 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Dear all it is that time of year when the festive season starts and club activities slow down but I am hoping that clubs do not forget that the reporting date for clubs this year is **31 December**. You will remember that the report needs to cover the club actions and projects for the period 1.1.19 to 31.12.19

There are fewer significant UN International Days now that 10 December, Human Rights Day has passed. However, you will remember that the International President's International Appeal Day is celebrated 10th December on Human Rights Day. The International President's Appeal is usually the recipient of special collections at a club's end of year's party. This 10th December, International President Sharon Fisher's project, 'The Road to Equality' launched at the International Convention in Kuala Lumpur will be the recipient of those special collections at the end of year festivities. So please organise a collection for this new International President's Project. Fortunately President Mariet's International President's Appeal for the last 2 years exceeded its target and we as a federation benefitted, but the Makmur project also needs funds. Special fundraisers during the next couple of years can also be allocated to the 'Road to Equality' Appeal. Another activity coming up is CSW 64, a 25 year review of achievements for women since the 4th World Conference of Women in Beijing in 1995. I was delighted with the number of applications for the SISWP CSW scholarship and the Board decided to enable 4 scholarship winners to attend the first week for this significant CSW gathering. There were also a significant number of self-funded applicants so there will be a good group of SISWP members attending CSW next year rather than the small duo of Kimberley Berem and myself at CSW this year.

In late November representatives from civil society and governments from across Asia and the Pacific met in Bangkok to gain a regional perspective on how countries are delivering on the promise of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and whether implementation of the 12 areas of critical concern for women raised at the Beijing conference in 1995 has been achieved. Theresa Devasahayam, a member of SI Singapore represented Soroptimist International and Christine Johnstone represented SISWP. Christine will no doubt advise more on the Bangkok gathering.

Before I finish this message and you see some of the clubs' activities during the 16 days of Activism I and the programme team would like to wish all members a happy and peaceful festive season and hope 2020 is a fruitful year for you all.

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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 Gold Coast - Support Climate Action. Gold Coast Soroptimists joined over 300,000 Australian school students, workers and citizens joined millions worldwide on Friday, 20th September 2019 to take part in the world's largest Climate Strike mobilisation ever to tell our politicians to treat climate change for what it is - a crisis. The Soroptimists created and carried appropriate signs including one that stated: Soroptimists for Peace! The rally was held the day before the UN Day of Peace.

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SI Lae - Safe Market Safe City - As part of the Global Safe City Programme, UN Women Papua New Guinea as worked closely with local stakeholders to improve safety across the city in making markets and public transport safe and accessible for women and girls. As an extension of the program in Lae, Soroptimist International of Lae is the leading partner on the ground to mobilise resources and stakeholders in implementing the programme.

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Tell us what your club is doing to Advocate on behalf of women. Send us the information or complete a Advocacy Programme Report

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## Asia Pacific Beijing +25 Forum

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The Asia-Pacific Beijing+25 Region meeting organised by Civil Society Steering Committee with support from UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This was a 6 day meeting consisting of 3 days of CSO meeting and 3 days of Ministerial Meetings. Soroptimist International and the South West Pacific were represented at this region review forum by Theresa Devasahayam and Christine Johnstone.

The 25-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) will be celebrated

in 2020. The anniversary provides a pivotal moment to review state action and compliance in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995). It also provides an opportunity for feminist movements to analyze current political, economic and social trends and consider ways to advance women's human rights in a global context marked by deepening inequalities within and between countries, climate change and natural disasters, and regressions in the achievement of women's empowerment. Read the full report by Christine Johnstone on the [SISWP website](#).

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## CEDAW turns 40 this month

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December 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and since then it has been a leading force for transformative change for women's equality and empowerment. Almost every State in the world, with the exception of the United States of America, Somalia, Sudan and Iran, are States parties to

the CEDAW Convention. This commitment obliges States parties to report regularly (every six years, usually) to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination (the CEDAW Committee) on their progress in ensuring the human rights of women and girls.

