

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

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Soroptimist



International

Federation of the

South West Pacific

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International Women's Day

This is one of our five major campaigns in Programme this year. It is also a very popular project or activity in clubs as many clubs either organise and attend one.

Its message this year resonates with everything we seek to achieve for women and girls and hence all of humanity – gender equality. A great Toolkit has sent to every club so whatever you are doing to celebrate we urge you to “strike a pose” and take photographs. Not sure what I am writing about? The by [Clicking here](#) Get some males in your life to strike a pose also. There are placards you can print and I urge you to use the hash tags prolifically. Send emails listed in the toolkit.

In one way it is sad that we still need to advocate for gender equality. In 1981 the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women has since been signed by 189 member nations. It is 31 years since the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 imagined a world where every woman and girl could have freedoms and choices and realise all her rights. Its 12 critical areas of concern provide a way for countries to bring about change. What has been achieved? What remains to be achieved? What do we still need to challenge?

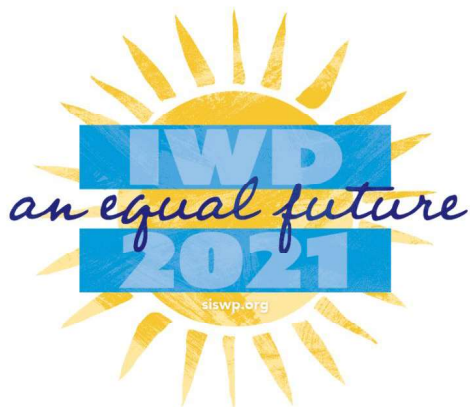
We still need to challenge gender inequality and all that accompanies that - less education, lower wages, fewer opportunities, less leadership, greater ownership, inadequate healthcare and unfulfilled potential. Can we achieve this? Look how far we have come! Think how many women and girls' lives have been improved in some way by the actions of your club. Think of the combined impact of 72,000 members around the world.

So this year as we celebrate International Women's Day stand proudly, raise your hand, strike your pose and say “I challenge.....”

Di Lockwood, Programme Director

Advocacy Work

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



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

Programme Reporting Database



Report on Reports

The Programme of Service team has been very busy during the last month clearing all reports awaiting assessment. As advertised previously:

- The dates for the Annual Report are 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020. Only reports falling within these dates will appear on your report. If a report has is not on your Annual Report please contact swpprogramme2020@siswp.org
- We advised clubs that they could run and print their club's Annual Report after 31 January. Please produce your club's report NOW if you have not already do
- If for some reason extra information is available later you can produce a modified report at a later date.
- Region, Zone and National Representative reports can also be produced.
- There are currently rejected reports which have not been resubmitted by clubs. If the club does not wish to resubmit the report they should delete it. Only publ appear on club information.
- There are still clubs who have not entered any data on the report database. These gaps will show on a Region report.

Interim Board Meeting 15-16 May 2021

This will be a virtual meeting and one section needs to be a Programme of Service meeting. Attendance is required from Region Programme/UN Liaison position hc Representatives from countries that do not have regions.

Others may have the opportunity to attend. More details, times and an Agenda will be available closer to the event.



HAVING PROBLEMS with the DATABASE?

Anyone having problems with the report database please contact Di Lockwood, Programme Director. Di's email is swpprogramme2020@siswp.org

Please do not ring HQ



Grant applications are now Open

The objective of this fund is to provide a funding stream for a club, a region or a country to implement or continue a new phase of a project which they would not be able to do with substantial funding

The Brilliant Futures Fund Grant will provide in 2021 a single grant of AUD\$10,000, further grants may be offered if further funding is obtained. The project must have a strong focus. Clubs, Regions and Countries can nominate a project which addresses but is not inclusive to the following:

- Vision and Mission of SISWP
- Increasing education opportunities for women
- Women's sustainable economic independence
- Women in leadership
- Entrepreneurship project

The Nominated project can be:

- New Project
- Or an Existing project

Click on the read more button below to go to the web page, where you can download the guidelines document and nominate your project. Applications close on the 1st of March

[READ MORE](#)



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

UN SDG Work

UNITED NATIONS

Did you Know: Source ILO

Employment growth since 2008 has averaged only 0.1% annually, compared with 0.9% between 2000 and 2007.

