



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

August 2010



Long Term Project: During the topic selection many excellent questions were raised by members. These FAQs are now on the SI website: www.soroptimistinternational.org

on the homepage under the "Soroptimists take ACTION" section. These are just the first questions asked but the page will be amended to deal with other questions as they arise.

United Nations: International President Hanne is urging us to sign up to two United Nations petitions:



The billion hungry campaign from the UN food and Agricultural Organization

www.1billionhungry.org

The UNIFEM petition for peace

www.saynotoviolence.org/make-women-count-for-peace

SI HQ: Anna Aiken has joined the programme team in Cambridge replacing Gabrielle Gandlau.

Loos for Lynn: We have agreed to use some of the money raised to support a project in Bamenda in the Cameroon. Do look at the SIGBI website for more details.

Appeal runs until December so keep fund raising so we can have a really lasting legacy for Lynn.

WAGGGS: The 100th anniversary of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts ends on October 10th 2010. May I urge you all to make contact with your local branch



and wish them well as they celebrate their centenary.

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director

Female Foeticide and Infanticide Campaign

SI Milford Haven had been researching the subject of Female Foeticide (Sex selective abortion) and Female Infanticide for nearly two years when they put forward the a motion at the Cardiff Conference in 2009. Members were originally unaware of the scale of it in India and that there was research evidence of sex selective abortion among certain ethnic groups in the UK too.

A campaign called "50 Million Missing" has been set up in India by journalist Rita Banerji. Her website and on line petition showed that she was appealing to people to stop what she calls "female genocide" through abortion, infanticide, honour killings and dowry murders .

Signing the online petition was one way of doing it, but the motion also suggested that clubs wrote to their political representatives to ask the government to put pressure on the Indian government.

The online petition can be found on



UN declares access to clean water a human right

On 28th July 2010 the United Nations declared access to clean water a human right, voicing "deep concern" about a human necessity denied to almost 900 million people worldwide. The 192-nation body approved a resolution put forward by Bolivia and signed by 33 other states. There were 121

votes in favour and 41 abstentions.

The resolution also calls for access to sanitation systems, currently out of reach for nearly 40 per cent of the world's population.

The decision has no legal standing, and is not part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But the Assembly urged member states to offer funding, technology and other resources to increase access to clean water and sanitation for everyone.

The resolution was supported nearly unanimously by developing nations. Germany also cast its vote in favour, even though it said it would have preferred clearer guidelines for responsibility in ensuring the right.

"Eight-hundred-eighty-four million people worldwide lack access to safe drinking water and over 2.6 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation," said German ambassador Peter Wittig. This declaration gives moral and symbolic force to the provision in the policies of individual countries and the United Nations.

Catarina de Albuquerque, the UN expert on the right to water will now be able to produce an annual report to the General Assembly/

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35456&Cr=SANITATION&Cr1=>

Ruth Dodd APD Environment

International Literacy Day: Have you decided how your club will recognise this important day in the Soroptimist calendar? For ideas go to my webpage <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/our-work/apd-information/education/> When you have marked the day, don't forget to send your programme report so we can all read about what you have done! **Helen Owen APD Education**



www.50millionmissing.in

A sample lobbying letter will soon be available on the UKPAC website. For more information contact:

Erene Grieve on erenegrieve@f2s.com



UK PAC Study Day was a very well organised event. The workshops on Trafficking, Domestic violence, Female Genital Mutilation & Forced marriages were all very interesting and informative. To highlight the important issues of Forced marriages and Female infanticide and to explain how all these are interlinked read "Victims of Honour" on my webpage.

"Khau via: The love Market" the next article reflects on the diversity of customs and traditions in different parts of our world.

A lot of work has been done on cluster munitions. I urge you to please sign the petitions. We need to stand up and take action. Take 5 minutes out of your busy schedules to see this 5 min film in English. Show this to other club members. Click on the link :

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPV8M_yh-zl&feature=player_embedded

Banning Female Infanticide got a 99% Vote at the Cardiff Conference, but we really have not taken any action on it. Erene Grieve writes about it.

International Day of Peace is celebrated on 21st September. I hope your club members have some plans about how you will celebrate it?

Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding.



