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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 April 2025 edition of the Programme Action News

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



Happy Easter, Happy Buddha's birthday and Happy Eid. This change of season brings time of reflection of past efforts and consolidating future plans. This is the case with SISEAP too, as we prepare for Membership month, our AGM and Federation meetings in May. We are pleased to accept 24 entries for the Best Practice Awards. although the most innovative projects of 2024 did not submit formal entries for BPA.

In reflection, March was a mammoth month with many

projects in our clubs, IWD events throughout the month, and UN Commission for the Status of Women revisiting 30 years of Beijing Platform for Action. It is the end of an era for UNCSW, as we look to revitalize gender equality with an international lens. There were both wins and losses in the final decisions where only 159 countries agreed new approaches to climate, cyber security, adolescents and ALL women - contrasted by the loss of a female's control of decisions on her own reproductive system. We are proud that our words in the SISEAP statement on adolescents [HERE](#) were used in the final CSW resolutions. [HERE](#)

SI and SISEAP were proud presenters during CSW, and partnered with diverse groups to be stronger together on emerging matters. SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh presented on "Save Mother Earth" as our theme for the collaboration of our 5 Federations. Joanne showcased students from across the Federation countries with environmental art competition and RAMSAR Shorebirds projects (SIMINI), view the powerpoint [HERE](#). I presented in women's climate health sessions - showcasing Pacific existential threats, Asian climate heatwaves, and mapping specific health impacts resulting from specific climate factors, with statistics on how females bear the brunt disproportionately, you can view it [HERE](#). I also participated in the Commonwealth Women's Mechanism in an intergenerational conversation; and in Commonwealth Strategic planning to 2030 under the new Secretary General Shirley Botchley.

Almost all of our Delegates participated in the parallel SISEAP webinar - Adolescents -Agents for Advocacy as we appreciated the vulnerability of the girls aged 9 to 19 through danger, disease, distress, duress, and denied freedoms. Cherrie Power showcased projects for education for personal safety (SI Melaka), Rhonda McCormack presented the Aspire Program (SI Brisbane Waters) shaping mental health towards healthy relationships with self and others for 300 school girls per year. Judy Toll showcased understanding of climate through art with SI Griffith photography, SI Damansara Upcycling, SI Petaling Jaya Canvas bags beat plastic pollution, and the SISEAP 2024 Federation art competition. Sarah Barnbrook discussed Advocacy for safeguarding against cyber-crime with E-safety toolkits for teenagers - SI Melbourne. The following week Sarah Barnbrook hosted a discussion session with former Police Investigator on teenage cyber safety and what we can do about it - Unsafe by Design. PowerPoints are available on our website. Later in March, Sarah won the international volunteer of the year in UK with former Princess Sarah

Fergusson. Read about it [HERE](#).

Because of limitations on CSW visas, many attended online. There were sometimes 20 simultaneous sessions, and some side events were not recorded and were oversubscribed. The future of CSW is under review to honour original objectives (representation, inclusiveness, sharing innovative policy and practice) and to acknowledge future reforms of Pact for the Future, UN80, with only 5 more years of unmet SDGs, and HLPF accountability. Our joint submission on CSW revitalization is being drafted.

The Programme Team has been busy preparing for public reporting on our clubs 2024 achievements, judging Brilliant Future Fund applications under a new system, judging Best Practice Awards under our 8 objectives, building Environment Month Toolkit for clubs to plan for June campaigns, case studies of High Level Political Forum for SI, a video and more. We also make time to reflect on how we could make things better for empowering clubs and members. We do listen to your complaints and suggestions.

**Dr  
Programme**

**Donnell  
Convenor**

**Davis,  
2024-2026**

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



  
Soroptimist International  
South East Asia Pacific

President's Special Appeal  
"Myanmar Rising: Earthquake  
Response Fund"

[Donate Now](#)

The advertisement features a background image of Myanmar pagodas under a hazy sky. At the bottom, there are three smaller images: a pile of rubble, the Myanmar flag with a white star, and another pile of rubble.

## **President's Special Appeal: "Myanmar Rising: Earthquake Response Fund"**

Dear Soroptimists and Friends,

The powerful earthquake which has shaken Myanmar, left families homeless, communities in ruins, and futures uncertain. The devastation is immense — but so is our determination to help.

**Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific** has launched the **"Myanmar Rising: Earthquake Response Fund"** to bring urgent relief and long-term recovery to those most affected — especially women and children.

We are proud to support the **Emergency Action Alliance**, a trusted collective of leading Australian aid organisations, who are working together to deliver fast, effective, and coordinated help on the ground in Myanmar.

**All donations to this fund will go directly to the Emergency Action Alliance.**

[\*\*DONATE NOW\*\*](#)

Your contribution will help provide:

- Emergency food, water, and shelter
- Medical aid and trauma support
- Recovery and rebuilding of communities
- Empowerment and livelihood support for women and families

Let us stand with Myanmar. Let us help them rise again — stronger and safer.

**Every donation counts. Every act of kindness matters.**

Please give today.

***Joanne Yeoh***

***SISEAP President 2024-2026***

[\*president.joanne@siseap.org\*](mailto:president.joanne@siseap.org)

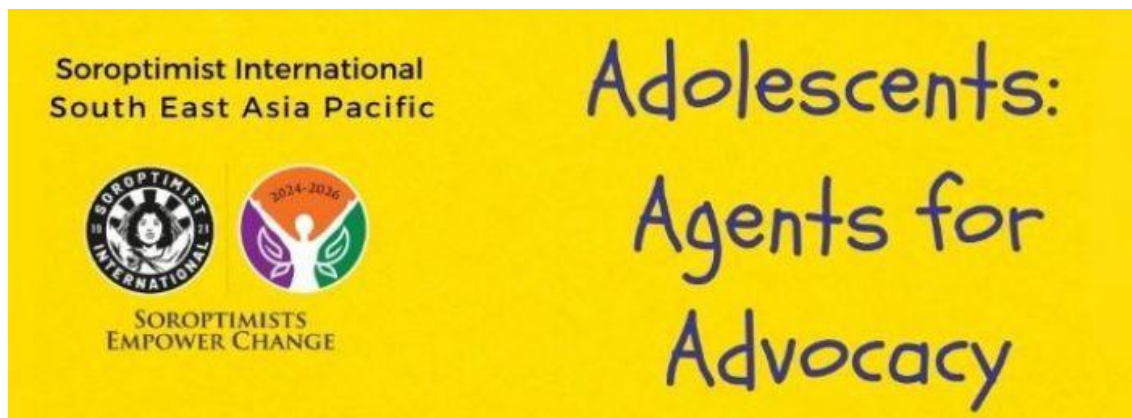
# ADVOCACY WORK

## CSW69

The CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) meetings are an important platform for advancing gender equality and women's rights globally. CSW69 was a significant event for SISEAP with President Joanne Yeoh and Dr. Donnell Davis lead a large delegation.

Read Programme team reflections on sessions attended can be viewed [HERE](#).  
CSW69 Political Declaration can be viewed [HERE](#)  
SI CSW69 website link with comprehensive stories can be viewed [HERE](#)  
(part of) Short Presentation for UNAA Status of Women Network Australia can be viewed [HERE](#)

[INFORMATION CSW69](#)



[LISTEN TO SISEAP CSW WEBINAR](#)

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**Federation**

**Public**

**Speaking**

**Competition**

It is with great excitement that I introduce our Federation-wide Youth Public Speaking Competition — a dynamic initiative that not only empowers young voices but also strengthens the bonds between our clubs, regions, and countries.

This competition represents the very heart of what Soroptimist International stands for: education, empowerment, and collaboration. By bringing together our clubs across South East Asia Pacific, we are creating a platform for our youth to share their ideas, showcase their talents, and most importantly, speak passionately about the issues that matter most — the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through this competition, we are offering our youth not just an opportunity to build confidence and develop leadership skills, but also the chance to be heard on an international stage. We are equally offering our clubs the chance to collaborate across borders, forge new friendships, and deepen the spirit of unity within our Federation.

I warmly encourage all regions and countries to actively participate and support this exciting initiative. Together, let us inspire a generation of powerful speakers and passionate changemakers — and show the world what the Soroptimist spirit can achieve when we unite for a common purpose.

**Joanne**

***SISEAP President 2024-2026***

**Yeoh**



## HAVE YOUR SAY

**Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific**

Every day members of Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific make a positive difference to the lives of women and girls by providing opportunities to Educate, Enable and Empower.



