

Welcome to the October edition of Soroptimist Programme Action News (SPAN).

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International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



## BREAKING NEWS:

### SISWP PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL APPEAL: "SOROPTIMIST MAKMUR INDONESIA" TSUNAMI & EARTHQUAKES APPEAL

Indonesia has suffered a multitude of earthquakes in recent weeks, Lombok, Bali and now Sulawesi. SISWP Federation President Anusha Santhirasthipam is launching a President's Special Appeal called "SOROPTIMIST MAKMUR INDONESIA" Tsunami & Earthquakes Appeal today.

MAKMUR means PROSPEROUS or flourishing, to be wholesome and peaceful. It is the opposite of POVERTY. SISWP launches this special appeal on October 17 in conjunction with International Day for the eradication of poverty. When natural disasters strike it is the women and children who are the most vulnerable and in greatest danger. Displaced, homeless and without food and medical supplies, water and sanitation, they are under threat of sexual violence, rape, murder, crime, slavery and trafficking.

SISWP will work in partnership with SI Kemang and SI Jakarta in Indonesia to provide disaster relief funds for the following programmes to support disaster-affected families in Sulawesi and Lombok. This will help families:

- heal and recover with emergency healthcare and safety supplies.
- improve their access to water and sanitation facilities.
- build temporary and transitional shelter and schools.
- rebuild their livelihoods through early recovery interventions.

## Soroptimist South West Pacific & SI Indonesia: Immediate Emergency Response (Phase 1)

SI Club Kemang and local partner medical team acted immediately as news of the disaster broke across Asia, since the first hours of the crisis to determine how best to respond. 20 health facilities have been damaged and only two (2) health facilities have operated in an emergency mode.



SISWP has provided emergency disaster funds to supply health/medical kits and sanitary/toiletries supplies for 500 families. SI Indonesia team has carried out assessment of recovery and rehabilitation needs of IDPs (Internal Displaced People survivors) and has requested support from SISWP and SI clubs and members worldwide.

SI Jakarta has carried out work in earthquakes affected Lombok to support disaster-affected families with shelter and essential emergency supplies. Rehabilitation programmes have been identified and are ready to commence once funds are secured.

Anusha Santhirasthipam

SISWP Federation President

More information will be available from the SISWP website, facebook and a newsletter will be sent to clubs, contained will be information on how you will be able to donate to this appeal.

# Information from Catherine Evans, Programme Director

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Once again Soroptimists of the South West Pacific have been first responders in times of disaster, in the past few weeks we have seen Soroptimists from Indonesia actively involved in providing relief for the Palu, and Lombok disaster, I am very pleased to be able to announce that the International President Mariet has advised that the Sulawesi disaster will be a beneficiary of some of International President Mariet's International Appeal "*Women, Water and Leadership*" to assist the SISWP "SOROPTIMIST MAKMUR INDONESIA" Tsunami & Earthquakes Appeal

In December Soroptimists will be actively engaged in the *16 Days of Activism*, the Programme team are busy working on a 16 Days of Activism toolkit, this will be sent to all clubs in a few weeks to assist clubs and members to advocate for an END to violence against women and girls. December 10th is the last day of the 16 Days of Activism and day for the International President's Appeal. Soroptimist International is looking urgently for activities that have been used by clubs to raise money for the International President's appeal. The current appeal has almost reached 50% of its target of 350,000UK pounds. Clubs are encouraged to have an event in December showcasing the amazing work this project is achieving. For more information visit the Soroptimist International website Clubs should send in donations to SISWP HQ.

SISWP is pleased to announce that once again there will be a full funded delegate position available to attend the first week of CSW63 as well as 16 self funded positions, read more about this further down in eSPAN.

