

 MEMBERS LOGIN

Soroptimist
Federation of the



International
South West Pacific



I'd like to remind all clubs that two SISWP countries Malaysia and Indonesia are beneficiaries of [International President Mariet's President's Appeal](#) so don't forget to contribute generously to the President's Appeal(PA). As the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami damage were late considerations as beneficiaries of the President's Appeal, it is important that sufficient money is raised by the PA so that the necessary restoration works that our Indonesian sisters have identified can be achieved. SISWP has sent 17, 035.40 UK pounds so far but more is needed if Indonesia is to receive sufficient funds for the projects it put forward to be considered for monies from the PA. When compared with members in other federations we may have been individually very generous, but I am hoping that clubs might organise special fund raising events for the Indonesian disaster projects so that they can be fully supported by the President's Appeal monies.

CSW63 (Commission for the Status of Women) has concluded for another year. Soroptimist International was a participant in several parallel and side events in a variety of venues so much exercise was had moving between the various locations in the first week. The second week as previously advised would be and was less frenetic. This year the agreed conclusions took longer than I remember from previous CSWs I've attended, but at least there were agreed conclusions even though a few countries decided after the gavel came down, that there were some items with which they could not agree. Wording for the agreed conclusions was still being negotiated up until 7.40pm on Friday evening 22nd March. NGO participants were then allowed into the conference room to observe the signing of the consensus agreement document and hear final words from the outgoing Chair of CSW and acknowledgements of her contributions. Most NGOs who waited outside the negotiation room to hear the outcome of the negotiations, finally entered Conference Room at 8pm and observed the final proceedings, leaving Conference Room 4 at about 11pm that night at the finalisation of the negotiations and wind up of CSW for another year.

Next year 2020 is a significant year for a number of reasons, the UN celebrates 75 years, Beijing PFA (Platform for Action) celebrates 25 years, UN resolution 1325 including women in the peace

process celebrates 20 years and UN Women will celebrate 10 years so CSW 64 in 2020 will definitely be a significant occasion.

I mentioned the 6 languages of the UN each had a special UN day and 3 of these are celebrated in April. 20th April is Chinese Language Day. English Language Day and Spanish Language day are both celebrated 23rd April.

22nd April is recognised as **International Mother Earth Day** and is celebrated to remind us that Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and food, reminding us of our collective responsibility. This UN Day was declared in 2009 and at the Rio Summit in 2012 a set of Sustainable Development Goals that built on the Millennium Development Goals were developed.

During the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of International Mother Earth Day, an Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on Harmony with Nature will be held 22nd April 2019 to discuss contributions to ensure inclusive equitable and quality education to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, hoping to inspire citizens and societies to reconsider how they interact with the natural world. UN Secretary-General António Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on 23 September to meet the climate challenge.

25th April this year will be the celebratory day for International Girls ICT Day as it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday in April and there will be a special celebration this year in Addis Ababa Ethiopia. ICT has become a necessary component of many occupations and girls are encouraged to include this as part of their education and also consider this as employment opportunity.

28th April World Day for Safety and Health at Work. This year ILO (International Labour Organisation) will celebrate its centenary and will be the start of worldwide events and activities throughout the year, attempting to take stock of 100 years of work in improving occupational health and safety in the workplace.

3rd May World Press Freedom Day. The contribution of journalists and media workers is most associated with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 of peace, justice and strong institutions.

15th May International Day of Families. After the International Year of the Family, the General Assembly decided that 15 May of every year should be observed as the International Day of Families. This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.

Catherine Evans

SWP Programme Director

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.

Soroptimists across the federation continue to advocate for an end to **plastic bag usage**. Some Facts - Every 2 hours we throw out enough stuff to fill the world's largest container ship with trash. That's 12 container ships every single day, and 4380 container ships in one year. Our household waste is increasing by 2030 the amount of household waste will almost double to 3000 million tons

annually. Most waste goes to landfills or is burned. Burning waste is the world's largest source of dioxins, which is one of the most toxic chemicals known to science. Our waste problem is not going away by itself. We need to find new ways to solve the increasing waste-problem. View this video on the life of a plastic bag [The Majestic Plastic Bag - A Mockumentary](#).