Over 60 per cent of all workers lack any kind of employment contract.

Fewer than 45 per cent of wage and salaried workers are employed on a full-time, permanent basis, and even that share is declining.

By 2019, more than 212 million people were out of work, up from 201 million in previous years.

600 million new jobs need to be created by 2030, just to keep pace with the growth of the working age population.

New York

'We the Peoples' <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/we-the-peoples-in-conversation-with-un-secretary-general/> in Conversation with UN Secretary-General marked the 75 anniversary of the first United Nations (UN) General Assembly. To celebrate this momentous event, the UN hosted 'We the Peoples', a virtual event with the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres. The event kicked off with the UN Secretary-General's first major speech of the year, in which he introduced the UN75 global survey. [Read more](#)

Paris

Blog by Marie-Christine Griers, SI UN Representative, Paris

On 11 January, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) held the first edition in its webinar series, 'Regional Expert against Gender Stereotypes'. Targeted at decision-makers, academic and scientific communities, NGOs and civil society, the discussion in this first webinar explored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender stereotypes, with a focus on North America.

[Read More - UNESCO's Regional Expert Consultations Against Gender Stereotypes](#)

Meet our Soroptimist International United Nations Representatives, and learn about the areas of key concerns they work on at each of the UN centres. Thank you to International Director of Advocacy, 2017-2021 Bev Bucur for this information. These women make sure our position and action is heard at the UN centres. Do you have a PDF document of this information, [Download Here](#)



United Nations New

United Nations

York

There are Currently 7 UN Representatives:

Bette Levy - Main Rep, UN2020, HLPF, other as needed (ECOSOC)

Marie Fornella - Co-Chair
Commission on Social Development (ECOSOC)

Francis Zainoeddin - Aging, HLPF
Coordinating Mechanism

Barbara Rochman - Migration,
Trafficking (ECOSOC)

Vanesa Treers - NGO-CSW NY,
Generation Equality (ECOSOC)

Jacqueline Shapiro - Trafficking,
Working Group on Girls

Siren Fadler - (DGC Rep designate)
Finance for Development (DGC)

Key Areas of Work:

- Commission on Social Development
- CSW
- High Level Political Forum
- General Assembly
- UN 2020
- Generation Equality

United Nations Vienna

There are Currently 4 UN Representatives:

Martina Gredler - 2nd Vice
President of CoNGO, The Alliance,
UNODC

Christine Peer - Vice Chair of NGO-
CSW Vienna, Peace
Committee, Committee on Aging

Marion Prechtl - Treasurer of the
Committee on Sustainable
Development, UNIDO

All attend NGO-CSW Vienna

Marcella Sigmund - (newly
appointed January 1)

Key Areas of Work:

- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Organized Crime (UNODC)
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)
- Peace
- Sustainable Development

Geneva

There are Currently 4 UN Representatives:

Berthe de Vos - Center Contact,
ILO,

Stacy Ciulik -UPR, HRC

Donatella Benjamin - Sustainable
Development, UPR, HRC

Kristin Reynisdottir - Sustainable
Development, NGO-CSW

All attend NGO-CSW Geneva

Key Areas of Work:

- Human Rights Council
- CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women)
- Universal Periodic Review
- CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- ILO (International Labor Organization)

United Nations Nairobi

There are Currently 3 UN Reps:

Mary Muia - Center Contact,
Committee of Permanent Reps
to UNEP, Women's Major Group

Beatrice Olouch - Committee of
Permanent Reps to UNEP, UN
Habitat

Asha Abdulrahman -Committee of
Permanent Reps to UNEP, UNESCO

Key Areas of Work:

- United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) (Women in Rural Areas, Climate Change, WASH,
- Disaster Risk Management)
- UNESCO (Education)

United Nations Rome

There is currently one representative

Liliana Mosca is our Representative at the UN Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome.
UN World Food Program
Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs
CSM Women
WASAG (Global Framework for Water Scarcity)

Key Areas of Work:

- Women's Role in Food Production and Food Security
- Sustainable Agricultural Methods
- Traditional Food Sources and Water

UNESCO Paris

There are Currently 3 UN Representatives:

Evelyne Para - Center Contact
UNESCO Liaison Committee
Marie Christine Gries - UNESCO
Liaison Committee, Girls
Voice, Global Citizen's Forum,
Multicultural Education
Rina Dupriet - UNESCO Liaison
Committee

Key Areas of Work:

- Promote Peace and Security
- International Collaboration on Education, Literacy, Science, STEM
- Emerging Issues such as Water and Migration

United Nations Regional Centre Bangkok

Theresa Devashayam is our Representative at The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (ESCAP) Women's Major Group

Key Areas of Work:

- Sustainable Development and Promotion of the 2030
- Agenda through Regional Cooperation
- Gender Equality Empowerment of Women and Girls
- Aging
- Migration



Some of our incredibly hard working representatives.

UN International Days

February

- 20 February [World Day of Social Justice](#)
21 February [International Mother Language Day](#)

March

- 8 March [International Women's Day](#)
21 March [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)
21 March [International Day of Forests](#)
22 March [World Water Day](#)

April

- 7 April [World Health Day](#)
22 April [International Girls in ICT Day](#)
25 April [World Malaria Day](#)
28 April [World Day for Safety and Health at Work](#)

2021

- International Year of Peace and Trust
- International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
- International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
- International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

International Decades

- 2021–2030 United Nations Decade of Healthy ageing
- 2021–2030 United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- 2021–2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Around the Federation



D. Pagmadulam is not a name that many of us would know, but in Mongolia, she was a most significant figure. In 2020 the Soroptimist joined other organisations in celebrating this important woman when recognising D. Pagmadulam was completed to honour her.

What a wonderful activity to be able to acknowledge this significant share that information around the world through the Soroptimist n

D.Pagmadulam was the wife of Dashdorj Natsagdorj, the founder of Mongolian literature and was very well educated, studying in the U.S. and speaking Russian, German, Chinese, Manchu and Tibetan. A pioneer for women's rights and worked to establish the Mongolian Women's Union in 1924 becoming the inaugural Chairperson of this organisation.

This was the first women's organisation in Mongolia to protect the daughters, and older women. In fact, this was the first such women's organisation in Asia. She was elected Mongolia's first female parliamentarian and the country's first constitution.

A tangible example of her influence was the rise in literacy of Mongolian women. In 1920 she founded the first literacy club with 20 women. By 1931, 2000 women were literate. By 1963, 90% of the 509,000 Mongolian women were literate.

Pagmadulam was a public figure who proclaimed social equality and the right to vote for Mongolian girls and women.

SI Ipoh Environmental project

SI Ipoh assisted a local community where their Edufun centre is located.



The community faces a constant battle with waste management and environmental hygiene issues. The area has been identified as the most dengue infected area in the region, in conjunction with Malaysia world clean up day 2020, members worked with government agencies and the community members to identify locations needing cleanup and bags of debris and rubbish were collected by the 30 odd residents, inclusive women and children, who volunteered and worked tirelessly to clean-up the blocks.

the project, Ipoh local council stepped in with cranes and rubbish trucks to take the debris.

The club hopes the residents will be committed to be more aware of their hygiene and the cleanliness of this venue and to provide a conducive environment for the

Remembrance Seat for Babies in Unmarked Graves

Soroptimist make a difference in the lives of Women and Girls and this was highlighted in the Project carried out by SI Devonport.



A member drew the club's attention to the fact that in years past many stillborn babies were buried in unmarked graves in cemeteries. This was the accepted custom, with families not given the opportunity to grieve these children.

The Target SDG 3.4 - By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from noncommunicable disease prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being was chosen.

The aim was to provide a seat overlooking an area of unmarked children's graves at the Devonport Cemetery to provide somewhere for relatives to sit, reflect and remember. The club hopes to raise awareness of the issue and provide a path for families to remember and grieve. It also provided the impetus for families to research history and provide personal recognition of the babies buried many years ago.



The club partnered with the Devonport City Council who gave permission to place a remembrance seat. The council recommended the best position. A seat made from recycled materials was chosen. The club received financial support from the Council which covered half the cost of the seat.

Downloading and Printing eSPAN

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



Copy for the March 2021 eSPAN edition is required by 6th March 2021 to swpasstprogrammedirector1@siswp.org

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