practice, welcome new people taking on Federation positions, learn from important outcomes at global and Federation levels, and prepare for **our signature campaigns** (International Day of Peace 21 September, Day of the Girl Child 11 October & 16 days of Elimination of Violence Against Women with focus on Prevention Nov-Dec)

You are invited to **send us your stories** about your program work to be included in the ESPAN by the first of every month. Please don't wait until November to input your projects into the database. Zone Coordinators (buddies) would like to recognize your work progressively during the year. During June, clubs celebrated World Environment Day (Month) but those reports are not yet available to share.

We have **new National Presidents** who will be providing special reports over the coming months so we can appreciate their lives with cultural influences on their decision-making and can better understand Soroptimist advocacy efforts.

Right now, the **UN High Level Political Forum** is meeting to assess the midpoint for the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Covid stagnated action while the financial impacts slowed innovation and investment in improvements. Some countries bounced back stronger. But **Regressions** are seen across different SDGs in different countries, illustrating different priorities for governments and their peoples. The full report is [HERE](#). If you wish to sit in Environmental SDGs online, UNEP sessions are [HERE](#).

On a brighter note, **Ecocide** works across international law, environmental and criminal law. Previously inside countries, governments were giving permits to pollute / damage to companies - Mining, logging, chemicals, factories. The only legal tool used to be for transboundary issues. Now, because the **recognition that pollution has global impact** we have **shared responsibility for protecting critical thresholds**. Everyone has a duty of care. So now companies can be tried for

crimes as well as their boards and individual decision-makers, who should have known better. **Ecocide** means the '*unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts*'.

Dr **Donnell** **Davis,**

Programme Convenor 2024-2026

siseaprogramme@siswp.org

ADVOCACY WORK

Members of Australian Soroptimists clubs attended the **Equality Rights Alliance Gender Equality Symposium: Working Together for Women**. Read their reports [HERE](#).

Some findings include 2023 **gender equality compass** (Which can be viewed [HERE](#)) where 17% of those surveyed do not support our work - with a strong demographic of young men. These **boys and young men** do not support their sisters, mothers, grandmothers, and daughters. We need to assemble special research together to understand this attitude and engage disenfranchised boys. There are many factors that might contribute so its not an easy fix.

To review the investment into **Feminist Foreign Policy** - money going towards investment into projects that benefit grassroots women and communities, see Australia's budget [HERE](#) analyzed by IWDA and the New Zealand budget [HERE](#)

How your government allocates its budget really matters. Some countries measure and monitor **how much is spent on women, community, climate, environmental care, preventative diplomacy**, war, and have independent reviews by civil society. This also helps civil society to advocate in the most effective ways using the government context. New Zealand has a Wellbeing budget introduced during Covid. Australia's wellbeing budget does not really align with SDGs but better than it was previously. Find **Gender Lens** for women reporting on the budget impacts (NFAW) [HERE](#). Please click on orange tabs for specific chapters.

Update on the National Project - Education, Advocacy and Funding to Reduce the Impact of Ovarian Cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand

Why did New Zealand Clubs choose this National Project for 2022 – 2025?

Ovarian Cancer is the second most common gynaecological cancer and the deadliest. It accounts for more than half of deaths from all gynaecological cancers combined. Māori and Pacific people have an increased incidence of ovarian cancer and are more likely to be diagnosed at a younger age, and with rarer ovarian cancers.

Delays in diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer are all too common with significant barriers for women to access testing. New Zealand has the worst emergency ovarian cancer diagnosis rates or comparable health systems.

42% of women diagnosed via the emergency department (ED) will die within a year compared to 17% diagnosed via primary care. Almost half of all NZ women are diagnosed via ED. Even with a prompt diagnosis, chronic disproportional under- investment in research means survival rates are poor compared to many better- funded cancers. In the past 20 years, deaths from ovarian cancer have increased by 46%.

Watch this space!

The 2nd National Project of Aotearoa New Zealand report will be released in mid-August 2024. This will cover progress during the period of 1st May 2023 – 30th April 2024.

The National Project Team

More women's cancer health projects

Timor Leste (Timor) is progressing a **women's cancer clinic** in Dili with partners from Soroptimists in Joondalup Western Australia (where Pascoela and Maria received scholarships a decade ago), SI Logan Queensland, UNAA in Northern Territory, and philanthropic organization in Japan. The new UN Regional Director for Timor is previous UN Women Director who is passionate about future steps. At the moment, the project relies on volunteer surgeons, with limited or no early intervention nor organized early detection. Image what we could do to help with self-managed pap smear tests as we have in Australia, now.