40 years of State party reviews has brought the CEDAW Committee an unparalleled body of knowledge about the lived detail of how women's and girls' human rights are both respected and violated: and how States in all regions of the world – developed and developing States alike – need to improve their laws and practices to transform the situations of discrimination that women and girls face.

Significant progress has been made in terms of women's political participation and leadership despite many difficulties and some setbacks. In 1995, the global proportion of women parliamentarians was 11.3 per cent and today, in a time of sweeping change and great challenges, it is 24.3 percent (plus 13 percentage points).

However, globally only 7.2 per cent of Heads of State and 5.7 per cent of Heads of Government are women, only 19.1 per cent of Speakers of parliament are women, and only 18.3 per cent of government ministers are women<sup>1</sup>. Various obstacles continue to hinder women's equal participation and leadership in politics, including the lack of empowerment policies for women and girls, stereotyping, persistent discrimination against women in law and practice, harassment, intimidation and violence.

The 40th anniversary of the adoption of the CEDAW is a unique occasion to draw the world's attention to this stark reality. No time to waste. We need to garner our collective strength and efforts to reach parity in political leadership by 2030. Please continue to read more [here](#)

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## Club Annual Reports

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Club have until the end of December to enter in all their Projects, Activities, Advocacy, Donations and Scholarship information in the Programme Database. This will then allow the Programme Team to approve the reports submitted. In the first week of February clubs should start to create their Annual Club Reports,

to create a Annual Club Report. Go to the SWP Programme Database (links available from the footer area on the SISWP website). Log onto the database. Then on the left hand menu you will see Annual Reports, Click on Club Report, at the top of the screen, Report Title enter: 2019 Annual Report for <<club name>> Start Date 1 January 2019 End Date 31 December 2019, then click the Create Report button.

Your club report will appear in the list below the entry fields. Download the report to send to your members, your region, and your zone coordinator.

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## SWP Programme Database

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**Congratulations**, clubs are busily submitting reports to the database for the year to date of the 7th of December, 489 reports have been submitted.

Zone 1 - 96 reports

Zone 2 - 213 reports

Zone 3 - 94 reports

Zone 4 - 86 reports

Countries which have still not reported are the clubs from Cambodia, Mongolia, Samoa, Thailand, Hong Kong, I reach out to you to tell you that the work you do in your communities is powerful, your reporting allows SISWP to be able to tell the world about this work. If you would like assistance on how to use the database please reach out to myself (swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org,) or your zone coordinator.

The programme database provides SISWP with incredible reporting information, it is important to provide accurate feedback to UNESCO, the UN and Governments, this can only be achieved if we are able to submit reports which address the correct Objective, SDG and Targets. When reporting on donations to the International President's Appeal, the Federation Project (Sanctuary Shelter for Women) and the SISWP President's disaster appeal (Makmur Indonesia" Tsunami & Earthquakes Appeal.), the following Objective, SDG and Targets should be used.

**International President's Appeal - The Road to Equality.**

Objective - 3 Economic Empowerment

SDG 5

SDG Target 5c

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**Federation Project - Sanctuary Shelter for Women**

Objective - 2 Elimination of Violence

SDG 5

Target 5.1

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**Soroptimists Makmur Indonesia Tsunami Earthquake appeal**

Objective - 8 Disaster relief, mitigation and resilience

**Scholarships (all scholarships)**

Objective - 1 Education

SDG - 4

Target - please select one of the targets relative to your scholarship.



**Assistant Program Director 2 - Zareena Bi** "Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

It is that magical time of the year once again when we spend precious moments with families, friends and loved ones. The festivities, food, merry making Christmas traditions and gifts gives us the moments which we cherish and becomes memories which we look back at with much nostalgia.

It is indeed an honor to be a Soroptimist as it has given me friends world over and it is with much pleasure that I serve as an Assistant Program Director with a wonderful program team at SWP. The programs, projects, activities and advocacies carried out by the various clubs are truly inspirational and I wish congratulate all clubs for their effort as program is the heart of this organization.

While we enjoy in the merry making let us not forget the less fortunate as this is also the season of giving.