**SISEAP contributed AUD \$4.5 M value to society in volunteer hours**  
SISEAP donated AUD\$333,366 to 3rd parties



**2024 Impact**  
On Women and Girls




- Strengthened **FOOD SECURITY** by providing training and food to **1100** women and girls
- EDUCATIONAL** opportunities given to **9560** women and girls through projects, scholarships and donations of **AUD\$478,000**
- Worked to protect women and girls from **VIOLENCE** through **1300** advocacy hours expending **AUD\$118,000**
- Provided **AUD\$117,000** project funds to **ECONOMICALLY EMPOWER** **3135** women and girls
- Supported **1000** women and girls and contributed **AUD\$5,400** **DISASTER MITIGATION** assistance
- Contributed **AUD\$12,000** to **ENVIRONMENTAL** projects which assisted **3400** women and girls.
- Tackled **CONFLICT RESOLUTION** through **226** advocacy hours
- Expended **AUD\$252,000** to improve the **HEALTH** of **19,000** women and girls

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific  
www.siseap.org

As part of our preparations for CSW69 a postcard was created to showcase our 2024 impact. Clubs can access the postcard for use in their projects, advocacy and information sharing on the SISEAP Trello Board below.

## SISEAP TRELLO

 **12 CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN**

<b>1</b> GIRL CHILD	<b>2</b> WOMEN IN POWER	<b>3</b> INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS	<b>4</b> ECONOMY	<b>5</b> VAW	<b>6</b> ARMED CONFLICT
<b>7</b> HUMAN RIGHTS	<b>8</b> HEALTH	<b>9</b> ENVIRONMENT	<b>10</b> EDUCATION	<b>11</b> MEDIA	<b>12</b> POVERTY

12 Critical Areas of Concern flagged in the Platform of Action © UN Women



## International Mother Earth Day 22 April 2025

UNEP- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 22 April as International Mother Earth Day through a resolution adopted in 2009. The Day recognises the Earth and its ecosystems as humanity's common home and the need to protect her to enhance people's livelihoods, counteract climate change, and stop the collapse of biodiversity.

Climate Change, man-made changes to nature as well as crimes that disrupt biodiversity, such as deforestation, land-use change, intensified agriculture and livestock production, or the growing illegal wildlife trade, polluting our oceans, can accelerate the speed of destruction of the planet.

Mother Earth is clearly urging a call to action - a need to shift to a more sustainable economy that works for both people and the planet. Protecting the planet is everyone's responsibility.



### World Environment Day/Month - June

#### [UNEP](#)

World Environment Day 2025 has a thematic focus on ending plastic pollution. UNEP's global campaign uses the symbolism of nature—balance, circularity, and unity—to inspire reflection and action to #BeatPlasticPollution.

SISEAP will be taking up the challenge to end plastic pollution with a focus on microplastics and how they are affecting all aspects of life on Earth. The key messages will revolve around SDG 3/6/12/14.

Stay tuned the World Environment Month Toolkit will be available within the next week on the SISEAP Trello.

[ENVIRONMENT MONTH - TRELLO](#)

## BEST PRACTICE AWARDS

Thank you to all clubs who submitted Best Practice nominations. The Programme team are looking forward to reading the submissions and presenting the awards at the Federation Meeting.



## PROJECTS & APPEALS



**Round 9 is now open & closes on the  
30th June**

Does your club have a project which requires funding?, consider applying now for funding of up to \$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.

[READ THE GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

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](#)

Now, we need your help! 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.

[DONATE NOW](#)



The Programme Team is seeking feedback from clubs on the **Federation project - The Brilliant Futures Fund Process**. We invite all clubs to provide feedback to the Programme Team via the feedback form.

The Brilliant Futures Fund, provides clubs with the opportunity to submit an application for a grant of up to \$10,000 AUD. A club can nominate a new project or a new phase of an ongoing project. Whilst initially the Programme team received excellent response from club and applications for grants, this round there has been very little interest, and the Programme team wish to engage with clubs.

[BFF FEEDBACK](#)

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## 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



Listen to Soroptimist International President Siew Yong Gnanalingam's presentation about the projects currently being delivered by the foundation [HERE](#)

## UN DAYS

UN Days and their links can now be found on our Members Programme Page on the website. Pauline Glover, Zone Coordinator 3 is writing stories on a few of our special days that also go to our Facebook.

