

March 2016



On March 8th this year we will not only be celebrating International Women's Day but also the launch of the new Federation Project- the Meru Women's Garden Project. I cannot think of a better project than one which covers our 3E's (Educate, Empower, Enable) and most of the programme areas, and to launch it on International Women's Day is a fitting start.

Without food there is poor health – inability to work results in lack of social development and poverty which increases vulnerability and the risk of abuse and trafficking. Climate changes see crops fail causing all of the former statements. The Meru Project will educate women, enabling them to earn a living and empowering them within their community. It will make a difference and that difference will be delivered through our partner organisation Child.org., thus "Engineering the Future". I look forward to hearing of the many ways in this project is supported.



Days after International Women's Day the SIGBI delegation will be winging its way to New York for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – statements, issues papers and working methods documents have been prepared and will be put to good use during the time there. Watch out for news on the SIGBI website, Facebook, Twitter and our blogs.



In last month's mailing I erroneously linked the "spoon project" to trafficking- my apologies to SI Bilston and District and Kama Nirvana for this oversight.

The spoon project was originated by Kama Nirvana to raise awareness of the issues affecting women and girls who are being forced to marry. Call handlers at Kama Nirvana advise girls, as a last resort when being taken out of the country to place a metal spoon in their underwear providing an opportunity to be taken aside when the

airport security alarm sounds and spoken to in a private room.

SI Bilston and District is selling the Lapel Spoons for £2 on behalf of Kama Nirvana, with all proceeds going to support the Help Line. If you would like to purchase one please contact [SIGBI HQ](#).

This topic will also be raised at CSW and more information will be on our website soon.

On the subject of trafficking I had the pleasure of addressing a Conference on Anti-trafficking last week introducing a new concept in age determination for survivors- the simple dental radiograph.

Kevin Hyland was immensely impressed by the work Soroptimists do in this area, as was Steve Chapman , the Anti-trafficking Commissioner for Wales. Their comments re-enforced the fact that we are well known at higher levels but not always locally.

On a final note can I remind everyone that SIGBI now has its own database. All Programme Report Forms should be put on to the new system not the old SI database. Full instructions for the use of the new database have been circulated, but I gather some clubs are still using the old system.

Programme Action is not a spectator sport, we don't stand still and soon you will be consulted on proposed changes to streamline the system, delivering what PA officers have asked for, looking forwards to 2021 and as an added bonus saving money.

Please read the news briefings, there is so much in them that affects every member at some point.

Stay well and keep working on your projects!

Barbara Dixon

Federation Director of Programme

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