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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 November 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



Dear Sisters,

Late October and early November 2025 provided many opportunities for our clubs and advocates. I had the pleasure of meeting many Soroptimists from Kapiti, Wellington, Taupo, Rotorua, Tauranga, North Shore and Auckland clubs in person. Their diverse efforts were most informative for me. Your hospitality is most appreciated with story [HERE](#).

The **UNGA80** - the 80th anniversary of the General Assembly of the UN was a time to get innovative amid 4 major reforms. Many of our Prime Ministers and Foreign Ministers made impressive promises for our countries. (See Indonesian PM [HERE](#) and others) On the ground, we celebrated in different ways and 80 photo-stories of individuals were shared, you can view it [HERE](#). Individual stories can be viewed [HERE](#).

The **International Day of the Girl Child** continues to be celebrated, because our good news stories inspire others. World Climate Day now carries on into the **UNFCCC COP30** on climate financing for innovation, science, food security, agriculture, local renewable energy generation, and community mitigation and adaptation for social resilience. Online sessions and recordings of COP30 sessions [HERE](#). SISEAP has been delivering on these themes for many years, so we will **showcase ours** at SISEAP Federation Conference in Kota Kinabalu in May 2026. Our International Development partners in our region are singing our songs and Soroptimists have the opportunity to get stronger. UNDP Engagement seeks our stories, and we seek long term relationships.

Please note the new SISEAP 7 day advocacy guide below, with the SISEAP definition of advocacy.

I am pleased to share the outcomes of the **Myanmar Disaster appeal** collection **\$3123**. I met with the CEO Action Aid - Michelle Higelin and the representative from Myanmar communities - Nau Ei Ei Min.

**CSW70** in March 2026 has some logistics deadlines now. See CSW70 section below. Thank you for responding to our **expressions of interest** to come in person. At CSW in March, we are planning an online parallel event called **South East Asia Pacific Sisters - Learning for Life** to showcase our projects and advocacy. We are pleased to announce New Zealand CSW70 scholarship winner Wendy Logan, and we invite nominations for the one SIEAP scholarship, below. Self-funded delegates are encouraged to apply for SISEAP accreditation in order to access the UN buildings, and to participate in formal sessions, side events and NGO events. **Online applications close 7 December** using the google form below.

The Programme team is pleased to share upcoming online webinars on

- 16 days webinar on coercive control - 29 November 330pm AEST. See below
- Malaysian Region webinar - This is My Space - proactive management of cyber safety.
- Human Rights in December with Independent Human Rights Commissioners from 4 countries. TBA (Mongolia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia)
- SI was active at the Human Rights Council [HERE](#)

Every month the **Programme team** learns more about your impactful efforts from all our clubs who report. Please submit your work (please transfer words from your Facebook to the project database) and make sure you are properly acknowledged. **Deadline is 31 December 2025.** Contact your Zone coordinator if you have any problems.

1. Robyn - NSW, Fiji, Mongolia, Singapore, Hong Kong
2. Nooraini - Victoria, West Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar
3. Pauline - Queensland, Aotearoa NZ, Samoa, Cambodia
4. Elizabeth - South Australia, Tasmania, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea.

Our Assistant Programme Directors are: Rhonda McCormack and Dr Saradha Narayanan

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

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**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM**

# 16 Days Of Activism

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



16 Days of Activism  
#EndOnlineViolence

## 16 Days of Activism Campaign

Soroptimist International 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence 2025 campaign webpage is now available on the SI website and ready to share.

You can access it [HERE](#)

This year's campaign focuses on helping to prevent online violence against all women and girls, because online violence is real violence. There are many steps for awareness and advocacy for your clubs in your communities.

SI encourages all Soroptimists to participate by sharing and promoting the campaign content across social media between 25 November and 10 December. You'll find everything you need on the webpage, including:

- Downloadable suggested social media copy
- Downloadable campaign graphics

These can also be found on the SISEAP Trello board with additional resources that may be of use for the campaign. SISEAP website page with more information [HERE](#).