Back in 2000, the UK joined the world's wealthiest nations and set a goal to reduce global child mortality -- but we're off-track. **It is hard to fathom that 1.4 million children still die each year from easily preventable diseases.** We're not doing enough.

[Tell UK leaders they must do all they can to improve child health globally »](#)

Wealthier nations have a humanitarian responsibility to help people in need. That's why the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were drafted in 2000 and 191 UN member nations signed on. MDG 4 states: "Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate." **The UK could do more to reach this critical goal -- children's' lives are depending on it.**
Rita Allen APD Health

LOVE FASHION

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2011
28th February – 13th March
'SHOW OFF YOUR LABEL'

This year's focus will be on Cotton, cottons' link to the Fashion Industry, and its place in our lifestyles. Start planning now and please let me know your plans for events.

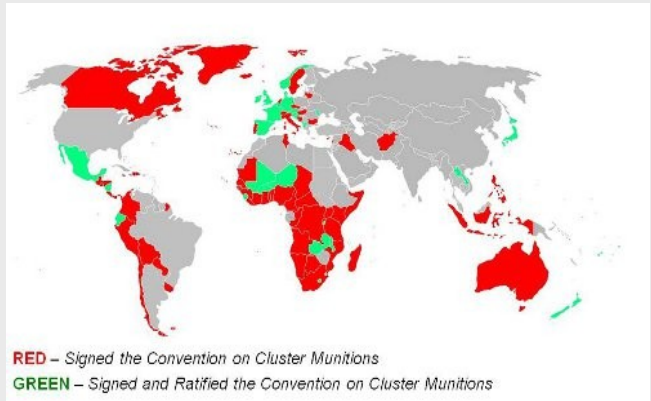
HATE SWEATSHOPS

Soroptimists Support War on Wants' Campaign to STOP Sweatshop Exploitation

Ideas for ACTION and sample Letters to MP's & MEP's for ADVOCACY

On my web page at <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/our-work/apd-information/economic-and-social-development/> *Sue Challoner APD economic and Social Development*

Explosive Remnants of War & the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)



The CCM enters into force (EIF) on 1st August 2010, thanks to the work of the Cluster Munitions Coalition; 107 countries have signed so far, with 37 ratifications.

The UK has started to destroy its arsenal, and has signed and ratified it. Not all countries in SIGBI have done so. We can encourage them by petitioning the governments.

Non-signatory states can sign the Convention until 1st August but afterwards they must sign and ratify together. The last working day to sign is Friday 30 July.

The 'Countdown to the entry into force' has petitioned one country each week in the run up to 1st August. I have written each week on behalf of the UKPAC to those earmarked by the coalition. Each of us can petition those governments and can still sign the People's Petition at

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/peoplestreaty/>

<http://stopclustermunitions.org/treatystatus/>

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/take-action/>

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/countdown/>

Kay Richmond

UKPAC representative for Landmine Action

WOMEN SAY "NO" TO THE CITY

Sexism in The City – Oxford women undergraduates give banking the cold shoulder voting it the most discriminatory sector.

In a recent survey carried out by Oxford University, most women undergraduates viewed banking as "demonstrably unethical". When asked to choose from eight sectors, female students voted financial services the occupation in which they were most likely to face discrimination. Despite the monetary rewards, only a third of Oxford applicants for graduate posts in the finance sector are currently women. So, as much of our best female talent is turning its back on The City as a career, it seems the sexist reputation of the Square Mile is posing a real risk to its future.

GIRLS AND GANGS – HOW DO WE DEAL WITH A CULTURE OF GANG VIOLENCE AGAINST YOUNG WOMEN?

The police, prisons and probation service need to do more to tackle the growing dangers of young people getting involved in gangs according to a new report commissioned by the Youth Justice board. There is also anecdotal evidence that girls are being treated as trophies by male gang members and subjected to sexual acts which are recorded on mobile phones and passed around. Fairbridge is a national charity which works with vulnerable young people to help them build their confidence and life skills. They have launched a pilot project called "Because I'm worth it" to advise at-risk girls on how to become more aware of and protect themselves from potential risky situations with boys. **Judi Chaddock APD Human Rights & the Status of Women**