President-Elect Suman Lal attended the Preparatory Sub-Regional Capacity Development Workshop for relevant stakeholders in the Pacific Small Islands Developing States 24-27 September in Nadi Fiji. She reported that the participation in the workshop enabled her to promote SI, build relationships with UN Agencies and country representatives and share the work of Soroptimist International Nationally, Regionally and Globally. Read more information below, Suman's report is available for reading and download on the SISWP Website downloads area.

Programme Reports:

I hope you are enjoying the new format for club and project reports. The word number is not a problem as was in the previous report format and we in the programme team are delighted that so many reports are being submitted for the projects and activities that clubs have undertaken. Hopefully you are finding the reporting template much easier to complete even though a new report is required for each project or activity. You will remember that a PROJECT has to have several components and that a fundraising activity for scholarships or donations is just that an ACTIVITY.

I have listed some of the more important UN International days, these days help you plan out your club activities and social medial activities for the coming months. You will find them listed towards the end of this months eSPAN.

Catherine Evans  
SWP Programme Director 2018-2020

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## CSW 63

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SISWP is pleased to announce that there will be a fully funded scholarship for one SISWP Soroptimist to attend the first week of CSW. All members are invited to apply for this fantastic opportunity to join with thousand of women around the world and contribute to the dialogue on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development. As well as the one fully funded scholarship, there will also be availability for up to 16 self funded delegates to attend.

The sixty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019.

**Priority theme:** Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

**Review theme:** Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)

Applications are open and will be received up to the 30th of November 2018. SISWP encourage all Soroptimists to consider and apply for this great opportunity.

Supporting documents and application forms can be downloaded from the SISWP Website downloads area, you will need to be logged onto the website.

<https://www.siswp.org/downloads/493-programme-information/consultative-status-of-women-csw.html> or [follow this link](#)

Supporting documents and application forms are also available here for download.

[CSW Information Cover Sheet](#)

[CSW Background Information](#)

[CSW Fully Funded Application Form](#)

[CSW Self Funded Application Form](#)

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## Advocacy Work

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What are priorities in your country? What are clubs doing in advocacy?

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function, and this month the programme team is pleased to once again be able to report on Soroptimist Advocacy work. Soroptimist International Australia, with the assistance of SWP Membership convenor Rosaline Millar have prepared a submission for the Australian Senate, Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, this enquiry is on "The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse". Information on the inquiry and submissions received by the committee are available on the inquiry website [by following this link](#).

Don't forget to send us your advocacy stories, so that we can inform and inspire other Soroptimists into ACTION.

## UN SDG Work

SWP President Elect Suman Lal, recently represented Soroptimist International at the Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Asia- Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 'Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality', held in Nadi Fiji in September 2018. Suman attended the Sub-Regional Capacity Development Workshop for relevant stakeholders in the Pacific Small Islands Developing States, 28 September 2018.

Suman reports that "The workshop was attended by Government Representatives, Civil Societies, Private Sector and Faith based organisations, NGO's and Youth Groups from almost 22 Pacific Region Countries.



Capacity Building, National Volunteer Reviews and Stakeholder Engagement were the Key topics. The relevance of all these exercise to enable Asia-Pacific Regions enhance awareness, share the knowledge and experience on the key National and Regional challenges and opportunities.

Provide Pacific perspectives and good practices on cluster of goals to enable Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the role of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development designed to support countries along with other global and regional commitments.

National Review - Planning and Linking the Global-Regional-and National processes as a support and data for monitoring our approach and ability to achieve SDGs 2030 Agenda. Importance of sustainable projects and the vulnerable groups. Identification of various strengths and weaknesses and how the United Nations funding works and can be accessed. Innovating, Engaging and Implementing policies for all.

This participation also enabled me to promote SI, build relationships with UN Agencies and Country Reps and share the work we do Nationally, Regionally and Globally.

