



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

February 2011



UN REPORTS: Please do look at these via the SI website: <http://www.soroptimistinternational.org>

CSW FEBRUARY 22ND TO MARCH 4TH 2011

“Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”

A delegation of 20 Soroptimists will be attending this event which includes five members from SIGBI. There will be updates/blogs on the SI website during the meeting and a report in the April Soroptimist magazine. I do hope you are all working with the information pack mentioned in the last edition of PAM to raise your government delegation’s awareness of the Soroptimist position on the issues due to be discussed at the meeting.

GAPS (GENDER ACTION FOR PEACE AND SECURITY): **NO WOMEN AND NO PEACE.**

No women, No peace

Campaign: A report published together with Care International called “From Resolution to Reality” on women’s participation in peace building in Afghanistan, Uganda and Nepal.



SAVE THE CHILDREN: Save the Children have a new campaign and a new TV ad which can also be viewed on You Tube. The ad marks the launch of Save the Children’s new campaign -

NO CHILD BORN TO DIE

Globally, children are dying at a rate that is almost unimaginable. Illnesses claim 8 million young lives every year. Just making vaccines available to the poorest children could save 1 million lives a year. If you believe that every child deserves a chance, please join the campaign. Visit <http://born.to.savethechildren.org.uk/> to learn more.

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 28TH FEBRUARY – 13TH MARCH 2011— BUNTING FOR JUSTICE*

As well as encouraging our members to show off the label through extreme labeling and in particular showing off cotton through holding fashion shows, the key campaigner activity for this Fortnight is a World Record Attempt for the longest piece of bunting. Fairtrade cotton bunting packs have been created. These contain flags of plain Fairtrade cotton which we are asking members to decorate with what Fairtrade means to them and with a message demanding trade justice for cotton farmers. Please read the Great Cotton Stitch Up at http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/products/cotton/the_great_cotton_stitch_up.aspx



Once the bunting is decorated, it should be shown off locally before being returned to Fairtrade to sew onto one continuous line for the world record attempt on World Fair Trade Day (14 May 2011). This will be used to highlight the cotton campaign and to lobby politicians in the UK and Europe.

We can use this opportunity to show Soroptimist support for Fairtrade and Trade Justice. Order your bunting here <http://online.fairtrade.org.uk/>

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

THANK YOU! THE 75 for 75 FUND raised a staggering £36,129.53. To read Jackie Mosedale’s letter and see the WaterAid thank you video go to the SIGBI website and follow the links. <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/>



Ruth Dodd APD Environment



CONGRATULATIONS to Hilary Ratcliffe newly appointed International Programme Director and to Anusha Santhirasthipam (SISWP) International Assistant Programme Director. We wish them well in their new roles.



CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

“Join me on the Bridge” is a global campaign - from Women for Women International (WWI) www.womenforwomen.org/bridge Events have been planned all round the world to mark this special date. Wherever your club is in the Federation, please think of holding a ‘bridge event’ to celebrate and highlight issues around women’s right to play an equal part in the future development of their communities.

There is information on the WWI website about how to organise an event. Anyone can register, they then get email updates about events. It will be a wonderful opportunity to raise the Soroptimist profile.

If you cannot hold or attend an event please

100th International Women’s Day 8 March 2011

SAVE THE DATE



sign the on-line petition calling for urgent action so that Afghan women can play a full part in building the bridges of peace for their future: www.womenforwomen.org/bridge/sign-the-pledge.php This is really important with the troop withdrawal this year, and supports UN Security Council Resolution 1325 for women’s role in post-conflict peacekeeping.

To Read more please go to the front page of the SIGBI website and click on the banner at the top of the page www.soroptimist-gbi.org

Events that are not part of the WWI campaign will also be taking place; more information on this website: www.internationalwomensday.com

Jackie Paling APD Human Rights and the Status of Women and Jane Slatter SIGBI Director of Communications



CHINESE LANTERN RISKS

Would you drop litter? Think carefully before releasing Chinese Lanterns as with balloons and fireworks that are released at outdoor events. The lanterns fall back down to earth and become a source of litter. Lanterns have a wire or bamboo frame over which paper is stretched. A wick or fuel pod is attached inside and ignited. The air inside the lantern heats up and it can rise up to 1,000 metres and fly for several minutes before the fuel runs out.

