

MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific



Those of you who attended the Kuala Lumpur convention will have happy memories from this convention. We should be very proud of the fabulous convention, Chaired by Past Federation President Siew Yong and managed by our Malaysian sisters. Congratulations to you all for a memorable convention. It was great to catch up with soroptimist sisters from around the world and make new friends from other countries. It was also good to hear of the progress of the current International President's Appeal Women Water and Leadership which concludes in September and hear of Incoming International President Sharon Fisher's Appeal.

The climate change presentation was particularly pertinent and we all need to get on board regarding this global issue. It took a small girl, Greta Thunberg, a young Swedish student who at age 15 began protesting outside the Swedish parliament about the urgent need to address climate change. To date there have been students in various countries take up the challenge and go on strike rather than attend school on a specific day to indicate to governments that Climate Change is an issue that must be addressed.



On the international scene, there is a new Chair of NGO CSW New York is **Houry Geudelekian** who replaces the immediate past Chair Susan O'Malley from Ireland. Houry was born in Beirut, Lebanon and moved to New York city in the late 1970's with her husband and together they set up a business that has grown to more than 30 employees and over 2,000 clientele. Her professional expertise is in project management marketing and public relations and her passion is human rights. As a board member of NGO CSW NY, she was a founding member of 'Cities for CEDAW' group and several US cities have already achieved this status and others are working towards it. Houry has been active in working towards ending early forced marriages, particularly of rural women. [Read Houry's vision for NGCSW](#)

Also on the international news, **Melinda Gates** presented a report on the digital financial inclusion of women in Africa during a meeting of the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors in Chantilly near Paris. She told the gathering that

accessing digital financial services is not only fundamental to empowering African women but also fundamental to boosting the global economy. G7 includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States

Beijing +25

All countries in our federation have been requested to prepare Beijing + 25 review reports on their progress towards addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. I have seen the [Australian Beijing + 25 National Review Report](#) so hope members in our Federation's countries have also received copies of their country's Beijing + 25 National Review Report. SI is asking for Parallel reports from non government organisations such as ourselves on progress on the 12 areas of the Beijing Platform For Action. [Read the NGO guide for report here](#)

CSW 64 Scholarships

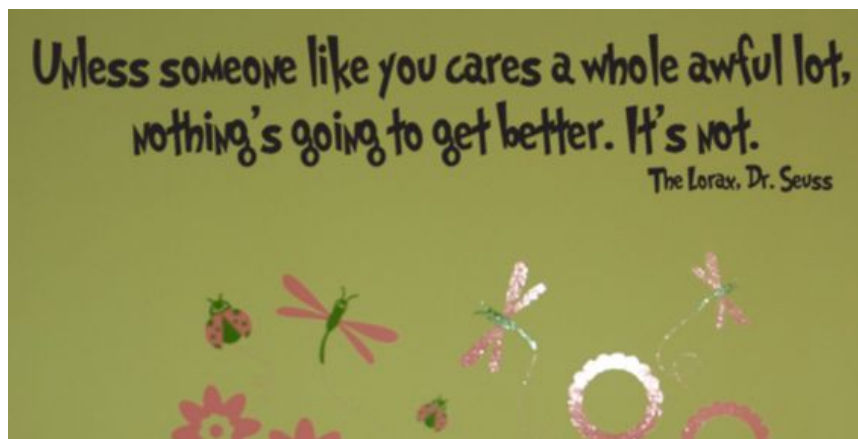
Scholarships for attendance at next year's Commission for the Status of Women (CSW64) have a closing date end of October. Am hoping that in view of the special Beijing +25 anniversary that perhaps 2 scholarships might be awarded for members to attend. There will of course be opportunities for self-funded participants to attend so hopefully we will fill our quota of registrations (20) to attend CSW64 next March, you will find links to the applications further in this month's eSPAN, I encourage members to nominate.

I hope you enjoy reading this month's eSPAN, and further in this publication you will see the UN Days for August and September.

