



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

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FEBRUARY ALREADY WHERE IS THE TIME GOING?

Time passes so quickly and I was reminded of this only last week when an email popped into my inbox about the "50 Million Missing Campaign". In the Federation Conference in Cardiff in 2009 a motion was brought about this campaign and here an email was reminding of not only the passage of time but also that this campaign still needs our support. Our theme for the foreseeable future is educating, empowering and enabling women and girls to achieve their potential and yet in parts of our world new born girls are being killed every few minutes.



Rita Banerjee the author, photographer and gender activist from India writes, "Think about it – India technically houses 1/5 of the world's women. And in 20 years, 20% of women in India – and in the world, will have been systematically eliminated."



At the moment we are hard at work putting together the final touches to an alternative fundraising pack for raising money to support Maternal Childhealth Advocacy International our Federation partnership in The Gambia. When it is ready we will make sure that it gets out to all Clubs. I am conscious in these times that it is important to be realistic with our fund raising efforts and so we hope this pack will help.

Sue Biggs SIGBI Programme Director

SOROPTIMISTS STEP OUT FOR FAIRTRADE – Starting in Fairtrade Fortnight 27th February – 11th March

IT CAN BE A SIMPLE STEP

Like swapping your tea to Fairtrade

OR A BIGGER STEP

Like asking everyone in your place of work to do it too

YOU WILL BE JOINING THOUSANDS OF OTHERS

Every step counts for millions of farmers, workers and their communities in developing countries who urgently need a better deal from trade

MAKE YOUR STEP COUNT

Log on to Fairtrade at <http://step.fairtrade.org.uk/> and register your steps.

Let me know how many steps you have taken in your club and send photos to me, you will find my email address under UN days & Significant dates on the members section of the web site

Sue Challoner SIGBI Representative at Fairtrade



JOIN

WOMEN

ON THE BRIDGE

CLUBS ARE VERY BUSY at the moment organising events for International Women's Day including many bridge events. Register your event at:

<http://joinmeonthebridge.org/page/event-map>

An event organisers basic toolkit and a more detailed toolkit is available at <http://joinmeonthebridge.org/page/how-to-organise-1>

Whether you are able to organise a bridge event or not, please do send an online message of peace via the website <http://joinmeonthebridge.org/page/messages-of-peace> Do ask other women's organisations to join you and don't forget to fill in a Programme Focus Report form afterwards, include photos and update your Club website, if you have one, with details. A Press release will be available shortly.

URGENT – FORCED MARRIAGE CONSULTATION - UK

The UK Government launched a consultation on **12th December 2011 running until 30th March 2012** to ask whether a specific criminal offence would help combat Forced Marriage and if so how would it be formulated. Views are also being sought on how to implement the criminalisation of breaches of the civil Forced Marriage Orders. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/forced-marriage

SI Bilston and SI Lichfield and District have this to say:- "We want to contact members to highlight the Governments consultation on Criminalising Forced Marriage. We are working with Jasvinder Sanghera following her visit to our Region last June. She alerted us to the Home Office consultation. She and her team put together a simplified version of the main consultation to help Soroptimists and other organisations address the issues. Please encourage members (and friends) who have internet access to complete the on-line Home Office Consultation Response".

For all the information you need please go to <http://www.soroptimist-ukpac.org/> and click on Forced Marriage Consultation Paper on the left of the page.

Jackie Paling APD Violence and Conflict Resolution

Educate to Lead

SI Pune:

**EDUCATED,
EMPOWERED
ENABLED**

these women to run their own business.

**Talat Pasha APD
Economic
Empowerment**



CIVIL WAR AND ITS EFFECT ON HEALTHCARE.



2011 saw many countries suffering internal conflict with the media concentrating on the political aspects of the situations. Little coverage was given to the disruption in or

provision of health care in these war torn countries. In the Sudan alone over 60,000 people were displaced with many others reported wounded or dead.

Effect of Clashes on Health Service Delivery

- Destruction and closure of health facilities.
- Displacement of health personnel both international and national staff
- Destruction of equipment and supplies
- Lack of access to medical care by those in need in the affected areas
- Disruption of routine health services including immunization for eligible children, antenatal and delivery services for women, access to medicines for those with chronic illnesses among others

Add to this the separation of children and families and the inability to provide their own food.

Whilst we attempt to respond to natural disasters by providing monetary aid we often overlook the long term effects of internal conflicts on the provision of healthcare, and often the women and children suffer most. It can take decades before the provision of basic services is re instated and in the interim hundreds of people suffer or die.

Many NGO's work tirelessly in such countries in an attempt to restore some balance, providing basic nutritional and medical needs and Soroptimist International is no exception.

By supporting educational, health and development programmes we can improve their plight.

Barbara Dixon APD Food Security and Health

WOMEN'S EDUCATION



Women's Education in India

The government in India is very concerned about improving the education of women. A very informative article has been written about the progress made by women over the years and what the government is trying to achieve these days. I know

Soroptimists in India are working with several projects to improve women's learning opportunities.

http://www.indianetzone.com/39/women_education_india.htm

According to statistics produced by the Guardian Newspaper in the UK girls are still not opting for the



THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME defines the Green Economy as one that results in

improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is **low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.**

A Green Economy is one whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments, that reduces carbon emissions and pollution, enhances energy and resource efficiency, and prevents the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These investments need to be catalyzed and supported by targeted public expenditure, policy reforms and regulation changes.

This year the theme seems more complex than previous years, so what can **you** do for **WED 2012?**

The web site <http://hqweb.unep.org/wed/WEDpack/> includes lots of ideas for activities including :- Competitions, Environmental Education and Awareness-Raising, Flash mobs, Information kits, Online and Social media activities. **Ruth Dodd APD Environmental Sustainability**

sciences - mathematics and computing at university. However, dentistry, veterinary and law degrees are well represented with up to 77% women in some cases. The project which won an award "Skirting Science" is giving girls more information so that they can make informed choices and hopefully we will be seeing more girls taking those subjects at the highest level. Please follow the link to the Guardian newspaper for a complete analysis of results. Maybe your club could run some projects which would encourage girls to look at science in a more positive way.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/table/2010/jul/13/female-students-choice-science-subjects>

I was sent an interesting article from WUNRN (Women's United Nations Report Network). <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=106363> Although the Taliban are trying to destroy girls' schools the girls are 'fighting' back and attending school without any buildings. I know that several clubs are supporting educational projects in Afghanistan and also that schools have been built in Afghanistan with the help of funds raised by SIGBI Soroptimists.

Janet Hodgson APD Learning Opportunities

Keep up to date with the progress of the **PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN:** read the Winter 2012 Newsletter and find out 12 things you can do in 2012 to help stamp out Human Trafficking.

Please visit their website:

www.purpleteardrop.org.uk/



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN JANUARY:

Reports submitted: 83 Funds raised:\$25,041 Women and Girls helped: 3,686