The litter left is a threat to livestock, crops and property. The wire can be picked up and eaten by animals immediately. When the grass is cut for winter feed the wire can be chopped up amongst hay or silage and fed to livestock. The remains of the fuel cells have started crop fires and can pose a threat to thatched roofs. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency say coastguards and lifeboats are sent out needlessly. In 2010 the agency recorded 1,500 flare incidents, 500 were believed to be false alarms caused by lanterns. The CAA says they also pose danger to landing aircraft. A three year old boy in Wrexham was badly burned on the face on bonfire night when a lantern broke and spilled hot oil.

What can you do?

Petition your local council, MP, MEP or government representative to ban the release of these lanterns; they are currently banned in Germany and Lithuania.

Ruth Dodd APD Environment

WOMEN WOUNDED BY LANDMINES EXPERIENCE ISOLATION, SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION:

Monica Piloy knows this from personal experience that began one night in 1996 when rebels came to her village in northern Uganda. She saw the destruction the next morning. *"As I went to fetch water and buy food at the market with my son on my back, on my way home, I saw a man coming on his bicycle, I moved to the side of the road. I heard a thundering sound and saw darkness all around me. I spent three months in the hospital - and lost my leg and my son. I had stepped on a landmine and the world as I knew it had come to a halting end."*

Monica returned to her home - everything changed. She was abused, ashamed, helpless, four months pregnant and caring for her older child. Her husband left. Then she joined the local association of landmine survivors and found hope, friendship and courage. Slowly she rebuilt her life with a small business selling fish in the market. She is now leader of a landmine survivor organization in northern Uganda.



Credit©2010
Martina Bacigalupo/agence VU

Many women with disabilities have been left out of important decisions and policies over the past decade, just as they have been left out of development programmes and shunned in their own communities.

UN and humanitarian activists and others who work in conflict situations must shed light on the barriers facing women with disabilities, listen to what they have to say and work with them to do something about it.

Talat Pasha APD international Goodwill and Understanding

HIV TESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

An article in the British Medical Journal reported that the South African Government recently launched a national campaign to test 15,000,000 South Africans for HIV by 2011. Little is known about how receipt of HIV testing might



influence interpersonal communication. A study was undertaken to examine the effects of prior HIV testing on sexual health communication among South Africans.

1284 people in a South African township completed street-intercept surveys. Of the 1284 participants, 811[63%] had been tested for HIV. Of those tested, 77% tested negative, 12% tested positive and 11% didn't know the answer or refused to answer. Compared with those who had not been tested, participants who had been tested for HIV were more likely to communicate with community members about HIV/AIDS, getting tested for HIV and using condoms. Testing positive was associated with more communication with sexual partners about condom use and exploratory analyses revealed more condom protected sex in the community members who engaged in sexual health communication.

The study concluded that offering HIV testing to all South Africans may increase communication and lead to reductions in sexual risk. **Rita Allen APD Health**

BEE PART OF THE BUZZ!

Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate in SI Virtual One's BeePlus project 2011. We need 200 Junior schools (only 12 per region) to take part in this phase of our



campaign to help save the honeybee through the education of children. You will also be helping to support the long term aim of a sustainable future for unemployed women in remote areas of SIGBI.

All any Club need do is find a school in their area, get their commitment, and raise £40 towards administrative costs. The school will receive, free of charge, courtesy of our sponsors Rowse Honey Ltd, an amazing resource pack containing all the necessary teaching materials and other things. SIV-One has done the all groundwork, all you have to do is raise awareness of the project in your Club and Region, and run with it.

Further information and forms for completion by Clubs and Schools can be downloaded from our website: <http://sorooptimist-gbi-org/virtual-one> If you have questions, any of the following people would be happy to speak to you via Skype or phone, send you an email, or even pay you a visit and give a talk. We are waiting to hear from you.

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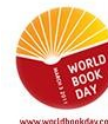
The photo shows children from Archdeacon Cambridge Primary School, Twickenham, dressed up as bees

Sue Waters PAC Coordinator, SI Virtual One

EARLY WARNING! WORLD BOOK DAY:

3RD MARCH Please go to my page on the SIGBI website to find out more: <http://sorooptimist-gbi.org/our-work/apd-information/education/>

Helen Owen APD Education



www.worldbookday.com