With much delight I wish you all happy holidays with your loved ones and with renewed hope of peace and prosperity in the world let us look forward to a wonderful 2020."

**Asst Programme Director 1 - Christine Johnstone**, "What a blessing it is working in this position where I get to review all the tremendous work we do as Soroptimists, as each of you reflect back on the work you have achieved with your club members you all should be very proud of this work and the benefits to women and girls in your communities. Have a safe and happy Christmas with your friends and families.

**Programme Zone Coordinator 4 - Cesarina Gigante** "I would like to send my warmest wishes to all members in Zone four. Thank for your efforts over the year in all things Soroptimist. Wishing you and your families peace, joy and friendship now and in the future.

**Programme Zone Coordinator 2 - Dixie Brown** "2019 has been an extremely exciting year for our Federation with the International Convention held in Kuala Lumpur and the introduction of the SWP Database. It has been a pleasure to read the Zone 2 reports and learn about the many interesting and unique programmes and projects that have been reported. Congratulation to these clubs because from 1 January 2019 to time of print (10 December) there has been 230 approved reports and 10 waiting for approval. This is an amazing effort. Next year it will be so much easier as members will have the confidence to report throughout the year.

I wish that the Australians and friends from other countries who are struggling and have been affected by bushfires, floods and disasters have the courage to continue and the strength to start again.

I wish all Soroptimists a safe, happy and healthy 2020 which is full of friendship, fun and success and that this wonderful organisation prospers and is acknowledged for the work it does to improve the lives of Women and Girls.

**Programme Zone Coordinator 1 - Jennie Van Driel** " Wishing all Clubs, Regions and National Representatives in Zone 1 *Seasons Greetings*. Thanking you for the year's hard work and looking forward to working with you again in 2020. My very best wishes to you all."

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**There will be no eSPAN for January.**

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## Around the Federation

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This month the focus is on the tremendous effort by all clubs over the 16 days of activism. The 16 Days of Activism campaign was an outstanding success, Many clubs utilised the toolkit, the social media platforms lit up with the Orange the World theme, I am sure many clubs noticed their facebook likes and sharing statistics take on new highs, many twitter posts were re-tweeted. Soroptimist International exposure around the work our clubs do to advocate for an End to Domestic Violence was a social media success and I am sure clubs were able to increase their exposure on the ground to an audience which may not have ever heard of Soroptimist International, their communities, other organisations, business and partners in projects.



**SI Griffiths - Always on Alert** - SI Griffith is to be congratulated for this innovative campaign, a series of videos showcasing how women everyday take precautions to be safe,

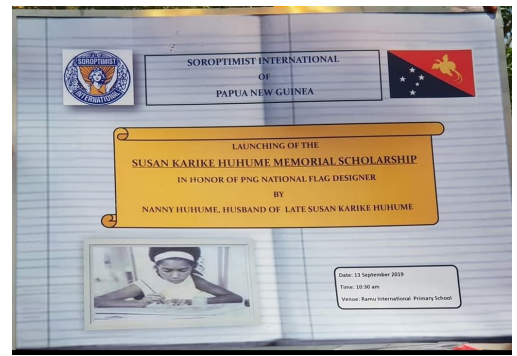
many of us do this without thinking, it is ingrained in us from an early age, to always be aware, alert and ready with action or an escape plan. If you have not yet seen this series of video I urge you to do so by following this link which will take you to one of the videos, make you you watch the whole series. <https://www.facebook.com/soroptimistgriffith/videos/2448641185394059/>

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**SI Ramu - 16 Days Activism Campaign** -Each day for the 16 Days, SI Ramu used Facebook as their platform to showcase a SDG,

linking back the SDG to their project work and gender equality. Here is an example of

Day 11 of 16 Days Activism (SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities)



In an effort to reduce inequality and to drive the message that Education is for all irrespective of gender, SI PNG through its Ramu Club launched the Susan Karike Huhume Memorial Scholarship in September 2019 with a aim to sponsor girls from homes who are disadvantaged by reason of their gender. Many homes in PNG still practice this unethical norm of choosing to sponsor male child to school at all levels of education from early learning to tertiary. If a family is forced to sacrifice and send a child to school, in most instances, the male child will be supported while the girl child will be forced to remain at home or in the village to help with domestic work, gardening and caring for the family. Efforts big and small must be made to end Violence against women and girls. End Violence at all levels.