Suman Lal

Read Suman's [full report here which is on the SWP Downloads](#)

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## SI Position Statements

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Are you preparing information for a speaker event, advocacy campaign, or just want to know what the Soroptimist International position is on various topics which impact women and girls. Soroptimist International have been updating and preparing new "Where we Stand" position papers. Every Soroptimists should make themselves familiar with these papers. Some of the topics are; Rural Women, Women's Economic Empowerment, Ageing and Climate Change to name just a few. These resource documents can be downloaded from the Soroptimist International web site by following [this link](#). You

will also find a link on the SISWP website - [Members Programme page](#). Note: to view the information on the Members Programme page you do need to log onto the website.

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## Cross-Border Project Partnerships / Partnering with Clubs

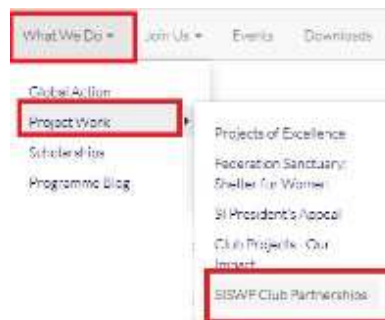
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President Anusha put out a challenge to each and everyone of us, at the launch of her biennium. That we Prosper Across Borders, Inter-Club Skills Exchange, Mentor Young Creators and be Social Entrepreneurs. To assist clubs and members to meet this challenge. The Programme Team have created the SISWP Club Partnership webpage. This page will enable clubs to advertise their projects, seek assistance with projects, this assistance can be in the form of monetary donation and support, skills support, mentoring such as how to proceed with aspects of the project, technical support, etc etc.

Use this site to REACH out. Our members have a WEALTH of knowledge just wanting to be shared we only need to be asked.

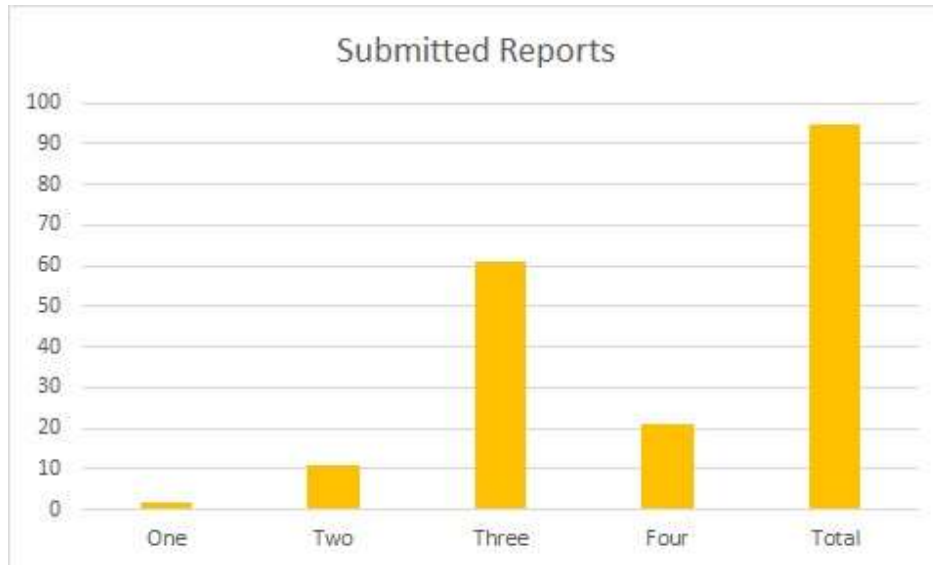
The web page is available from the What We Do > Project Work > SISWP Club Partnerships.