E-waste is a growing problem

E-waste is the most rapidly growing waste problem in the world. We generate about 40 million tons of it every year. This is equivalent to throwing out 800 laptops every single second. In some places the amount of e-waste increases with 500% in the years to come.

How can you help? What can you do to advocate for change.

Where does the e-waste go?

A lot of e-waste is shipped to Asia or Africa for "recycling". This may sound good, but in fact it's just an easy and cheap way to get rid of the enormous amounts of e-waste we generate. A lot of it is simply burned

Don't trash them. First, we should never throw e-waste in the trash! Even the small stuff like phones or batteries shouldn't go in the trash. There are some toxic (dangerous) chemicals in these products that don't belong in the trash. It's bad for our environment, plus it means throwing away valuable metals that can be recycled.

Pass them on for reuse. Sometimes you have something that still works, but you don't use it any more. But somebody else might use it. The best thing to do is to give it to someone else who can keep using it (only if your parents say it's ok.) If you don't find a family member or friend who wants it, you can often donate it to a charity in your community.

Recycle them. If you can't find someone who wants to use your old gadget, then you can recycle it. You probably already recycle newspapers or bottles or cans from your house. Electronics can be recycled.

As a Soroptimist or Club what can you do?

"The power of a lot of people acting correctly is the most important thing," says Darby Hoover, an NRDC senior resource specialist. "People need to familiarize themselves with community guidelines." What you can recycle (takeout containers? newspapers, pizza delivery boxes, direct mail?), green waste, food waste, composting, and how you should do it (rubbish collection days? drop-off centers?) vary greatly from city to city and state to state.

So as a club activity, visit your council/municipality's website to learn more about your local recycling rules and options, explore your state and country legislation, use your social media platforms to advertise the best methods for recycling in your community, create pamphlets or organise a recycling information morning.

SIWA Soroptimists advocating for Backpackers and Seasonal Workers

this report by SIWA Advocacy Convenor Berenice Ritchie

Whilst the Federal Government continues to debate the issues and conditions of Backpackers on the 88 day '417 Visa' and the Seasonal Workers Visa, SI Mandurah has not been sitting on their laurels. They have been busy lobbying local and federal MPs to express concern that the latest changes to this Visa, (allowing for a longer time working on farms) does not address national issues of exploitation – in particular harassment - and allows unsafe work situations and accommodation, resulting in hardship, injury or, in some cases, death. SI Mandurah has direct contact with two mothers who have lost their daughters in rural Australia while they were trying to

gain their 2nd year Visa. The mothers Rosie Ayliffe from the UK and Cornelia Kohl from Germany are wanting to see change.

SI Mandurah has also taken a practical approach and created an “assistance package” to be given to young Backpacking women arriving in WA. This package includes a drink bottle, sunscreen, deodorant, and a key tag with the following important information:

- Urgent medical assistance or danger call: 000
- British Government Consular assistance call: (02) 6270 6666
- Employees seeking assistance visit www.fairwork.gov.au or
- Work Infoline on 13 13 94 Interpreter service 13 14 50.
- Immigration www.homeaffairs.gov.au
- Assisted Voluntary Return AVRPerth@iom.int 1300116986
- Rural Link Mental Healthline 1800 552 002

Clubs can action this advocacy with a 3-pronged approach that fits best with your club or individuals in a way that feels most comfortable.

Advocacy and political lobbying;

Hands-on community events and integration; (helps with mental well-being of migrant workers)

Utilising the Soroptimist Network for rapid response rescues (SI Mandurah likes the term “Soroptimums”)

It may be done in the following ways:

Identify local areas of need; eg.

- Is it backpackers in hostels finding themselves isolated or needing local support
- is it migrant farm workers perhaps being treated poorly?

Befriend local communities/farms/hostels to set up good lines of communication; (perhaps offer essential care packs for the female workers with a local contact)

Adapt a ‘rapid response’ model to suit your own club; this may simply be, eg. What agency would you call if a backpacker contacts you or has been caught destitute or harassed by their employer

Write to politicians as and when needed. See current lobby letter

SI Australia supports this and encourages all clubs and members across Australia to lobby their local and federal members of parliament as a club and as individuals. A template letter has been sent to your region advocacy contact.