Catherine Evans

Programme Director 2019

Programme News from the 21st SI Convention



Approx 170 soroptimist sisters from the SWP Federation travelled to the Soroptimist International 21 Convention in Kuala Lumpur. These members will have lots of stories and information to tell their club members, make sure you book to speak at your club speaker night, they will have lots to share with you. Keynote speakers, and plenary speakers spoke on a range of topics. Christina Lambe OBE, spoke about her career as a War Correspondent her talk was an insight into her career, how she became a foreign war correspondent, and why she continues to be a journalist. Whilst her talk was entertaining, insightful, educational it was also sobering as she spoke about rape as an illegal instrument of war, it is still happening and nothing changes, no one is brought to trial, and the Dr Seuss quote " *Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better, it's not*", this quote actually set the scene for the coming days, as each keynote and plenary speaker called on us as women of change to be that person, to nag and nag, to advocate - Mr President, "You have mail", to become involved more involved than we are already.

To enable members who were not able to attend, and for those that did but may want to refresh their memories, you can visit the SISWP [Facebook site](#) and watch the live feeds of the presentations, I urge you to do so, there have also been several blogs written about the convention and are published on the [SISWP website under blogs](#), and in the coming weeks the presentations from the speakers will be made available, so watch this space.

Addressing Climate Change - At
Convention on Ongoing
blog by Ralda Forzin.

21st Soroptimist Interenational
Convention and Wrap Up
blog by Kath Gribble

Climate Change was the subject of both a plenary session and a workshop which was held in the main conference room due to the high levels of interest. Speakers came from different countries (Kenya, Malaysia, the Netherlands) as well as diverse backgrounds and expertise (economics, education, advocacy, politics, activism). Each speaker approached the issue from a different viewpoint, but all were agreed on one thing. Climate change is real and its greatest impact is on women.

[Read More](#)

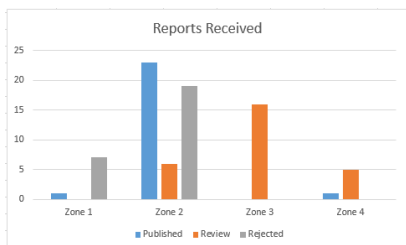
Sonia Casanova, Immediate Past President of SI Griffith and President Elect SI Region of NSW spoke on Soroptimist work on ending violence, trafficking and exploitation. She talked about advocacy and the part SI Australia is taking on overseas backpackers working in Australia and how her club SI Griffith has expanded this to include migrant workers, partnering with the Salvation Army.

[Read More](#)

Programme Database

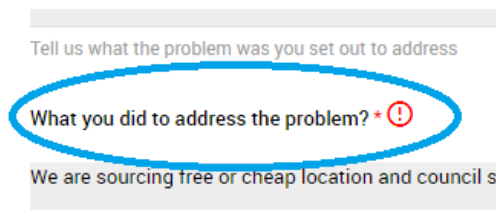
There have been 78 club programme reports submitted to the SWP Programme Reporting Database. Congratulations to the club member who has taken the time to familiarize themselves with the reporting requirements and taken the plunge to report. **Well Done!**

Zone 2 is leading the way with 48 reports having been submitted to date, but if there is to be a blue ribbon to zone 2, then we must also say to the clubs in zones 1 & 4 you will need to roll up your sleeves and show us how it is done, the programme team awaits your reports.



Zone	1	2	3	4	
published	1	23	0	1	
review	0	6	16	5	
rejected	7	19	0	0	
Total	8	48	16	6	78

From the images above you will note that there has been a number of reports rejected, members who have submitted these reports should not worry, we are all in a learning curve and the main issue for rejection is lack of information especially in regards to the question, "What you did to address the problem". Members need to note the help information under this question: " Please list all activities or tasks associated in implementing and completing the project, if you wish list all in bullet format. For this to be a project it should meet the SMART objectives of a project - Specific, Measurable, Agreed Upon, Realistic, Time Based. Please review the help document and template to assist you on SMART objectives for completing this question. ". The zone coordinators will not accept a one sentence answer to this question. To further assist you a word document outlining the SMART principles has been created and is available for download by clicking on the red exclamation icon at the end of the question.



Remember your **Club Annual Reports** will be produced by using the data submitted to the programme database, so to meet your programme annual reporting requirements, you need to get started now. Spread the work load don't leave it until it is too late.

Consultative Status of Women (CSW64)

Programme Director and the Programme team is please to announce that nominations are now open for SISWP members to nominate for the fully funded delegates position to CSW 64, and also nominations for the self funded positions to CSW 64.

You have until the 31st of October to nominate.



CSW64 / Beijing+25 (2020) will be held 9 - 20th of March 2020 in New York. The successful fully funded Delegate will be funded to attend the 1st week of the Commission. Self Funded Delegates may attend the 2 weeks.

You can nominate by following these two links.

