

February 2016

The SIGBI Programme Team is delighted to welcome Margaret Clark as Assistant Programme Director (APD) for Advocacy bringing us back to full strength and allowing Pat Black to move totally to her International role.

Margaret has been working hard since taking up post, travelling to London for meetings in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York next March. I know that her enthusiasm for Soroptimism and all it stands for will ensure we will continue to have the best possible representation. We have a strong delegation again this year and there will be plenty of information on the website from those attending.



Fair trade fortnight starts during this month and will lead us into March when we celebrate International Women's day and the launch of the new Federation Project-[The Meru Women's Garden Project](#). I hope you have all made a note of the date (8 March 2016) and that some of you are considering the roles of Project Liaison or Ambassador.

On a personal note I have also been attending several meetings related to CSW with Margaret and working on our Annual North Wales Anti-trafficking Conference.

Soroptimist International are well recognised for all their work on Anti Trafficking and we received many accolades from the speakers last year, especially from Kevin Hyland, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, who will be speaking at our North Wales Conference again this year as well as being a keynote speaker at the [Soroptimist UK Programme Action Committee \(UKPAC\) study Day](#).

The programme team have continued to meet via skype and are working on the [Malta Conference](#) programme section as well as representing the organisation at many appropriate events, ensuring we continue to be recognised as one of the main organisations working for the rights of women through focus of "Educate, Empower and Enable" in our attempts to ensure women and girls achieve their maximum potential.

Although we seem a long way from the end of the Club year, it will be with us sooner than we realise. As we move forward towards our "Agenda 2021" (The Centenary of SI) we must continue to place programme action at the centre of club activities. Our work is what makes us so special so I hope there are plenty of potential Programme Action Officers out there ready to take up the mantle of our project work so that we can be the first choice for those who want to join a women's organisation.

I wish you health, happiness and success in all your projects.

*Barbara Dixon
Federation Programme Director*