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

CSW 63 - The outcome of the Commission’s consideration of the priority theme during its 63rd session takes the form of agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States. The Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on “***Social protection systems, access to***

public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls” on 22 March 2019

Soroptimists wishing to read the [agreed conclusions and also the Key Recommendations read here](#)

Many Soroptimist across the globe traveled to New York and worked tirelessly over the 10 days to advocate for change. [Read many of their stories here.](#)

It should be noted that once again many delegates wishing to attend CSW were denied entry into the United States. This year a petition addressed to Cherith Norman Chalet U.S. Ambassador and U.S. Representative for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations was circulated. It called for the U.S. to honor its obligation to admit foreign nationals, including NGO representatives, to the U.S. in order to participate at UN meetings. This is set forth in the UN Headquarters Agreement signed on 26 June 26 1947 by Secretary of State George Marshall and UN Secretary General Trygve Lie. Section 11 of the Headquarters Agreement prohibits the U.S. from imposing any restrictions on NGOs' travel to or attendance at the UN. Requirements or conditions needed to be met in order for an NGO applicant's visa to be approved to attend UN sessions are not set forth in the Agreement. You may read more information [here, as well as sign a petition calling to an end to this discrimination.](#)

Modern Day Slavery - Human Rights



Grace Forrest is the youngest United Nations Association of Australia Goodwill Ambassador - Grace founded the **Walk Free Foundation** a Global Human Rights Organisation at age 18. To identify and measure the scale of modern day slavery, Walk Free launched the **Global Slavery Index** which is now the worlds leading research on slavery. It found that slavery exists on a scale that is unprecedented, there are more slaves in the world today than any other time in human history. Walk Free have identified that 40.3 million people around the world are still living in slavery. Visit their website www.freedomunited.org, to find out more. Modern slavery covers a range of exploitative practices such as domestic servitude, organ trafficking, debt bondage, forced marriage child soldiers, and state enforced labour. Women and girls (up to 71%) make up the vast proportion of modern slaves. Modern Slavery is able to exist for many reasons including countries lack basic human rights laws, women are denied the same legal protections as men and

unethical business practices. Have you considered where your consumer purchases are made, the global supply chain which provides your smartphones, chocolates, coffee, clothes. Consider reviewing and downloading the **Good On You** app, have the conversation, you have the choice to empower or harm another human being by making better choices when you purchase.

How your club can help raise awareness - consider hosting a information session, book a speaker, talk about consumer purchasing and how individually you can make a difference, run a social media campaign.

Reference source Perspective – Elle Magazine March 2019

SWP Programme Database

The SWP Programme Database will be launched at the IBM to be held in the Barossa Valley 3 - 5 May 2019.

The launch and training session will be telecast via a webinar on Saturday 4th of May, at 1.30pm South Australian Time. Please register to attend this important session here. Club officials, Region officials, National Representative, all federation conveners and interested Soroptimists should all attend this session.

The meeting will be an introduction to the new Programme Database, along with the ability to participate in training.

Please register for Programme Database, and Membership Information Workshops IBM on May 04, 2019 2:00:00 PM AEST at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6779937639990243585>

Club, Regions and National Representatives will be able to log onto the new programme database and report on projects, but remember this reporting will not only be about projects, but you will also need to report on Activities, Donations, Scholarships and Advocacy work.

The definition of the types of reports you can report on.

Project

A project has a defined timespan and seeks to address a particular problem or issue that meets a programme objective. It will involve all club members and may include a variety of tasks or activities such as awareness, consultation with recipients, hands on activities, letter writing or community service. Ideally some data will be available for measurement and monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken.

Advocacy

Advocacy involves acting or speaking on behalf of yourself or others to bring about change. It may be used at each of the various levels of government or to other organisations. It should relate a programme objective and should reflect the Where We Stand documents of Soroptimist International.

To review the Where We Stand visit the SI website <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/where-we-stand-statements/>

Advocacy may include activities such as club members signing a petition, taking part in a march or vigil, writing letters, organising a public seminar on a topic, making a written submission or meeting government officials or politicians.