## Project Reporting

Soroptimists are a "global voice for women", you joined this dynamic organisation to Educate, Enable and Empower women and girls. You do this so well, and you are making a difference, but you do need to tell us. SISWP Programme team needs to be able to keep telling the world what a great job you are doing and we can only do this if you help us by completing your reporting. We know, we can hear your groans now, but we need you to report so that we can report.... And we

have made it so much easier with the new online programme reporting process. Already in 6 weeks we have received 95 reports, CONGRATULATIONS!. but look at the graph the clubs in Zones 3 & 4 are telling us about some great work they are performing, but come on clubs in Zones 1 & 2 tell us about your great work. To complete your reporting process [Click Here](#). [To read about how to do your reporting read this example reporting document.](#)



## Project Planning



Clubs and Regions will shortly begin their project planning for the 2019 year. Clubs should take note of President Anusha's Biennium Awards. Several new categories over and above the Best Practice Awards are now available, they are "Best Social Media Advocacy Campaign for a Rural Women Enterprise Project, Best Short Documentary Video on a Rural Women Empowerment Campaign, Best SI Club Facebook Page to promote the concept of Embrace, Create and Prosper Theme and Iconic Rural Women Leaders (one for each SWP member country)."



## December 10th President's Appeal



'Women, Water & Leadership' - the Soroptimist International President's Appeal for the 2017-2019 biennium, will unite Soroptimists across the globe; increasing awareness of the vital role of women as equal partners at all levels of the water sector. The President's Appeal will support projects that educate, empower and enable women. December 10th marks the SI President's Appeal. Soroptimists are asked to make some small personal sacrifice and donate the money saved to the December 10th SI President's Appeal. We need to rise the water level on the gauge to the right. Lets join together and during the month of December clubs should look at how they

can showcase the work already undertaken and raise funds to contribute to the *Women, Water & Leadership Campaign*. There is still much to be done and many more funds are required to complete this work. Programme Coordinator Joanne Yeah tells us that Malaysia have managed to raise their portion of the funds by approaching corporations. When it comes to 'clean water', there are international companies who like the CSR angle, such as Heineken, Coca Cola especially those who manufacture beverage products. That is an idea which other clubs and countries and emulate. Soroptimist International have postcards and brochures available for download to help you promote this campaign, [click here to download](#). Remember that some of the funds raised will be used to support the **Long Tanyit Women, Water and Leadership project in Malaysia**, [Read More Here](#)

During the month of December please send to the programme team photos of your fund raising activities.

Send Donations to the President's appeal to SISWP HQ

## 16 Days of Activism

Beginning on the 25th of November and ending on the 10th of December is the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a time to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. The international campaign originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute coordinated by the Center for Women's Global



Leadership in 1991. For several years now clubs through the Federation have used the Walk the Talk campaign to advocate for an END to violence against women. This year the Programme team along with the Communications team will be using the SISWP website, Facebook and Twitter to showcase the Soroptimists 16 Days of Activism campaign. There will be new facebook banners which clubs will be able to download and use on their facebook pages,

new facebook frames for members to use, new banners to be used on publications and brochures, twitter statements which can be shared, we are reaching out to authors to write articles for us on the many aspects of gender violence, over the 16 days there will be daily facebook posts featuring Soroptimists in action, daily updates on the website showing casing the work we do.

But we cannot do this alone we need your help, if you have any club activities, advocacy work or projects around gender violence planned for the 16 days please let us know. Send in your photos and information.

Make sure your club meeting night for November or December is an **ORANGE NIGHT**, wear orange, make sure the topic is around gender violence, invite a speaker. We want to see photos of members in **Orange SPEAKING out**.

Look out for the complete 16 days of Activism toolbox which should be available for all member by mid November.

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## United Nations International Days

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News from Programme Director Catherine Evans on UN Days - October

I mentioned 24th October United Nations Day last month which was initiated in 1945, was the foundation treaty of the UN. All member states contribute and this allows the UN to have a role in peace keeping and protecting human rights.

### **31 October - World Cities Day**

The UN General Assembly designated 31 October as World Cities Day to improve the international community's interest in global urbanisation. (SDG 11) This year, the UN selected as it's theme Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities'.