### Webinars:

**SI Australia in conjunction with Zonta, Rotary and Country Women's Association** present their Webinar: **Coercive Control Uncovered — Awareness, Action, Advocacy**

Date: **Saturday 29 November 2025 Time: 3.30 pm AEDT** Register [HERE](#)

**SI Malaysia - This is MY space - proactive management of cyber safety** for 16 days.

SISEAP will convene a webinar across 4 countries to interview 4 Human Rights independent commissioners. Date in December to be confirmed

**SI 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN**

## SISEAP 16 DAYS TRELLO BOARD

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### SI Bangsar Innovative 16 Days Campaign

SI Bangsar have prepared a campaign for the 16 Days of Activism, title "**This is #MySPACE; DRAW THE LINE Challenge**".

Here's a sneak peak at some aspects of SICB's campaign:



1. The standee that carries the Challenge . The soft copy is circulated around and request for return videos , photos and messages which we can post up. The hashtags already mean the message will be sent around .
2. Placards we use when people stand behind the "LINE" they draw.
3. A snippet of DAY 8- REPORT ABUSE OR HARRASSMENT- messaging vide slides- different forms of messages would appear on Tik Tok, Instagram and Facebook

Read their full report via the link below, this may provide you with ideas to run a similar campaign.

[READ THEIR FULL REPORT HERE](#)

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## 'Break the Silence, End the Violence'



### SI will host 2025

Join us on Human Rights Day, 10 December at 13:00 GMT, (this will be **10 December 2025 midnight AEDT**) for '**Break the Silence, End the Violence**', a powerful Zoom webinar bringing together advocates and experts to shine a light on ending violence and upholding human dignity worldwide. Be part of the movement for justice, equality, and change.

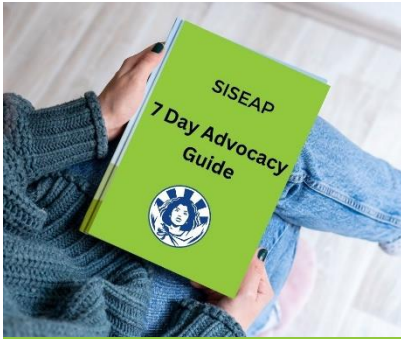
[REGISTER IN ADVANCE HERE](#)

## ADVOCACY WORK

### A New Advocacy Tool

This 7 Day Advocacy Guide makes it simple to start creating significant change in your community right now. This publication can be shared with your community to gauge interest from potential members. Start Your Advocacy journey in just 7 days with our new guide.

Although this guide is intended to entice interested members of the public in SISEAP and its programme work, information in the guide will be helpful to all members.



[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

## SI Brisbane

### "We're Not Just Talking the Talk, We're Writing the Policy: Soroptimist

International Brisbane Takes the Fight for Gender Equality to the Australian Senate" Senate Inquiry into Australia's Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system: SI Brisbane is proud to announce that their submission to the Senate Inquiry into Australia's Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) has been accepted and published by the Senate.



Our submission called for urgent, gender-responsive reform to ensure that every child in Australia has access to safe, high-quality, and equitable early learning, and that every educator (most of whom are women) is fairly valued, supported, and protected.

We highlighted key challenges in workforce shortages, safety oversight, and service inequity across Queensland and Australia, and outline practical reforms, including:

- National pay and career standards for educators
- Stronger safety and compliance frameworks
- A unified national Working with Children Check
- Equity-focused funding and quality improvement programs
- Recognition of ECEC as essential national infrastructure

Together, we can build a childcare system that truly supports children, women, and

communities.

SI Brisbane are to be congratulated.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



### SISEAP Federation Public Speaking Competition

This year's theme, "**Empowered Voices, Sustainable Choices**," encourages young people to explore how individuals and communities can make informed, ethical, and bold decisions that support a more sustainable and equitable future. There has been considerable interest in the public speaking competition and we look forward to sharing the speeches of some of these young women in the the new year. Submissions must be made by the **10th of December 2025**.

Some handy reminders:

When submitting your entries:

1. Submit the completed Application Form which includes a short summary of your participant's speech (max 250 words) with their name, age, and contact details and a photo of selected speaker.
2. Submit the video of their speeches by 10 December 2025 - [HERE](#)
3. Each participant's completed consent form for use of Personal Data and Media consent form, must accompany the submission.