Activities

These are not an integral part of any project and may include such things as fund-raising, grant writing, assistance in kind to other service clubs or community service such as ticket selling, clean-up activities or afternoon teas.

Scholarships

Scholarships are usually a cash benefit awarded on the basis of merit in meeting criteria negotiated with the institution. They can be awarded at any level of education or activity. The scholarship should reflect a programme

A Primary Scholarship is the educational support for a child usually aged between 6 and 12 years and in the school years grades 1 to 6

A Secondary Scholarship is for older students working in grades 7 to 12 and usually aged between 12 and 17 years, but may also apply to adults.

A Tertiary Scholarship is for higher education at a recognised university , or Technical College and is available for any age. Tertiary entry usually requires a previous level of education, but this may be waived in certain circumstances

A Vocational Scholarship relates to a specific occupation or employment such as nursing or hospitality. There are no specific entry requirements and the length of training is variable.

Other Scholarships can be given to any form of education or training that does not fit into any of the categories above

Bursary

A grant, usually money but may be goods made to a deserving student(s) to ensure their continued education.

Donation

Donation - is a donation of money or goods in kind to another organisation or club

Annual Reports



This month we highlight the summary of the reports from the Zone 4 Coordinator - Cesarina Gigante who reports:

Although there were 116 projects listed only 32 PRR's have been submitted. Skilling members in completing reporting requirements needs to be considered especially when the new data base becomes live.

Clubs undertook a variety of projects with the focus areas as identified by clubs being objectives 1 Education, 5 Healthcare, 2 Elimination of Violence and 3 Economic Empowerment. The SDG's that were prominent were 4- Quality Education, 3 Good Health and Well being and 5 Gender equality. Future projects, advocacy and activities may develop other areas.

Key areas were education at all levels and areas, Domestic and Family Violence, Health and Wellbeing, International Women's day projects around homelessness, housing, shelter, seniors. A

number of scholarships are being awarded in the STEM area.

The projects advocacy and scholarships undertaken by clubs is varied and numerous with 116 projects, 49 advocacy related activities and the awarding of 55 scholarships. The clubs have also generated half a million dollars (AUD) to progress their projects.

Some key projects in South Australian clubs was the establishment and management of the Wig Library, Care packs (crisis, leaving prison), advocacy around plastic reduction, Second Chance Camps for Teens. All clubs also distributed a scholarship.

SI Indonesia continue to support disaster relief as reported through eSpan and special reports.

SI PNG clubs have been active in health financial empowerment, and water. They have advocated around corruption and 16 days of activism.

Clubs in Malaysia have highlighted through their project's education through training of girls, children, refugees and women and provision of essentials, the care for our seniors, leadership and health. Their advocacy has centred around health screening, sexual harassment, IWD, baby dumping and a sustainability summit.

The members of all clubs in Zone 4 should be congratulated in their efforts. I look forward in working with you in the programme area to develop a strong programme base and support in reporting. [Please read the full report here.](#)

Cesarina Gigante
Zone 4 Coordinator.

President's Appeal - Woman, Water and Leadership



Mwihoko Women Group, Kenya

Nakuru County, meaning 'a dusty place' is located North-West of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, situated in the former Rift Valley province. Agriculture is seen to be the backbone of the county and it is here that the

first of five International President's Appeal projects is gathering momentum, working with the Mwihoko Women's Group, supported by the SI Union of Kenya and local stakeholders.

Asha Abdulrahman a PMG Member sends this latest information from a site visit.

Greeting from Mwihoko, the PMG team has just returned from Nakuru this Sunday early morning at about 2 a.m. We are glad to report a very positive picture as Kenya faces draught and hunger, our farmers have stocks of food in their stores and water in their tanks. The draught has hit the area too and the river Ndibai which the village was relying on for water has completely dried up .

The women are very positive and working hard to prepare for this season planting as soon as the rains fall, hopefully by the end of March. They spend time in their homes and at the Demonstration Centre preparing for planting, the seedbeds have been planted with different varieties of vegetable. The farm has pawpaw trees, cassava and other trees planted, making many wonder how they are able to have all this with the current drought. This is all thanks to their implementing the projects under Women for Water Partnership and Soroptimist International.

