

At the [Conference in Cardiff](#) we will be fortunate to have Michael Kaufman as a speaker. He is a co-founder of the [White Ribbon Campaign](#).

The White Ribbon Campaign is the largest global effort of men working to end male violence against women. It aims to educate and raise awareness of violence against women, and to engage men in these issues.



Wearing a White Ribbon is a personal Pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Each year as many people as possible are urged to wear a white ribbon for one week, starting on 25<sup>th</sup> November, the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#).

Soroptimists all over the world have all worked to reduce violence against women. If we all start by taking one more action, we can make a huge difference. Start with a simple one from the Campaign's 10 suggestions, or visit the [website](#)

1. Order a white ribbon and wear it
2. Research the issue and challenge yourself.
3. E-mail your MPs and councillors
4. Take the issue to your workplace
5. Spread the word and tell your friends about the campaign
6. Set up a white ribbon local group in your area
7. Support local initiatives to tackle violence against women in your area
8. Take action on-line to defend women's rights
9. Plan an event in your community
10. Parents teachers and youth workers - educate young people.

**Barbara Dixon**  
Programme Director

## Disagreement on Paris Agreement

[UN World Environment Day](#) (5<sup>th</sup> June) was a day for ordinary citizens, corporations and governments to renew their pledge to work towards environment sustainability. Ironically, the same month, the US Government announced its withdrawal from the [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#).



There has been a downpour of protests at this. It is declared short-sighted and reduces the ability of the US government to provide global leadership on climate change.

Since the [withdrawal announcement](#), more than 1,200 universities, colleges, investors, businesses, mayors, and governors across the US have declared in unison that they are still part of the Paris Agreement and have [written to the United Nations](#) to underline their commitment to

continue to address carbon emissions. As the Director General of [UNIDO](#) (UN Industrial Development Organization) said, "We cannot credibly lead if we do not do whatever we can to reduce and offset our own climate footprint."

While the shock of the US stand is being absorbed and understood, it is clear that any country that fails to implement the Paris Agreement is increasing the risk for itself, business, investors, citizens and for the world. This increases the impetus on others to act in order to protect their assets. Thousands have rallied in the US to call for climate change roll back.



As the global community debates the viability of approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, [carbon-offsetting](#) — the process of purchasing carbon credits on the international or

domestic market to offset carbon emissions — is quickly becoming an avenue of choice, and as offsetting continues to grow in popularity and application, increased scrutiny must be placed on the quality of offset credits as carbon credits are inherently unequal.

In Trinidad & Tobago, SI Chaguanas, along with several other clubs, centred their focus around Environmental Education to children.

At this micro level, Soroptimists are preparing future generations to understand carbon footprints and climatic discords.

As French Prime Minister, Macron, said "[Make our planet great again](#)" (YouTube video)



**Naina Shah - APD Environmental Sustainability**

## World Humanitarian Day: 19th August

Who are the Humanitarians? Humanitarians respond to threats against human dignity and fundamental human rights. They follow key principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence as guides to their actions. [World Humanitarian Day](#) honours those who have lost their lives during humanitarian service and those who continue bringing relief to millions.

Nepal is supporting an important humanitarian effort; with the help of the [Nepal Red Cross Society](#), it has developed successful blood donation programmes, such as [Club 25](#), which encourages youngsters to donate blood 20 times before they are 25 years old. The hope is that they will remain regular blood donors throughout their lives and offer a challenge to the world's youth to follow Nepal's lead.

The UN offers significant support for humanitarian intervention; the [UNRWA](#) (UN Relief & Works Agency) supports nearly one million refugees, despite often located in war zones.

War-torn Yemen's outbreak of cholera, with over 200,000 infected ([OXFAM](#) estimates one person is dying every hour) has been described as the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

The main cause of cholera is contaminated water; it is crucial to support organisations such as [UN Water](#) and [WaterAid](#) as maintaining healthy water resources is a vital area requiring humanitarian intervention.

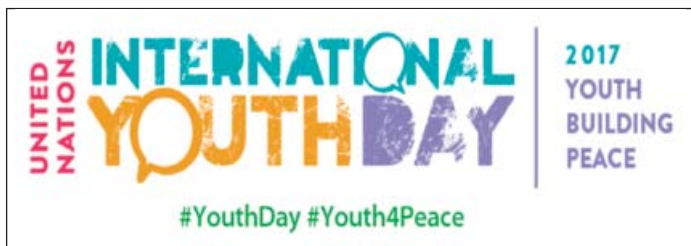
One year ago [ECOSOC's](#) (UN Economic and Social Council) [Humanitarian Affairs Segment](#) (HAS) came together to respond to a call from people in crisis. [Agenda for Humanity](#) sets out [five major Core Responsibilities](#) for action and change that are needed to address and reduce humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability, with 24 key transformations that will help achieve them. Leave no one behind.



. Photo: OCHA/Iason Athanasiadis

## International Youth Day: 12 August

Youth is our hope for a positive future and it is imperative youngsters are given platforms for political representation. With [UN International Youth Day](#), we have a perfect opportunity to remember to listen to the voice of the youth.



In Great Britain, the [UK Youth Parliament](#) has over 364 [Members](#) (MYPs, appointed annually from across the country) and is a valuable platform providing young people with political representation. MYPs take part in a debate each year in the [House of Commons Chamber](#); they debate five issues chosen by a ballot of young people from across the UK and then vote to decide which two issues should become the UK Youth Parliament's priority campaigns for the year ahead. Through a recent manifesto, the members voiced concerns over important issues, including legal rights, nuclear weapons, and political interventions.

The youth of today should no longer be marginalised but encouraged through a global political climate where young people are heard and given opportunities to represent their peers. To accomplish this, action needs to be taken to create broader political awareness among the youth along with Parliamentary outreach to future leaders through training in the parliamentary process. The success of these efforts will depend on the political, socio-economic, and cultural contexts where social norms in many parts of the world can result in discrimination against young people and women.

*Margaret Clark - APD Advocacy*

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