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](#).

**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. If you are planning to attend CSW70, please commence your application for US Visa now, at this government website [HERE](#) be aware of unofficial US visa websites.

We are planning an online parallel event called **South East Asia Pacific Sisters - Learning for Life** to showcase our projects and advocacy. We are pleased to announce New Zealand CSW70 scholarship winner **Wendy Logan**, and we invite nominations for the one SIEAP scholarship, below.

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## Nominations NOW open for SISEAP Members to attend CSW70



There is **one (1) scholarship position (\$2,000 AUD)** towards travel and accommodation costs.

There are self funded positions to attend CSW70 available. All expenses are to be covered by the successful nominees.

Nominate via the link below.

### Applications need to be received by 7 December

If applying for the nominated position, please commence your VISA application NOW. If you require a letter of support to accompany your visa application, please contact Donnell Davis on [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org). CSW Information Kits will be forwarded to successful applicants.

Information Cover Letter can be found [HERE](#)

[NOMINATE AS A SISEAP CSW DELEGATE](#)

## PROJECTS & APPEALS

## FEDERATION PROJECTS



Rounds 8, 9 and 10 are undergoing due process and clarification.

Recipients will be announced once all processes completed.

Thank you to those who applied.

[READ GUIDELINES & APPLY HERE](#)

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### **Brilliant Futures Fund**

Your contribution assists in clubs continuing their valuable grass roots project driven work to improve the lives of women and girls.

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.

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](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)

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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**

December 10 is Sotoptimist International Foundation Day, traditionally the day Soroptimists support the SI Foundation appeal, by donating via your club or individually to continue the foundations work.

## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

### United Nations News

We have the opportunity to sign this as the Status of Women Network of UNAA.



[READ AND SIGN HERE](#)

### Women Peace and Security asks to:

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

**COP30** Nov 10-19 - Climate resilience and financing our common futures daily updates can be viewed [HERE](#). Statements: Global & Pacific, read it [HERE](#)

Indigenous Treaty signed with acknowledgement UN OHCHC, read it [HERE](#)

### UNGA80 in summary:

- Resolution - **142 countries vote for a 2-state solution** for Palestine and Israel, so people can be self determining with pathways to sustaining peace by helping to rebuild just systems and functional capacity within the countries. [HERE](#)
- UNGA80 annual report (stats) United Nations Annual Report 2025 | United Nations, can be viewed [HERE](#).

- Foreign Minister Penny Wong addressed UNGA Women Peace & Security, view [HERE](#)
- Declaration to protect humanitarian works and volunteers
- Commonwealth Foreign Ministers can be read [HERE](#). SISEAP has 7 countries in the Commonwealth
- Prime Minister Anthony Albanese addressed UNGA to support Pacific Family and Asian neighbours. Watch it [HERE](#)
- Australia and Pacific – Oceans policy and governance systems hotlinks
- Planetary Health-check video & detailed, watch it [HERE](#)

[UN DAYS](#)



[SISEAP EVENTS HERE](#)



## SISEAP Conference

1-3 May 2026

Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

Early Bird Registrations close 31st January

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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### 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.



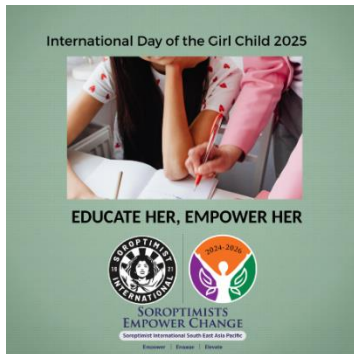
[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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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.

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# AROUND THE FEDERATION



## International Day of the Girl Child 11th October

The International Day of the Girl Child focused attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. The 2025 SI campaign theme '**Educate Her, Empower Her**' focussed attention to our tagline 'Educate, Empower and Enable' which underscores a core part of our mission. The title also reinforces the idea that education is a powerful pathway to empowerment for every girl. Many clubs undertook activities around this day, some of which are highlighted below.

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### SI Penang

On October 14th, SI Penang officially launched their first Digital Library and Studio at a local secondary girls school here in Penang. Fully sponsored by SI Penang, they converted an old classroom to a bright, exciting and inspiring facility focused specifically on the development of digital skills and knowledge for 322 students. 84% of them are in the low socio economic income group (B40 - Below 40).