To donate to Women Water and Leadership, you can now use the [website](#)

DONATE

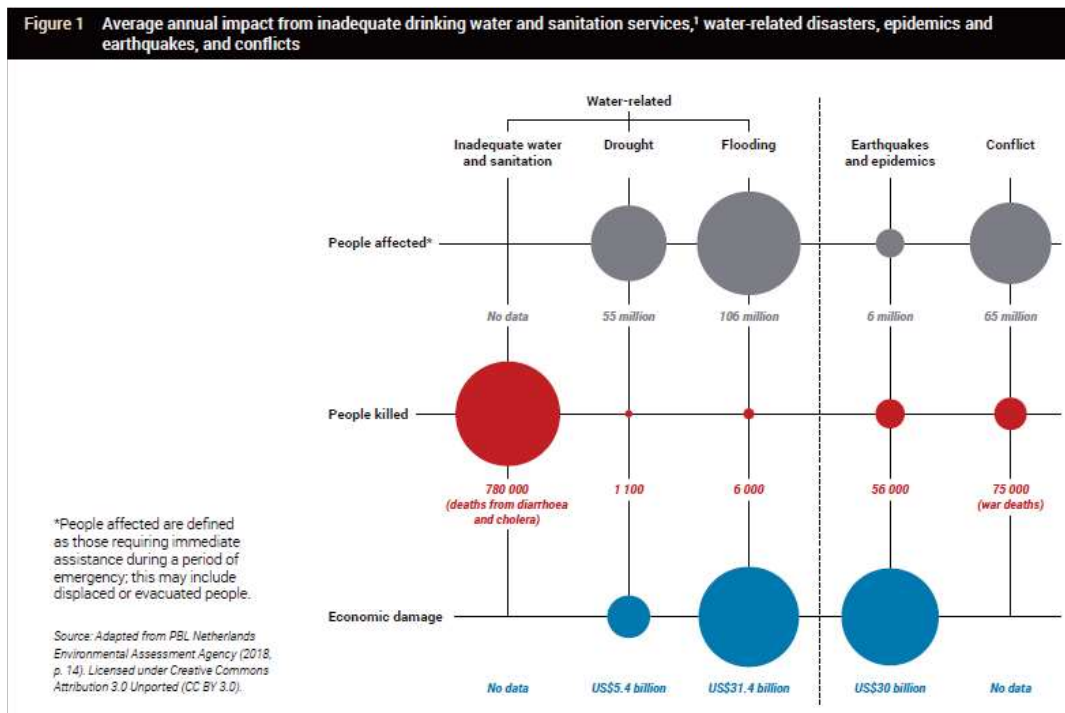
button from the [SISWP](#)

If you need to understand why the SI President's Appeal Women Water and Leadership is so important, look no further than the graph below, Note the People killed due to inadequate water and sanitation v's people killed by drought and flooding, earthquakes and conflict.

SI Lautoka, Fiji. Saturday of Service. This year once again SI Lautoka members decided to plant vegetables for the hostel students at Jasper Williams High School. The difference was that last year we had only planted cassava which is root crop but this year we planted cassava, kumala (sweet potatoes), bele (spinach), egg plants and pawpaw plants.

The cassava planting in 2018 was a success as it supplemented the students meals and we had a very positive feedback from the hostel body.

This project that we have undertaken is as per SDG - Goal 2 - Zero hunger, Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. The vegetables and root crops that we planted are easy to manage and we will checking on this regularly. The gardeners at the school will also keep an eye on this for us. We hope that this will save cost for the hostel as once these plants bear fruit it will supplement food for the students year around.



DONATE to Project Appeals via the SISWP Website

Remember that you can now **DONATE** to 3 project appeals direct from the SISWP website. Please remember to advertise this new initiative of **DONATE NOW** through all your social media endeavours. Also consider adding the **DONATE** now link to your club or region email signature. Every Cent Counts.

Appeals

SI President's Appeal 2017-2019 – Women, Water & Leadership

The current International President's Appeal supports projects that educate, empower and enable women and girls, ensuring they have the capacity, experience and education needed to manage water resources and gain careers in water-related professions.