I urge you to follow this link to the SI Ramu facebook page, and read all the posts for the 16 days. <https://www.facebook.com/Soroptimist-International-of-Ramu-Club-1517087088590642/>



SI Bayside joined with Zonta, for their Walk the Talk



SI Invercargill not only joined with White Ribbon to raise awareness they did this at an Annual Christmas festival, Domestic Violence can occur at any time,



Members of SI Brisbane Water attended the Connexions Conference at Erina on Nov.25. The first day of the 16 Days of Activism. SI Brisbane Water spoke briefly about their work, and have a display table. The objective of the conference was to provide for a unified commitment to share, network and collaborate on the challenges and successes when looking at violence, abuse and neglect across the lifecycle.

SI Brisbane Water Members say NO to Violence against women on the Central Coast of NSW and everywhere else. Members joined with their community at The Entrance - indigenous men, women and boys, a wide range of community groups, our local members, both State and Federal.



SI Ulaanbaatar - On December 7, 2019 the club organised an annual "Walk the Talk" event at Bogd Khan Mountain for the advocacy campaign of "16 Days of Activism-Stop violence against women".The "Walk the Talk"event was joined by the members of District 31, area 3 of Zonta International in Ulaanbaatar.



They provided the public with brochures and the related materials to increase the awareness of violence against women and girls. On December 5th the club also hosted a Orange Meeting, guest speaker Z.Undrakh - coordinator of the National Centre against Violence of Mongolia. SI Ulaanbaatar club has been cooperating with the Centre more than ten years. The club members donated warm winter clothes and toiletries to the Centre.



SI Lae - Safe City Campaign - 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence . As part of Safe City and campaign to provide safe space for women and girls and End all Forms of Violence against women and girls,



Soroptimist International Lae lead a team of like minded women in the city to paint a crossing the main market in Lae. The event was successful with support from business communities and government agencies and male champions and families who came out to support.



SI Toowoomba partnered with several other organisations for their 16 Days of Activism campaign, Strength in numbers, leading to a powerful campaign.



The club contributed to the campaign by having on display the Photo Voice Images as well as their support of the Red Bench Project.



The clubs in the Region of Western Australia joined in the Silent Domestic Violence Memorial March, the image of the white draped coffins is very confronting, the statement is Not Now Not Ever.



Members of SI Perth at the memorial march.

Zareena Bi - Soroptimist Clubs of Fiji. Soroptimist International Fiji launched the 16 Days of Activism campaign against Gender Violence on Saturday 23rd November in Ba.

The seven clubs under the Fiji Region banner launched this campaign at the SI Fiji Awards Nights at the Ba Town Council Hall in the presence of SI members, well wishers and the Business community in Ba.

The launch was initiated by SWP President Elect Suman Lal who indicated that the awards function is a great opportunity to Launch this campaign which starts on 25th November.

SI Fiji is calling on all civil society stakeholders to intensify activities against gender based violence during the activism period.

All the respective SI clubs will carry out projects and activities in their respective communities to advocate against Gender violence.

Meanwhile, Fiji's rates of violence against women are "among the very highest in the world". The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre reports that 64% of women who have been in intimate relationships have experienced physical or sexual violence from their partner, including 61% who were physically attacked and 34% who were sexually abused.

Violence against women and girls takes many different forms in the Pacific. These include intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence, non-partner sexual assault, sexual exploitation and trafficking, and harmful practices such as bride price and accusations of sorcery. Prevalence of these types of violence is high in the region; in most countries, it is much higher than the global average of 35 percent.

(Source: <https://pacificwomen.org/our-work/focus-areas/ending-violence-against-women/>)



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Many clubs took the opportunity to partner with other NGO's, White Ribbon, to combine their efforts and make a more powerful statement.

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