

# SIGBI Programme Director's Blog September 2016



For many countries within our Federation this month marks the start of a new academic year. Schools reopen, Universities start their new courses and many young women (and men) will embark on the further education that will enable them to achieve their goals. Sadly this is not true for so many within our world.

Gender discrimination, internal conflict, displacement, lack of hygiene facilities and poverty all prevent many from attending schools. Our theme of Educate, Empower and Enable could not be more appropriate when trying to ensure a better world in the future.

Working on projects to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, has never been so important.



Over the last month I have received many e-mails that request assistance from Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) so that organisations can deliver help in areas where it is much needed. It is impossible to work with everyone but it is good to know that there are many people out there trying to help as well as SIGBI . Partnerships are important.

Working together promotes understanding and peace- this can be on a formal or informal basis.

I am currently in Greece where they hold an annual dance festival and it is wonderful to see the camaraderie between Nations, through music and Dance. Different cultures, religions and backgrounds all performing together in a wonderfully fun atmosphere.



This is also true of the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, a festival that has endured a world war and still brings the four corners of the world together.

It is only by Educating, Empowering and Enabling everyone that we can have equality, reduce poverty and hunger, improve health, sanitation and economic growth and take action to preserve our environment and perhaps promote peace.

Let us hope that the start of the new terms brings about some of these changes.

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