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Soroptimist
Federation of the



International
South West Pacific



News - Catherine Evans, Programme Director

As the end of the calendar year is approaching you should be finalising your club reports and Programme Reporting Forms or PRRS (think of cats) for despatch to your Region Programme/UN Liaison officer. Further in the eSPAN you will find more information and links to the clubs report forms. Also what activities are you planning for the 16 Days of Activism commencing **25th November until 10th December** which as you know is International Human Rights Day and the day when we remember specifically to make a donation to the International President's Appeal. You will of course remember that President Anusha recently launched the "Soroptimist Makmur Indonesia" Tsunami & Earthquakes Appeal so please give generously for the activities of our sisters in Indonesia as they are already working diligently to ease the burden on the women and children in these devastated areas of Indonesia and also the International President's Appeal Women, Water and Leadership which is supporting projects in Sabah and Sarawak Borneo. Further information on the SI President's appeal and the Makmur appeal are below.

Programme Reports

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

International President's Appeal

The current appeal has almost reached 50% of its target of 350,000UK pounds. The 3rd project for Women, Water and Leadership has commenced - *Education, Food, Security, Food Security and Health in Long Tanyit, Sarawak*. [Read the latest information about the project on the SI website](#). This information will assist you with fundraising for the project.



Also I should point out that International President Mariet has advised that the Sulawesi disaster in Indonesia will be a beneficiary of some of her International President's Appeal "Women, Water and Leadership" moneys and will contribute to the recovery from the Sulawesi disaster so members should be contributing to both appeals.

United Nations Days are listed below, please read the information about these days, and how you might consider advocating about them at your next dinner meeting or function.

CSW 63

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[CSW Information Cover Sheet](#)

[CSW Background Information](#)

[CSW Fully Funded Application Form](#)

[CSW Self Funded Application Form](#)

Doesn't this image just pull at your heart strings, you know you just want to help. SISWP will work in partnership with SI Kemang and SI Jakarta in Indonesia to provide disaster relief funds for the following programmes to support disaster-affected families in Sulawesi and Lombok. This will help families:

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

You, your friends and your club can Donate now to the Soroptimist Makmur Indonesia Tsunami and Earthquakes Appeal.

Contact hq@siswp.or or visit the [appeal page on the SISWP website](#)

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.

With 2 December being the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, this advocacy information from SI Maylands Peninsula (Australia) showcases how we can all have a voice for women, the club recently advocated on behalf of women and girls. They wanted to support women and girls in the areas of work and daily living standards, particularly in regards to modern day slavery and homelessness. They wrote letters to representatives of government at all levels.

SI New Plymouth (New Zealand) members were concerned about a research study GROWING UP in NEW ZEALAND, this was a study which was in its 10 year. The study tracks the health and development of 6800 children from prior to birth to young adulthood. This study is important because it is the first of its kind to encompass the growing diversity of the New Zealand population. SI New Plymouth organised for all Soroptimist clubs in Central Region and the SI New Zealand National Representative to write a submission requesting full government funding for this research study to continue. Letters were written to Right Honourable (Hon.) Jacinda Adern, New Zealand (NZ) Prime Minister; Hon. Carmel Sepuloni, Minister of Social Development, Jonathan Young, Member for New Plymouth. The club is able to report that The Government announced restoration of full funding of the GROWING UP IN NEW ZEALAND research study on 15 May 2018

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

SWP UNite to End Violence against Women and Girls

16 Days of Activism



The 16 Days of Activism commences on the **25th of November and concludes on the 10th of December**. Soroptimists are encouraged to use this time to advocate for an END to violence against women and girls.

Soroptimists have been advocating for many years. It seems that the statistics do not change, still one in three women worldwide experience gender-based violence Soroptimists will never give up the fight to bring an END to violence.

"Violence against women and girls has many faces. One does not have to look far to see these faces, they are all around us. It takes the will to see. It takes the courage to speak up against. It takes the strength to fight against. But inaction is not good enough anymore."