SI Penang fully sponsored brand new items such as 5 desktop computers, 1 brand new 65" interactive smartboard, 1 set of video light, 1 set of studio soft box, 1 unit of air conditioner and 1 DSLR camera.

The teachers and students, with the help of many parents, used their creativity and handy skills to refurbish this room. It has now become a space conducive to digital learning, creative writing and multimedia production. Furthermore, it is also a facility that is

developing students' skills into e-commerce, business development and strategic planning using digital applications to enhance their skills and knowledge.

It provides a space for many underprivileged students of the school who do not have internet access and devices at home. This space allows these students to finish their homework and assignments at school. Combined with 8 used laptops previously donated to the school, more students are able to access their work online and enhance the quality and impact of their learning.

The official launch was attended by Mr Jagdeep Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of Penang and the Minister for Human Capital, Science and Technology. He praised Soroptimist International for advancing the quality of education for underprivileged girls and providing the platform for more effective and impactful learning.

More information and photos can be found on their Facebook [HERE](#).

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### **SI New Plymouth – Frocktober Ovarian Cancer Project**

Frocktober campaign is about getting people to wear frocks to raise awareness of Ovarian Cancer, the symptoms and the importance of early diagnosis. Throughout the month of October, participants in exercise classes around our region were invited to wear frocks and help raise awareness of Ovarian Cancer. Many did, including some men!





Instead of paying for the session, people could donate to the fund to raise money for Ovarian Cancer research. A talk was given at the start of each session about Ovarian cancer, the symptoms and the importance of early diagnosis. Pamphlets were made available for distribution.


In all instances, it was a lot of fun and people commented that they learnt something more about Ovarian Cancer.

In total 328 people participated, and a total of 169 pamphlets about Ovarian Cancer were distributed. A total of AUD \$1,390 was raised.

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**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL  
AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT**  
*Celebrating the achievements of Western Australian women*



### **Western Australian Soroptimist International Award for Achievement 2025**

The Western Australian Soroptimist International Award for Achievement selection process is currently underway. This award recognises a Western Australian woman who has made a significant contribution in her chosen field and to the community. It provides a monetary grant of up to a maximum of \$10,000 for the recipient to undertake a project over two years that will benefit women and girls.

This Award has been presented for over 30 years and is a collective project supported by Soroptimist International clubs in Western Australia. It is made on a biennial basis, to a nominated candidate considered worthy of receiving the Award.

This year again we have had the opportunity to hear about some amazing women who have presented projects that will improve the lives of women and girls in significant ways.

We invite you to follow our Western Australian Facebook page [HERE](#) over the next few weeks as we highlight some of these women and give some detail on their projects.

The recipient of this Award will be announced at a special event on **22 November, 2025**.

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## SI Griffith

SI Griffith have previously won a Best Practice award for their Moorambilla Workshops and Residency Camps and Concerts. Moorambilla Voices is a children's choir that brings opportunities to the youth of rural and remote communities.



Student workshops were organised which empowered youth to "think big and dream wide" through the power of music and movement. Students were then offered the opportunity to join the 2025 Moorambilla Voices Residency Program and perform at the Annual Gala Concert in Dubbo, NSW. The program continues in 2025 and has had significant impact on the students. Read below the statement from a parent.

SI Griffith liaised with Moorambilla Voices Executive Director inviting them to come to Griffith. They contacted schools, secured a venue, and catering is supplied by their members. Members take on the voluntary role of supervising at the Primary Girls, Miyyay camp and Gala Concert. They were able to support the Griffith Miyyay students attending the program and Concert. Three students were supported financially to the amount of \$300 each. Three Griffith parents also volunteered as supervisors and were enriched by the exposure to this program as well. One Griffith parent was invited to address the VIP function to share how this program has impacted the wellbeing, confidence and creative abilities of her two adolescents.