[DONATE NOW](#)

SISWP Federation Project 2016-2020 – Sanctuary: Shelter for Women

SISWP's current Federation project will provide safe homes and professional services to women and children in Fiji who have been the victims of domestic violence and natural disasters.

[DONATE NOW](#)

SISWP President's Special Appeal: "Soroptimist Makmur Indonesia" Tsunami & Earthquakes Appeal

SISWP President Anusha Santhirathipani has launched a special appeal to support hundreds of thousands of people affected by the September 2018 Indonesia Tsunami and Earthquakes.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Around the Federation

SI Ulaanbaata - World Water Day. On March 22, SI Ulaanbaatar club members taught a water lesson to primary school children (10 girls and 14 boys) at school # 115 and (11 girls and 18 boys) at Khasgerel private school of Ulaanbaatar. The lesson aims to teach kids how to care, protect and save water with simple ways in daily life. This is the third year SI Ulaanbaatar club has been conducting Water lessons to schoolchildren.



SI Nadi, Electrification of Kachingai, Fiji.

Kachingari, a rural area towards the Nausori highlands, Fiji. This community did not have electricity. A letter of request for assistance was received by SI Nadi. The request indicated that each family consisted of women and school age children and the community had been unsuccessful despite years of effort to have electricity installed to their community. Based on the fact that the needs of women and girls was highlighted, the club took keen interest and did some preliminary research on the feasibility of such a project.

A phone discussion with the Prime Minister's office staff indicated that the government would be willing to support the club provided the request was valid and backed up by all the necessary information. We were directed to liaise with the district officer Nadi in order to identify and jointly agree on the process forward. The district officer gave us positive news that the government was willing to now support such requests if the community was really in need and isolated, advising us to make a formal request to the government for its financial support. In addition, we were advised to also consult the Commissioner western and the Ministry for energy which would also contribute partially towards the project. The club initiated a results based matrix which outlined processes to follow to reach the desired outcome of full house wiring and energy access to each household. Electricity would provide each household with economic benefits as well as improved life style.

Club members conducted a survey of all the households gaining valuable information as to no of people in each household including women and girls, economic status, and how lack of electricity impacted on their everyday life, particularly noting down concerns such as; health risks due to the ongoing use of diesel engines and hurricane lamps at night, the pollution from kerosene lamp soot that resulted in the danger to health and life and the ongoing risk of house fires, families being separated when children were sent to relatives due to lack of electricity. Lack of electricity imposed economic hardships, farmers who were not able to improve their farming practices restricted to non- mechanicalised methods, unable to use underground water pumps. Women were not able to utilize electric sewing machines, washing machines and pumps to run water from rain storage tanks. Instead, the alternative for many was either the use of expensive fuel consuming generators to run basic household appliances.

Upon assessment of the survey work conducted, the members of SI Nadi were now fully committed to the electrification of Kachingari. This project would bring about a revolutionary change in the lives of women and girls.

The Club set about working out a fully detailed project plan which included time line, budget, expected objectives, activities, outputs, indicators of progress, milestones and outcomes. This work as well as the detailed survey was submitted to the Government who supported the project 100%, the club also requested that the government handle the finances and implementation by the Fiji Electricity Authority. The Club continued to supervise the project. Fiji is a cyclone and hurricane prone area, electrical posts often fall and break during cyclones. To avoid this common disaster, the Nadi club had identified that the electricity poles had to be well implanted into the ground using strong concrete to ensure continued supply to the community in the event of cyclones. Club members were present and when the electrical posts were being laid down and also when the posts were being fixed and wired.

The Fijian government provided the funds of \$430 000, (\$380 000 {external post and wires} + \$50 000 {internal house wiring and meter box etc}) to provide electricity to Kachingari. The project has

enabled access to a major government service being made available for this community, which will now have improved health and economic opportunities.



Example of the type of homes and the Nausori Highlands area where Kachingari is located near

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Educate, Empower, Enable



Copy for the June 2018 eSPAN edition is required by 20th May 2018 to
swpasstprogramdirector1@siswp.org

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