Ewelina U. Ochab

The Programme and Communications team have developed a SWP Campaign for the 16 days. The SWP website and facebook page will feature blogs, articles showcasing club grass roots domestic violence projects, daily social media posts on facebook and twitter. A SWP 16 days of activism toolkit has also been prepared for SWP members to use at a club and personal level to assist you to become involved with the 16 Days of Activism campaign. There are useful graphics and social media tips to assist you with publicity of your activities.

The Programme Team encourages you to get involved in your community, speak out, host events, involve men in the conversations, wear orange and importantly:-

SEND HQ hq2@siswp.org information about your events, let us share your activities. Singularly and collectively we can make change happen.

[Download Toolkit from the SISWP Website Here](#)

or

Click on each asset below:

[16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence Campaign Toolkit Overview](#)

[How to Update Your Facebook Profile Image with the 16 Days Facebook Frame](#)

[SISWP 16 Days of Activism Facebook Banner](#)

[SISWP 16 Days of Activism Website Banner](#)

[SISWP 16 Days of Activism Website Portal](#)

[SISWP Orange Emblem](#)

[16 Days of Activism Campaign End Violence Slogan for Printing](#)

[16 Days of Activism Campaign Orange the World Slogan for Printing](#)

[16 Days of Activism Campaign Say No Slogan for Printing](#)

[16 Days of Activism Campaign Blank Slogan for Printing](#)

United Nation Days

16 November - [International Day for Tolerance](#)

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

20 November- [Universal Children's Day.](#)

This day was established in 1954 and in 1959 the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Later in 1989 the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention for the Rights of the Child. Since 1990, this day also marks the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on Children's rights.

25 November - [International Day for the Elimination of Violence](#) against Women and the start of the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. More will be available this month on potential advocacy activities.

1 December - [World Aids Day](#)

Secretary-General António Guterres stated that 'the world is well on its way to meeting the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030'... and asked all to make the AIDS epidemic a thing of the past."



Woman from Morocco trapped in forced labour. "Whenever the lady of the house left, she would lock me up for hours in the veranda, with only one small bottle of water." © PAG-ASA, Massimo Timosi

2 December - [International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.](#)

Slavery is not merely a historical relic. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) more than 40 million people worldwide are victims of modern slavery, a term covering practices such as forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage and human trafficking, all examples of exploitation particularly of women and children. It is estimated that over 40 million people are subject to modern slavery. The ILO has adopted a new legally binding Protocol designed to strengthen global efforts to eliminate forced labour, which came into force in November 2016.

3 December - [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992, by the UN General Assembly to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development. In 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted.

This convention has further advanced the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. The 2018 theme is Empowering Persons with Disabilities and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality.

10 December - [Human Rights Day](#)

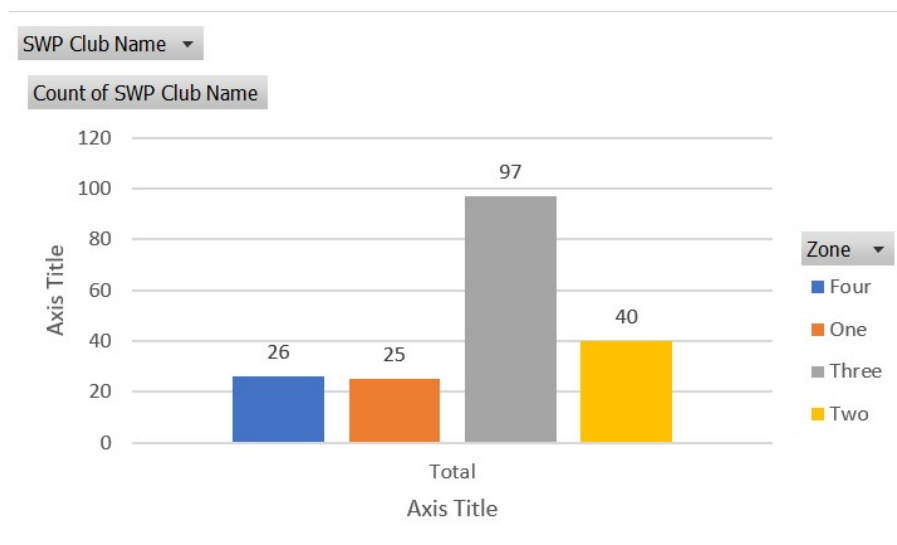
The 16 days of activism for Violence Against Women concludes on Human Rights Day which this year turns 70 since it was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948 by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document.