Impact statement from a parent (her daughter was a recipient of SI Griffith financial support) and supervisor:

*"The impact Moorambilla has had on my daughter, is enormous. Just six months before her first camp, she was diagnosed with Autism. That first camp was hard for both of us, but I could see the difference it was making to her confidence. This place gave her a space to belong—somewhere she didn't have to worry about how people would see her. She was 100% accepted and supported. She didn't have to hide; she could just be herself and thrive. This is something no therapy could achieve.*

*That confidence has grown every year since. Last year, she even auditioned for the school musical and played a very memorable part in Mary Poppins. But the most incredible milestone happened this year. After struggling with separation her whole life, she had the courage to join MAXedOut and stay in a cabin without me. To some, this may sound small, but in her world, it is HUGE. This showed me how much strength she's gained and how safe she feels at camp.*

*I could spend the rest of my life trying to repay this program, and it would never be enough. It has changed my family's life in the most amazing way. And I know our experience is far from unique and that is the real Moorambilla Magic. This isn't just a music camp. It's a place that changes the lives of kids just like mine, giving them the courage and confidence to truly belong. I'm so proud to be a small part of that."*

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## PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

### TOP TIP November 2025

The end of the year is busy for many clubs as we complete our projects and activities and consider our end of year donations. This is a good time to check that you have submitted all your Projects, Activities, Advocacy, Scholarships and Donations for 2025. Clubs should have all submissions for 2025 entered into the Programme Reporting Database by the **31st December 2025**.

Thank you to all those clubs who have been submitting throughout the year, it has helped the Programme team greatly. Not only spreading the workload across the year, but also allowing the Federation to showcase various projects throughout the year.

Please cross check club records to ensure nothing has been missed and all your hard work throughout the year will be acknowledged in the Federations Annual Report.

You can:

- Use the SEARCH function (using start date as 01/01/2025 and end date 31/12/2025) along with your Club name to get a list of everything you have submitted for the year.
- Compare this to Club Minutes

- Compare this to your club's Facebook posts. NOTE: You can cut and paste your Facebook text straight into the description area in the database when creating reports for the database
- Don't forget to check your Drafts in the Programme Reporting Database at the end of the year to ensure all your reports have been submitted.

A reminder - our reporting year is from the first of January (01/01/2025) to the 31st of December 2025 (31/12/2025). If your project runs over the year you should only record the portion that was completed in 2025 and create a part 2 of your project and report that in your 2026 reports.

Also don't forget that you cannot submit your reports until the work on them has finished for the year, this ensures that you will record the accurate hours spent on the project or activity and the final costs. If you have activities and projects that happen towards the end of the year, you can always prepare them and save them as a Draft in the database. Then when final details have been completed when you can update and SUBMIT. To SAVE a draft, you must have something in all fields, so when waiting for additional information- just put PENDING in the field and update this before submitting your final report.

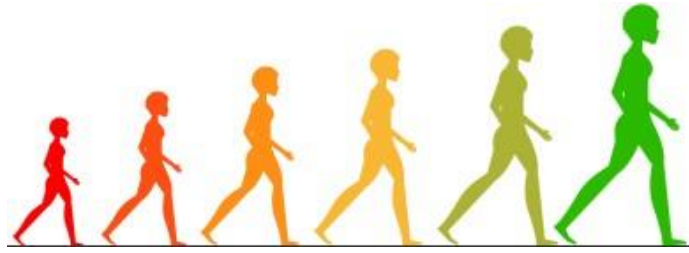
### **Some Useful SDGs**

- Brilliant Futures Fund donations use Objective 1 Education / SDG4
- SI Foundation donations use Objective1 Education/SDG17, Partnerships for Goals
- KIVA donations use Objective 3 Economic Empowerment/ SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth/ Target 8.3
- Book award/ Donations to primary and Secondary schools Objective1 Education/ SDG4 Quality Education/ Target 4.1 ... ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

As always please contact the Programme team if you need any help or advice.

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**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 Fund



CSW Information



Programme Committee



Best Practice Awards



Goals & Objectives



SI Global Voice Newsletter

Stay connected and informed from Soroptimist International! Click on the image above

to 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 December 2025 eSPAN edition is required by **Monday, 1 December 2025**. Please email your submissions to [programme.donnell@siseap.org](mailto:programme.donnell@siseap.org)  
Thank you.



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