[Fully funded Application Nomination to CSW64](#)

[Self Funded Application Nomination to CSW64](#)

There is also a link to the application forms from the SISWP website downloads area. Log on and click [HERE](#).

Nominations close on the 31st of October 2019 and the winner will be notified on the 30th of November 2019

Upcoming Programme Webinars

There are 3 upcoming programme webinars.

President Anusha is providing a leadership opportunity to all SWP Soroptimists, On Sunday 25th of August at 2pm AEST, the following webinar training session will be presented.

"How To Attract & Build A Great Team: Personality Types & Law of Connections." A Certified NLP Programme by Anusha Santhirasthipam

To register for this webinar:

to be held on Aug 25, 2019 2:00 PM AEST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6956116789076651019>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Absolutely crucial for anyone who values all their relationships, wishes for peace and joy, aspires for high performing teamwork.

Part 1- Personality Profiling & Team Dynamics

This segment will help all leaders and their teams:

- **Increase your self-knowledge:** how you respond to conflict, what motivates you, what causes you stress, and how you solve problems
- **Improve working relationships** by recognizing the communication needs of team members

- **Facilitate better teamwork** and teach productive conflict
- **Develop stronger advocacy** by identifying and responding to styles of target government legislator/ public influencer.
- **Manage more effectively by understanding the dispositions and priorities** of employees and team members.

All participants will take a Self-Assessment Quiz and work in groups of 4-5 persons. Highly interactive with continuous feedback.

Part 2 - Law of Connection - Successful Communication & Team Integration

This segment will involve tips, tools, role play exercises to help participants discover:

- Three conditions for connecting with anyone
- Techniques to calibrate your conversations
- Four easy methods for effective communication
- Tips to create positive rapport in all kinds of situations
- Useful for enhancing relationships at home, at work, with friends, customers and volunteer service.

If you enrol and take part in this LIVE STREAMED Video Webinar you will be well prepared to attract and build a great team in any club, region or country. Do sign up today.

Anusha Santhirasthipam

Federation President



Dare to be Gyn-ae Aware

Presentation by Kath Mazzella, a voice for change. Kath is an award winning speaker and advocate www.kathmazzella.com. Some of you would have seen and heard Kath at the 21st SI Convention, Kath was a plenary speaker in the **She Matters: Healthcare and Lifetime Wellness**. Kath has kindly offered to present a webinar training session for members. This webinar will be an information and training event about gynaecological and sexual awareness. The techniques shown to you will enable you to run a fun event covering very serious topics, available at the webinar will be templates and information sheets.

Dare to be Gyn-ae Aware will be held on the 8th of September 2019 at 3:00 PM AEST

Please register for Dare to be Gyn-ae Aware on Sep 8, 2019 3:00 PM AEST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5935686435415416845>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



How to prepare a Successful Best Practice Award Nomination

This webinar will be presented to you by SWP Programme Zone Coordinators Dixie Brown and Cesarina Gigante. Cesarina and Dixie will run a session which will provide you with tips, techniques and How To, to have you completing and submitting your club's or region's Best Practice nomination. This session is a must for all club and region programme UN convenors and national representatives. Our programme work is important to us, our partners and the women and girls who benefit, learn how to successfully report on this valuable work.

How to prepare a Successful Best Practice Award Nomination will be held on the 22nd of September 2019 at, 3:00 PM AEST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8126294029059007499>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

SANCTUARY: Shelter for Women



After three years of consulting, advocating to the Fiji government, planning, drawing up plans, redrawing up plans, working with developers and builders. It is now a **REALITY**.

The sanctuary which will benefit so many women and children will have walls and roof in the coming weeks.



This Federation project will not only provide a home which will shelter and provide a safe haven but will also act as a resource and training centre, providing women and girls with the opportunities to learn and earn. Women's economic empowerment (WEE) lessons will enable the women to earn an income in their rural enterprises.

Your help and donations will enable SWP to complete this project, still to be provided is the fit out of the home and the training and consulting rooms.

Donate now to provide - chairs, tables, beds, curtains, rugs, computers and resources.

[DONATE](#)

Advocacy Work

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.

There is no advocacy report for this month, please remember to keep the programme team informed of your advocacy endeavours.

