



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

August /September 2011



HELLO AND WELCOME TO MY FIRST PAM MESSAGE AS PROGRAMME DIRECTOR.

Since taking office it has been an extremely steep learning curve but I hope I am getting there slowly. I would like to thank Hilary Ratcliffe at this point as without the master class she took me through in the delightful surroundings of the Derbyshire Peak District I am sure I would be very confused.

My main point this message is a plea to visit the newly re vamped Programme Section of the members' area of the SIGBI website <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/members/> NOTE; you only need your surname and membership number to access this part of the site.

Helen and Sue along with Sally from Federation Office have spent hours improving this and we would very much like to hear what you think. Are we still missing bits or have we cracked it?



On your behalf I attended a meeting of the top 6 women's organisations in the UK this week where amongst the topics under discussion were issues close to our Soroptimist hearts: education, leadership roles for women, trafficking and the rights of the girl child. **Sue Biggs SIGBI Programme Director**

UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21ST SEPTEMBER

For this year's International Day of Peace observance on September 21, the UN has chosen the theme of "Make Your Voice Heard," under the overall idea of peace and democracy.

Each year, the Universal Peace Federation and its Ambassadors for Peace around the world organize commemorations of the International Day of Peace.

To find out more and read about a variety of ways to mark this day go to:

<http://www.upf.org/united-nations/peace-day>

Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding



GLOBAL IMPACT REPORT 2010

This impressive report launched at the Convention in Montreal recognises and celebrates the collective achievements of Soroptimist work. It can be accessed at: <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org/resources/global-impact> Start by reading the executive summary—you will want to read more!



FAIRTRADE

A BIG thank you to all clubs who took part in this year's Fairtrade Challenge. "Get Loud and Proud about Fairtrade" which explained to consumers how important Fairtrade is to its Producers and farmers, and how the Fairtrade premium secures a more stable future for local communities. Many of you took part in the Cotton Bunting Challenge and designed, painted and sewed pieces of cotton bunting, enabling Fairtrade to smash the world record for the longest string of hand designed bunting.



IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL CLUBS SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE

I will be attending the Fairtrade AGM on 28th September 2011 and each year I give a presentation of work carried out by Soroptimists, so if you haven't already submitted a Programme Report

PLEASE will you do it now, and if you have any photos please send to me to use in my presentation. Last year Fairtrade and all other member organisations present were very impressed with our online reporting system, and the fact that only we Soroptimists could give the EXACT number of projects carried out.

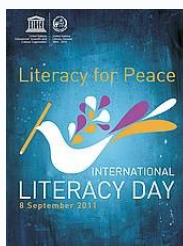
Last year we had 54 projects recorded - at present we have 21 – so please submit your reports! THANK YOU Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY - 8TH SEPTEMBER

UNESCO has announced the theme for International Literacy Day 2011, it is 'Literacy and Peace'. As a way of marking this important day UNESCO award International Literacy Prizes each year in recognition of excellence and innovation in literacy throughout the world. This year they will be awarded at an official ceremony on 8 September 2011 during International Literacy Day celebrations in New Delhi, India.

Prize winners include programmes in Burundi, Mexico, the United States of America, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with honourable mentions to programmes in Pakistan and the Philippines.

For more information go to: [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/literacy/)



[blocks/literacy/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/literacy/)

What will your club doing to mark International Literacy day? Whatever it is, please remember to report your actions on the programme reporting database.

Helen Owen APD Education



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PREVENTABLE MATERNAL DEATHS IN UK

An unpublished report which was commissioned by NHS London and obtained by BBC's Panorama, found that sub-standard care was a major factor in 17 maternal deaths in London in 18 months.

The report found some maternity units struggling to cope and said: 'Escalation of services was noted to be an issue when units appeared to have difficulty coping with the clinical workload; several deaths occurred when activity in a maternity unit was high and one-to-one care could not be delivered'.

Throughout England and Wales there is a shortage of 4,700 midwives and a booming birth rate which means many mothers are turned away from the hospital where they have booked to give birth. Last year there was a baby born in Britain every 40 seconds, the highest rate for nearly 20 years.

