



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

October 2011



Hello everyone. I hope that many of you are now looking forward to the Federation Conference in Brighton. I hope to meet as many of you as possible there at our APD stand where we will be showcasing some projects which fit our new long term theme.

News that came out of the UN this week backed up the fact that our work in this area is vital. A report stated that women make up less than 10 % of world leaders. Globally less than one in five members of parliament is a woman. The 30 % critical mass mark for women's representation in parliament has been reached or exceeded in only 28 countries. This has led women political leaders to make a strong call for increasing women's political participation and decision-making across the world. Stressing that women's participation is fundamental to democracy and essential to the achievement of sustainable development and peace in all contexts — during peace, through conflict and post-conflict, and during political transitions. This is something as Soroptimists we know so much about through our work with "No Women No Peace" and Resolution 1325.

**NO WOMEN
NO PEACE.**

our work with "No Women No Peace" and Resolution 1325.

<http://www.nowomennopeace.org/>

Sue Biggs SIGBI Programme Director

PLEASE SUPPORT SIGBI/UNICEF PROJECT TO HELP PAKISTAN EMERGENCY



Pakistan has again been hit by severe flooding caused by monsoon rains. After the devastating floods of 2010 residents, still struggling to get their lives back to normal are facing widespread destruction caused by heavy rains in the southern province of Sindh. With their houses and villages engulfed by the filthy flood water, hundreds of thousands of people face starvation and disease.

As is the case in any such emergency, children are the most vulnerable. They outnumber adults and are more susceptible to the hazards brought on by floods. Scarcity of food, clean water, hygiene, sanitation and medical services have increased the risk of children falling prey to waterborne diseases.

As part of the joint humanitarian response to the emergency, UNICEF has started its life saving operations in the worst hit areas of Sindh reaching children with safe drinking water and providing vaccinations. Over the next few weeks as it scales up its operations, education, hygiene and protection will be provided to hundreds of thousands in need.

For more information see front page of the SIGBI web site. <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/>

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development



EARTH SUMMIT

In less than a year, in June 2012, world leaders will gather in Brazil for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development — widely referred to as 'Rio+20' after



the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The conference has a number of objectives and themes — including a focus on the green economy and institutional reform for sustainable development.

To read UNEP's groundbreaking report 'Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication' go to :<http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/>

**Ruth Dodd APD
Environment**

GREEN economy

PROGRAMME FOCUS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2011 - 2015. By now you will all be more familiar with the new Goals and Objectives. If you are still not sure go to <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/our-work/programme-objectives/> or you can download a copy from the Programme Action section on the member's area of the SIGBI website.

Just to remind you the five programme areas are: ● Learning Opportunities ● Economic Empowerment and Employment ● Food Security and Healthcare ● Violence and Conflict Resolution ● Environmental Sustainability.

The Programme Team



THERE IS STILL TIME to sign the Purple Teardrop Campaign's petition to lobby the UK Government to ban "Sex for Sale" Advertising, which is used to market sex for sale using trafficked women and girls. Sign the document, either on-line or on a paper-based copy. 100,000 signatures are needed before the end of November when the petition will be presented to the UK Government. Please circulate the petition among friends, family, colleagues, social groups etc and encourage them to sign, www.purpleteardrop.org.uk and www.gopetition.com/petition/39368.html

AFGHANISTAN is said to have the highest incidence of domestic violence in the world. Sometimes the women are so desperate to escape their lives that they set fire to themselves in a suicide attempt. Their intended self-immolation is not always successful and they are left with terrible injuries. The statistics on self-immolation vary, but one thing is certain, the numbers are increasing. Last month the Afghan Government launched a national media campaign to address this growing problem. It has also been announced that the Attorney General's office is set to establish special offices to fight violence against women in 6 of the 34 provinces in the country..... hopefully more will follow.

STOP PRESS: Women in Saudi Arabia have won the right to vote in the country's next elections. No clear indications have been made as to when the next elections will take place though this may not be for another four years. Many comments have been made saying that this new ruling does not go far enough.

Jackie Paling APD Human Rights/Status of Women

WOMEN AND THE PURSUIT OF JUSTICE AND PEACE.
More women than ever enjoy opportunities and freedom. Almost every country has signed international conventions signaling their commitment to outlaw discrimination against women. Nearly 140 national constitutions guarantee gender equality. Promising equality is not the same as delivering it. Despite advances, there remains an immense gap between welcome legal guarantees and everyday life for women.

In the developing world the leading cause of death for girls aged 15 to 19 is pregnancy and early childbirth. In 50 countries, the age of marriage for girls is lower than for boys. In over 40 economies women remain barred from certain jobs and industries. Frequently women are denied a fair deal through lack of resources, lack of will or by cultural obstacles. Women are three times less likely to report a sexual attack than a robbery. A European study found on average 14% of reported rapes ended in conviction. In other countries, the figure is even lower.

It is not all bad news, there is some progress. Increased representation in parliament, the judiciary and

KENYA PASSES LAW AGAINST FGM - FEMALE

GENITAL MUTILATION: Kenya is the most recent African country to ban female genital mutilation, with the passing of a law making it illegal to practice or procure it or take somebody abroad for cutting. The law even prohibits derogatory remarks about women who have not undergone FGM. Offenders may be jailed or fined or both.



Members of the Kenyan Women Parliamentary Association said it was a historic day. Linah Kilimo, its chairperson, said the move would improve school attendance. And Sophia Abdi Noor said: I have fought for 18 years to achieve this legislation. Today is independence day for women. Men got their independence in 1963 – but today women have achieved independence from the cruel hands of society. Nobody imagines this means FGM will never take place again in Kenya, but making it illegal is a massive step towards changing attitudes and giving strength to those who oppose the practice. Kenya follows a number of African governments in outlawing the practice. According to the Pan African news agency, at the time of the African Union summit in June, which proposed prohibition of FGM, Benin, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda already had legislation against it. But in nine countries (including some of those where it is illegal) it is still widely practised. In Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sudan, 85% of women undergo mutilation. **Rita Allen APD Health**



To read the 2011 report from the 'Because I am a Girl' campaign, go to: <http://plan-international.org/girls/>. **Because I am a Girl: So, what about boys?** is their latest report looking at the rights of girls throughout their childhood, adolescence and as young women.

If you marked International Literacy Day 2011 in any way **PLEASE** fill in a report so we can share our ideas and successes with each other and 'file them away' for next year. **Helen Owen APD Education**

enforcement agencies has been vital in advancing women's rights. There are 28 countries where women make up over 30 percent of parliamentarians.

There is much to do. Action is needed to protect and promote women's rights in conflict and post-conflict societies. The targeting of women for sexual violence has become an unacceptable fact

of modern war. It is women who have proved themselves vital in healing the wounds of societies and ensuring a lasting and just peace. **Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding**



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN JULY and AUGUST:

Reports submitted:145 Funds raised: \$107,404 Non Soroptimist Beneficiaries: 33,828

