



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

January 2012



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL SOROPTIMISTS AROUND THE FEDERATION AND BEYOND.

Programme Action "Recipe Book"

I hope that you are all ready for the exciting year ahead and the challenges that will come our way. The work that was carried out in Brighton at the Federation Programme Action Committee meeting where we looked at current and future project work has now been typed up and will shortly be appearing in the members' area of this website. Please use it when you are thinking of starting a new project under the long term theme and the 3E's: Educate, Empower, Enable.

CSW in New York

The first challenge that I face in 2012 is my trip to New York in February and the 56th Commission on the Status of Women. This year's topic is "empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges".



In our Federation we are faced with these problems as many of our members work in areas where women face the challenges outlined above. But there is much that can be done before my flight touches down in New York.

Sorooptimist International would like us all to write letters and send postcards to our National Government officials responsible for gender equality and women's issues outlining the SI's position with regard to this issue. Template letters and postcards are available at www.sorooptimistinternational.org and in the members' area of this website.

Sue Biggs SIGBI Programme Director

Ruth Dodd APD Environmental Sustainability – reminds us to start planning for of two important dates:

1. To unite with Sorooptimists across the UK in the run up to World Water Day 2012



THE CORNUCOPIA TRADITIONALLY SYMBOLISES PLENTY: THE 1996 WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

defined food security as existing "when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life". Food security is built on three pillars:



- Food availability - sufficient quantities of food
- Food access - having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- Food use - appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation.

It is a complex issue, linked to health through malnutrition, but also to sustainable economic development, environment, and trade. Some people argue that:

- There is enough food in the world to feed everyone; the problem is distribution.
 - Future food needs cannot be met by current levels of production.
 - National food security is no longer necessary because of global trade.
 - Globalization may lead to the persistence of food insecurity and poverty in rural communities.
- Food security happens when:
- Farmers and fishers can earn a fair income for their efforts
 - Food is produced in a safe way for people and the environment
 - Local regional and community food production is supported
 - Social justice and inclusion are priorities
 - All people are empowered to work together to create positive changes in the food system and communities.

Through our programme work, we can make some impact on food security issues. Through supporting **Fairtrade** products and **educating and empowering** those who have to be self sufficient, **improving access to clean water** and **lobbying for social justice** we can make a

2. Earth Hour 2012



JOIN WOMEN ON THE BRIDGE

WHAT DOES PEACE MEAN TO YOU?

On January 1st 2012, **Kate Nustedt, Join Me on the Bridge Campaign Director, Women for Women UK**, writes:-

"I am writing to wish you a peaceful new year. But in doing so I wonder if this is something we wish for but no longer believe in – has it just become a phrase, or wishful thinking? This year, we can all make peace a reality. You can do this by sending us [your messages of peace](#) which we will share with the women peace builders of war-torn countries. Your messages will show women, who have been through unimaginable hardship, that you are standing with them, giving them the strength to carry on in their plight for equality and peace.

What does peace mean to you?

What would it mean to you to see it achieved?

We will use your messages of peace in our [Join me on the Bridge](#) campaign, which we are thrilled to launch today. On International Women's Day, 8th March, women and men join together on bridges to show that they can build the bridges of peace for our future. Last year, there were 75,000 Join me on the Bridge peace builders, who took part in 464 events across 70 countries and 6 continents. This is now the largest women's campaign worldwide calling for peace. It's only by expressing peace that we can make it happen – and if every one of us can express our wish for peace we are on our way to making peace a reality for the women of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and other war-torn countries. Thank you for your support, and we wish you a happy and peaceful new year."

Send a message of peace via: www.joinmeonthebridge/page/messages-of-peace Also see www.joinmeonthebridge.org and www.womenforwomen.org.uk

Jackie Paling APD Violence and Conflict Resolution



UN Women Annual Report

2010 – 2011 available to read online now. It can also be downloaded and saved to read when you have time as a PDF file. This 36 page Annual Report documents UN Women's work to foster women's empowerment and gender equality around the world. It highlights some of the organization's initiatives during the year and provides summary financial statements, a list of new programmes and projects, and contact information.

MANY COUNTRIES IN OUR FEDERATION are also members of the Commonwealth and I know that we were all pleased to hear the announcement made at the Commonwealth conference that they had decided that in future the Monarch's first child will be the heir regardless of sex. This led me to look at the Commonwealth website and I have added this link for you to look at. <http://commonwealthwomensvoices.wordpress.com/category/4-region/africa/malawi/>



I appreciate that this is for 2010 but the stories from these inspirational women are worth reading. I would like to draw your attention to Mercy Kazima from Malawi (left). Go to the above website to read her story.

Every country in the world has music. As a music teacher I studied and taught about many different types of music and instruments from all around the world.

I know that music has a profound effect on people especially young people. We all know about singing lullabies to babies to get them to sleep. Some clubs are raising money and helping charities and organisations that are providing musical instruments and musical expertise. Is this something you could do in your club?



Ask at your local schools or girl guides groups. Skilled musicians can always find work which ever country they live in - and it is such fun as well!

<http://www.musicaid.org/about.htm>

Janet Hodgson APD Learning Opportunities



SOROPTIMISTS STEPPING OUT FOR FAIRTRADE. FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 27TH February – 11th March 2012

In 2012 we are asking all our clubs to take a step for Fairtrade. We will record all our steps and see how far Soroptimists can step out

for Fairtrade. You can read the full Fairtrade Fortnight press release released by our partners Fairtrade on 4th Jan 2012 on our SIGBI Web site at <http://sigbi.org/what-we-do/partners/fairtrade-foundation/>

Sue Challoner SIGBI Representative at Fairtrade

GOVERNMENT PASSES TWO WOMEN'S BILLS

Pakistan's Upper House of Parliament unanimously passed two landmark pro-women bills aimed at protecting women from the negative customs and traditions, and seeking severe punishments for the violators. The Anti-Women Practices Bill seeks to penalise evils such as the so-called marriage with the Holy Quran, forced wedlock and depriving women from inheritance. The second Bill is aimed at preventing incidents of acid-throwing at women.

Jackie Paling APD Violence and Conflict Resolution



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN DECEMBER:

Reports submitted: 43 Funds raised: \$23,233 Women and Girls helped: 1,842