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

UN SDG Work

Breast Milk in the News, Nepal and Australia

Whilst in Nepal recently I read this article in the Himalayan Times, Nine individuals filed a public interest litigation at the Supreme Court demanding establishment of breast (human) milk banks in Nepal to ensure enough supply of breast milk for babies, who have not been able to get breast milk due to several reasons. They filed the petition in the apex court arguing that establishing breast milk banks in Nepal was also necessary to reduce child mortality rate.

Stating that breast milk contains all kinds of nutrition that babies need for their growth, they argued that breast milk was vital to enhance immunity and prevent infection in children.

Stating that cow milk, buffalo milk or powder milk cannot substitute breast milk, the petitioners said that high incidences of deficiency in child nutrition were linked to lack of children's access to breast milk.

Establishing breast milk bank is necessary as breast milk cannot be substituted and wet nurses are not easily available and it would not be possible to produce breast milk in large quantity from wet nurses," the petitioners argued in their petition. The petition said lactating mothers were throwing excess breast milk and if breast milk banks were established, these mothers would have a chance to provide their milk to those banks.

They said World Health Organisation had also recommended establishing a breast milk bank.

The first breast milk bank was established in 1909 in Austria, and there are over 600 human milk banks worldwide.

and then home in Australia this week, there was an article stating that the Morrison government wants to double the amount of Australian babies who are breastfed and has launched a new \$10 million strategy to make it happen. Only about 25% of babies in Australia are breastfed to about six months this new strategy aims to double this by 2025, this will hopefully meet the World Health Organisations target



It was reported at CSW 63 that many women were denied visa entry into America to attend CSW 63. With that action and advocacy was started by the NGO CSW/NY organisation. A petition with over 1000 signatures was presented in Congress in March , and then on Wednesday, 24 July 2019, members and supporters of NGO CSW/NY attended a congressional briefing regarding visa issues for people traveling to the United Nations for the Commission on the Status of Women. Panelists included Houry Geudelekian, Chair of NGO CSW/NY; representatives from US Customs and Border Patrol; a representative for the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA); and a staff member of the State Department. You can view a [video of the meeting here](#).

Perhaps members might like to share with eSPAN other similar stories to this?

Tours with Benefits

According to recent studies there are roughly 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans. That amounts to about 80,000 tons

of rubbish in the water. One organization in the Netherlands has found a unique approach to combat pollution in waterways. Like many other boat companies, **Plastic Whale** gives guided tours of Amsterdam's scenic canals and Rotterdam's harbor, but it has one added twist: boat guests fish plastic out of the water during the ride. If this sounds like an unorthodox way to tour a European city, you may be surprised to hear [thousands of people](#) jump on board every year to happily roll up their sleeves to remove plastic from the water.



The idea for this unique boat ride started [in 2011](#) when Marius Smit was traveling around the world and realized how much pollution was in the water. He established Plastic Whale in the Dutch capital with the goal of removing plastic from the world's waterways while creating value for discarded plastic.

Smit told [Lonely Planet](#), "When you walk the canals you wouldn't say it, but even in the beautiful, Unesco-certified canals of Amsterdam the problem of plastic waste is severe. Each year we fish over 25,000 plastic bottles and tons of other kinds of plastic waste.

Well there's an idea for club to take on board, create projects where tourists can be environmental warriors and help save the planet.

Around the Federation

Solar Lamp and School Study Material

On 18 June, 2019, Soroptimist International Phnom Penh in collaboration with Phnom Kravanh District of Education Department and Khset Borey School distributed 50 solar lamps, 60 backpacks and other school materials such as books, pens, pencils, erasers, color pencils and other materials to 110 students of Khset Borey Primary School which is located in Khset Borey Village, Santre Commune, Phnom Kravanh District, Pursat Province. Also, this area has been recognized as a high malaria transmission area where people are so poor. They earn daily income by doing forest related activities such as agricultural plantation, land clearance and illegal logging. Totally, there were 110 students received those materials, but they were divided into groups. Fifty students are extremely poor; they were selected to get 50 solar lamps while other 60 students are the good performance students (some of them are so poor and some not so poor); they were selected to get 60 backpack and other school materials.



This project was made possible with support from **SI Helena an SI Karratha Clubs** based in Australia. These two clubs donated 50 solar lamps. In addition to that, the principal/director of Norton University donated \$500, this money was used to purchase backpacks, school materials and also for transportation for SI PP staff to implement this activity.