We are so proud of the advancement of **Fiji and the Pink-tober Bus** now in its eleventh year, saving many lives every year, and extending the quality of life for many other women. UNESCAP recognizes this advancement in its reporting. Thank you to all Soroptimists who spread the word, organize community marches with local councils, cater for clinics, and support women in every stage of their diagnoses.

PROJECTS & APPEALS



We deeply appreciate the support that the Brilliant Futures Fund has received, enabling us to pave the way for women and girls. **Your donation dollar can be traced directly to females and families in our own Federation.** The ongoing and completed projects are a testament to the generosity of donors like you. If you or your club haven't had a chance to contribute recently, we kindly ask for your assistance this month. Your donation will allow us to open another round of funding, empowering clubs to propose projects that will foster educational and economic opportunities for women and girls.

Discover more about our work on the SISEAP website [HERE](#). Updates on current projects were highlighted at the Federation Conference.

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](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



Please see below Soroptimist International's Where We Stand Position Papers that have been revised in the last year. They are all available on the SI website at the links below, or by going to "Soroptimist's Area" at the top right of the SI website homepage, then clicking "Position Papers".

- Access to Education and Training: [Access-to-Education-and-Training-WWSPP-Dec-2023 Approved-Final.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
- Climate Change: [Climate-Change-WWSPP-March-2024 Approved-Final.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
- Criminal Justice Systems: [Criminal-Justice-Systems-WWSPP-March-2024 Approved-Final.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
- Economic Empowerment: [Economic-Empowerment-WWSPP-Dec-2023 Approved-Final.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
- Food Security: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Food-Security-WWSPP-May-2024 Approved-Final.pdf>
- Poverty: [Poverty-WWSPP-Dec-2023 Approved-Final.pdf \(soroptimistinternational.org\)](#)

- Social Protection Systems: [Social-Protection-Systems-WWSPP-Dec-2023_Approved-Final.pdf \(sroptimistinternational.org\)](#)
- Water and Sanitation: https://www.sroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Water-and-Sanitation-WWSPP-May-2024_Approved-Final.pdf
- Women, Peace and Security: https://www.sroptimistinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Women-Peace-and-Security-WWSPP-May-2024_Approved-Final.pdf

The full list of WWSPPs can be found [HERE](#) on the SI website.

AROUND THE FEDERATION



SISEAP World Environment Month

UN World Environment Day Theme - 5 June 2024:

Land Restoration, Desertification & Drought Resilience

Clubs around the Federation took up the challenge to address the issues. SI Bayside and Bangsar were consistent in highlighting issues throughout the month through their Facebook campaigns. Connecting information to SDGs and local practices. Read more [HERE](#).

Soroptimist International Region of Malaysia celebrated Environment Month with Vibrant Community Initiative.

22 June 2024, Bentong, Pahang – In a lively celebration of June Environment Month, Soroptimist International (SI) Region of Malaysia showcased its impactful Sustainable Food Security Project in Bentong, just 80 km from Kuala Lumpur. This remarkable event brought together Malaysian Soroptimists to tackle one of the world's most urgent challenges: sustainable food security.



Read more [HERE](#).

PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

Reminder

for

July

The programme team is aware that clubs have been very busy with their programme work. Clubs are requested to input reports into the data base as they complete any activities, projects, donations, advocacy or scholarships.

REJECTED

REPORTS

Clubs are advised that any rejected reports that were contained in the data base from 2019 to 2022 are now deleted.

Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact SISEAP Database Support: siseaprogrammedatabase@siswp.org

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website [HERE](#). Pauline Glover, Zone Coordinator 3 is writing stories on a few of our

special days that also go to our Facebook. Thank you Jess for making us look so professional with your timely updates.

UN Days

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.

Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISEAP website](#) and log in using your member login. Go to the **'Members Area'** in yellow at the top left of screen. Or if you are already logged in, [click this link](#). Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.

Copy for the August 2024 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday 1 August 2024**.

Please email your submissions to siseaprogramme@siswp.org Thank you.



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This email was sent to all Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific Clubs

Our mailing address is:

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

PO Box 1400

STRAWBERRY HILLS, NSW 2012

Australia

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