Last month the swp programme team reported on the no of reports received from clubs. We are pleased to say that since then more reports have been received by the team. See the updated graph below, but these reports have been received from clubs belonging to FOUR countries:

- Australia has submitted 151 reports
- New Zealand has submitted 58 reports
- Singapore has submitted 10 reports
- Fiji has submitted 5 reports

So come on, the team wants to see reports from all clubs in all countries.

Keep up the good work and tell us about your projects. SISWP Programme team needs to be able to keep telling the world what a great job you are doing.



December 10th President's Appeal



Were you one of the Soroptimists from SWP who were able to engage in the 'Women, Water & Leadership' webinar on the 11th of November presented by SI President Mariet Verhoef Cohen. This excellent webinar provided updated information on the progress of the Women Water and Leadership projects. Including news update about the 3rd project commencing in our own Federation - Sarawak and Sabah. The village of Long Tanyit in Sarawak has no clean water for drinking and cooking purposes, no electricity, no sanitation and no medical clinic. The project will be implemented in stages: a rain-water harvesting system and storage;

construction of a small dam and irrigation to commence organic farming, [Read More Here](#)

If you were unable to attend this Webinar you can now listen online at anytime! Listed below is a link to log in and listen to the recording of the webinar. Click on a below link and register your

details such as your name and Club information. You will then be taken directly to the recorded version of the Webinar! Enjoy!

[Women, Water & Leadership' webinar link](#)

Also announced was the 4th project which will be the **Soroptimist Makmur Indonesian Tsunami and Earthquakes**, this project will support the work of SWP but will focus on water and sanitation projects in Sulawesi and Lombok.



Are you organising a fundraising event or activity to support the SI President's Appeal '**Women, Water and Leadership**' on or before the 10th of December?

If so, please let us know by taking part in our social media campaign #WWLSoroptimist. We would love to see your photographs and hear all about your events and SI will retweet them from now until the 11th of December. It is easy to join in! Just use the hashtag #WWLSoroptimist and share your President's Appeal news with us @SoroptiTweet on Twitter and at SoroptimistGlobal on Facebook! Watch the video message from Mariet Verhoef-Cohen [click on this link](#)

Club Annual Reporting

Clubs are reminded that they need to be working on their club annual report which is due by the 31st of December. For this year only, report from 1 September 2017 until 31 December 2018.

For your convenience you can download (link provided below) the 2018 Annual Club Report and Zonal Diagram. For additional Programme documents please refer to the SISWP Website Downloads area located at: Downloads > Programme Information > Programme Forms. [Club Project Report Form](#) [Zonal Document](#)

Around the Federation

This month we have chosen projects where clubs are partnering with other Soroptimist clubs or organisations, meeting President Anusha's call to to produce quality sustainable Cross-Border Project Partnerships / Partnering with Clubs.



SI Adelaide in collaboration with Soroptimist clubs of Barossa, Mt Gambier, Naracoorte, Northern Highlands, Southern & Torrens Club, a scholarship/award was presented for a student whose academic performance, in the opinion of the examiners, showed him/her to be the most

outstanding student in the Level 111 Gender Studies course. The award was to encourage & support ideas which are important to the advancement of women. This innovative award encourages students to consider gender based inequalities and the work which Soroptimists do.

The Region of South Queensland clubs all contribute to a NCWQ bursary. This bursary is for an indigenous woman who is a student in nursing or other health related fields. Indigenous women from Queensland are encouraged to nominate for the scholarship which is worth \$1000.00. This year the winner was a young women who is in her third year of Medicine and is keen to return to work with indigenous communities. This project showcases how working in partnership produces far reaching results.

As we approach this years International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, this project by SI Westland provides ideas on how you can advocate to END violence. The club held a market stall at the weekly market for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls members handed out fliers, worked with people to assist making anti-violence placards for a street parade and taught people to make stars for the One Million Stars project. There was a white board for people to write messages on the topic "Let's work together to stop family violence". This market day was done in partnership with representatives from "Safe Man, Safe Family".

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

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