Khset Borey School Director and district education staff were so delighted with the donation of SI PP. They really appreciated the initiative, and said this is a very good kindness. The donation is extremely beneficial to the students for example the solar lamp could help the student read the books and do their homework at night time. The student's houses are in the remote areas where electricity is not available. Both solar lamp and backpack really motivate the students to study harder.

All the students came along with their parents to receive the donation. They so happy and they are committed to use those materials in a careful way and promise to study harder.

SI Phnom Penh members truly thank SI Helena and SI Karata and the principal of Norton University for their contribution to this worthwhile and life changing project.

English Conversation at the Gordon Tafe

SI Geelong conducted a "speed dating English Conversation project at the Gordon TAFE college. The English conversation session took place on Monday April 29th. There were approximately 30 students requiring assistance with their English language skills. The session was run like a 'speed dating' session with every student having a 10 minute conversation before moving on. The students gained a tremendous amount from the session, growing in confidence and keen to try out their language skills. We had 10 members from SI Geelong (a few "Sorooptimisters") and many friends. The time flew and we are looking forward to repeating the process later in the year.



UN Days

AUGUST

As I write this, we will already have celebrated International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9th August) and International Youth Day (12th August) this month.

19th August - World Humanitarian Day. The theme this year is **Women Humanitarians** and we honour the work of

women in crises throughout the world. Women make up a large number of those who risk their own lives to save others. They are often the first to respond and the last to leave. These women deserve to be celebrated

21 August - [International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#)

This year, the second commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism will focus on the resilience of victims and their families- how they have coped and what they have done to transform their experiences to aid healing and recovery as well as become stronger and more united against terrorism. To observe the International Day, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism will launch a photographic exhibition on August 21 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The exhibition, opened by H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will feature victims' statements and stories demonstrating their individual journey and experience of resilience.

23 August - [International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition](#)

This International Day is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. In accordance with the goals of the intercultural project "The Slave Route", it should offer an opportunity for collective consideration of the historic causes, the methods and the consequences of this tragedy, and for an analysis of the interactions to which it has given rise between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

29 August – [International Day against Nuclear Tests](#)

The history of nuclear testing is one of suffering, with the victims of more than 2,000 nuclear tests often from the most vulnerable communities of the world. The devastating consequences — which were not confined by international borders — encompassed impacts on the environment, health, food security and economic development." — **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**

30 August - [International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances](#)

This international day celebration commenced in 2011. Enforced disappearance has frequently been used as a strategy to spread terror within the society. The feeling of insecurity generated by this practice is not limited to the close relatives of the disappeared, but also affects their communities and society as a whole. Of particular concern are:

- the ongoing harassment of human rights defenders, relatives of victims, witnesses and legal counsel dealing with cases of enforced disappearance;
- the use by States of counter-terrorist activities as an excuse for breaching their obligations;
- and the still widespread impunity for enforced disappearance.

SEPTEMBER

5 September - [International Day of Charity](#)

The 17 [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) set forth in the Agenda can be grouped into five critical areas: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. They have the potential to transform our lives and our planet by providing the framework needed for philanthropic institutions to enable all people to contribute to the betterment of our world.

8 September - [International Literacy Day](#)

The theme for [International Literacy Day 2019](#) is Literacy and Multilingualism, an opportunity to express solidarity with the celebrations of the 2019 [International Year of Indigenous Languages](#) and the 25th anniversary of the World Conference on Special Needs Education, at which the [Salamanca Statement](#) on Inclusive Education was adopted. Embracing linguistic diversity in education and literacy development is central to addressing literacy challenges and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

10 September - [World Suicide Prevention Day](#)

This international day is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). WHO has been co-sponsor of the day. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the globe that suicide can be prevented.

12 September - [United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation](#)

South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It can accelerate progress towards the implementation and achievement of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

In 1978, the first United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) took place in Argentina, adopting the Buenos Aires plan of action for promoting and implementing technical cooperation among developing countries ([BAPA](#)). *United Nations*

15 September - [International Day of Democracy](#)

"Democracy is showing greater strain than at any time in decades. That is why this International Day should make us look for ways to invigorate democracy and seek answers for the systemic challenges it faces." — **UN Secretary-General, António Guterres**

With this year's [70th anniversary](#) of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), the International Day of Democracy is also an opportunity to highlight the values of freedom and respect for human rights as essential elements of democracy. Democracy, in turn, provides the natural environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights. The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) addresses democracy in [Sustainable Development Goal 16](#) recognizing the indivisible links between peaceful societies and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

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