According to data gathered under the Freedom of Information Act, maternity units were forced to close temporarily to new admissions 1,055 times last year.

At least 927 women were turned away, the survey of 171 Health Trusts and Boards found.

The survey also showed that there is a postcode lottery for maternity services with some parts of the country suffering a much worse shortage than others.

Rita Allen APD Health.

COME TOGETHER FOR PEACE. Dr. Geet Chainani is the embodiment of how various countries can come together for Peace. She is a young American doctor who is in Pakistan this summer. She's an American, born in India, raised in New York City, trained as a medical doctor in the Caribbean. And for most of a year now she's been treating families, especially children, in the tent cities of the flood waters of the Indus River, upstream from Karachi

Geet Chainani grew up on Staten Island with a grandmother who told her "we were Sindhis first." Meaning: master the Sindhi language early; think of yourself as a child of the world's first big-city culture, at Mohenjo-daro in Sindh, from 2600 B.C. Her grandparents were part of the vast Hindu migration out of Sindh to India in 1947, at the partition that created Pakistan.



But Sindh province in Pakistan was where Geet came looking for her roots a year ago — for the tombs of the Sufi saints and the world's oldest plumbing.

The first big shock was Pakistan's devastation by immersion. The second, when she pitched herself into the emergency, was discovering, with mothers in distress, that knowing their language was as valuable as her medical training. It is this spirit for social work which transcends all boundaries of nations, faiths, languages and class that raises mere mortals to the level of human beings. **Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding**

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY OCTOBER 18TH 2011 (in the UK)

Ideas to help Clubs raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of modern-day slavery and human trafficking:

- Write a letter to your local newspaper about how human trafficking and slavery affects your area and what you are doing about it
- Talk with your local town hall, library, museum or other public building about exhibiting awareness-raising material on human trafficking and slavery
- Invite your local MP, Mayor and the local media to attend a local Anti-Slavery Day activity which profiles human trafficking and slavery
- Arrange a stunt in your local town centre to raise awareness about human trafficking and slavery
- Where possible commit to buying Slave/Traffik-Free products e.g. Fairtrade, and tell others
- Organise a film night with a focus on human trafficking and slavery
- Ask for a meeting with your local councillor, or for them to attend a local Anti-Slavery Day activity, to profile human trafficking and slavery
- Profile Anti-Slavery Day through your website, social media networks, and other outlets
- Find out who your local town is twinned with in Europe and how best to communicate with them Arrange joint communications/activities for Anti-Slavery Day, which is also EU Anti-Trafficking Day
- Organise a sponsored run or other sporting event to raise awareness and funds for anti-slavery and anti-trafficking work

[Stop the Traffick at www.stophetraffick.org](http://www.stophetraffick.org)
[Human Trafficking Foundation at www.humantraffickingorganisation.org](http://www.humantraffickingorganisation.org)
[Anti-Slavery International at www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org)
[Unchosen at www.unchosen.org](http://www.unchosen.org)

The Purple Teardrop campaign urges you to both raise awareness support rescued victims, particularly women and girls from sexual exploitation. They need very specialised safe care to help them overcome their de-humanisation and it is expensive! Hold a purple-themed fund-raiser, perhaps a coffee morning, afternoon tea or American supper. Bake a cake, mow a lawn, clean a car or a carpet, shampoo a head or a dog to help someone in need in your community. For more ideas go to <http://www.purpleteardrop.org.uk/> and click on 'Summer Newsletter 2011'.

Add your ideas and photos of your action for Anti Slavery Day to the Purple Teardrop Campaign Facebook page. How many ideas can we list from now to 18 October? To help support events, Purple Teardrop Campaign's new posters and leaflets plus purple teardrop pin badges are available from www.purpleteardrop.org.uk .Please see SIGBI website for sample press release. **What will you do? Please do let us know. Jackie Paling, APD Human Rights/Status of Women**



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN JUNE:



Funds raised: \$ **25,842** Women helped: **3,096** Girls helped: **2,164**