[UN DAYS](#)

FROM SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL



## [SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)

### SI Mongolia: Friendship Tour Invitation 19-25 August 2025

Thank you for your interest. The Friendship tour is now fully booked. Looking forward to receiving information about the tour.



## AROUND THE FEDERATION

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.

**Women's**

**Health**

**Projects**

**2024**

We are pleased to highlight some of the many Women's Health Projects during 2024. **19,000 girls and women benefitted** from your hard work:

1. SI NZ - Ovarian Cancer
2. SI Brisbane Water - The Glen for Women Rehabilitation Centre 2024
3. SI North Canterbury - "Brave" Providing tools to help young people deal with physical and sexual abuse.
4. SI Penang - "My Vision, My Future" Project - Projects featured previously
5. My Body (SIG)
6. SI Griffith - New community meeting and garden space @ Don Best Park
7. SI Griffith - Saving Lives in Griffith (Stage 1)
8. SI Damansara - My Rules: Teen Workshop Teen Sexuality Education
9. SI Townsville Breakwater - Safe Nights 2024
10. SI Moreton North Inc - 2024 Shining A Light on Invisible Illnesses Project Management Overview - Acquired brain injury- Moreton North

11. SI Albany - Multi-sensory Kits
12. SI Lautoka - Child Abuse Awareness 2024
13. SI Lautoka - Pink October
14. SI Moreton North Inc - 2024 Dementia Friendly Communities

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### **SI Inner City Sydney Project: Refugee Family Settlement**



The Australian government has appointed Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) to co- design and administer a new Australian community sponsorship program for refugees, known as 'CRISP' (Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot).

SI Inner City Sydney registered as a community Support group of CRISP. They were matched with an Hazara Afghan Mother and her daughter and set about preparing for their arrival. They secured temporary accommodation, furnished and fitted it out with the necessities. Members were rostered to assist the family in any way. Helped with the tenancy agreement, opened a bank account, visited Government agencies for ID cards, transport cards. Helped the mother set up a computer and the internet. Then set about finding more permanent accommodation in an area with Farsi speakers, checking out amenities, shopping areas, visiting real estate agencies. Once they found suitable accommodations, they scrubbed every surface, painted every wall, installed a stove, and other appliances and furnishings. They arranged appointments to Drs. Dentists, trauma counselling etc.

This project required research, training of members, practical work and significant fundraising.

One testimonial: "This is a marvellous project. I'm learning so much about refugees and all the things they must do in such a short time when they arrive."

Other clubs are encouraged to search the Programme Database to look up this and/or other projects to learn more about how clubs like SI Inner City Sydney successfully executed their

project to help this refugee family settle into their new environment. Go to: Search Reports, and follow the prompts.

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### SISEAP PHOTO COMPETITION



Does Calling on all clubs to submit their best action shot of a club project/activity or club membership activity. The most impactful images will be considered to appear on the cover of the Company Annual Report, and form a image repository, as the communication team are always seeking quality projects to promote our work. Your club project want to appear on the cover of the SISEAP Company Annual Report.

You could win a \$30.00 gift voucher to spend at HQ Shop.

The competition is open until **the 26th of April.**

[UPLOAD YOUR IMAGE HERE](#)

## PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

April Tip

Sheet -

Multiply

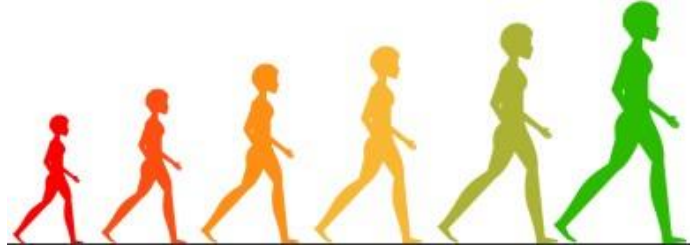
your

impact

This month's tip sheet assists clubs to reflect on their International Women's Day events and how reports can be written to capture what has been done. The tip sheet can be accessed below.

## APRIL TIP SHEET

### DID YOU KNOW?



## Be the Change

*Click the image to download.*

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.

### 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 April 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Friday 2 May 2025**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org) Thank you.



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