### **UN Days – November**

#### **5 November -World Tsunami Awareness Day**

A significant tsunami in 2004 in the Indian Ocean, caused 227,000 fatalities in 14 countries. The international community, governments adopted a 10 year strategy on disaster risk reduction. The UN Assembly in December 2015 designated 5 November Tsunami Awareness Day. Sadly the

seismographic monitoring system did not provide adequate warning of the recent tsunami that caused large numbers of fatalities in Palu Indonesia. Because of this significant tsunami disaster, President Anusha has initiated a DISASTER APPEAL to assist those in the disaster area.

### **10 November - World Science Day for Peace and Development**

This UN day reaffirms the use of scientific knowledge and has also helped foster cooperation between scientists living in regions marred by conflict.

### **14 November - World Diabetes Day**

As the rate of diabetes is increasing significantly throughout the world, November 14th was designated to encourage member countries to develop national strategies for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetes in health care systems.

### **16 November – International Day for Tolerance**

This day initiated by UNESCO in 1996 marks the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. UNESCO also initiated a prize for the promotion of Tolerance and Non-violence in memory of this great man. The prize is awarded every second year.

**25 November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women** and the start of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. More will be available next month on potential advocacy activities.

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## **Around the Federation**

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This month the SISWP website "Our Impact" focus is on the "International Day of the Girl Child", please visit this page to see the great work currently being undertaken by clubs to "Make a Difference" to the lives of girls throughout our Federation. [Read More Information here](#)

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Soroptimist International of Jakarta (SIJ) has partnered with Titian Foundation to run Tangel Scholarship-Mentoring Program since August 2017.

The overall objective is to mentor students to build characters and capacities so that they can make informed decisions about taking higher education or joining the workforce. In charge of the mentoring program SI Jakarta provides scholarship for 2 girls and Titian Foundation has provided funding for most of the scholarships.

There are 15 students benefiting from experiential learning and art to facilitate the students to acquire personal power, increase self-esteem, improve self discipline and responsibility, as well as improve communication, teamwork and social skills. Group coaching has been used to help the students to be accountable for taking steps in achieving their goals, integrating their learning into real life. Students, wrote, directed and performed a play in March 2018 to inspire high school students to develop personal integrity. We believe messages created and delivered by peers have a significantly greater chance of being heard and making an impact on young audience. Students

also organized their own event to celebrate International Women's Day in March 2018. The event was conducted in English so that they could practice their English. They also participated in English writing competition about women's role in communities.

SI Jakarta gave them the opportunity to raise funds through a garage sale that took place in June 2018. The funds are for the upcoming program to prevent risky behaviours among teenagers through art program in collaboration with KPAI (Indonesian Commission for Children Protection).



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October 10th marked Mental Health week, Soroptimist International of Joondalup support Mental Health Week in Western Australia with displays in local libraries. SI Joondalup are in partnership with Even Keel bipolar and Mental Health Support Inc, and these displays are in 6 metropolitan libraries to bring awareness of mental health support. Embrace Create and Prosper with partnerships.



Soroptimist International of Helena - National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian workplaces begins consultations. SI Helena members Emma Potter, Robyn Cain and Berenice Ritchie with Commissioner Kate Jenkins at the Perth event. "What is clear is that this conduct begins the moment people enter the workplace, and that harassers prey on those less powerful than them.

"Young people between the ages of 18 and 29 were the most likely to be sexually harassed at work," Commissioner Jenkins said.

Other Australian clubs should see when they also can attend these public forums, and speak out.

[For more informaton visit](#)



### Downloading and Printing eSPAN

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Go to the 'Members Area' in yellow at the top left of screen.

Here you can access all previous copies of eSPAN Newsletters Archived. Or if you are already logged in [Click Here](#)

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A banner image with a yellow background on the left and a photograph of a young girl in a blue hijab pointing towards the camera on the right. The word 'SOROPTIMIST' is visible in a large, stylized font in the background of the yellow area.

Educate, Empower, Enable



Copy for the November 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 31st October 2018  
to: [swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org](mailto:swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org)

Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific ACN 147 990 627

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