



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

January 2011



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL. Let's make 2011 a year when we make that real difference through our programme work!

Long term project: Remember that the SI board has chosen Education and Leadership as the underlying theme for our work.

Look on the SI website:

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

for a message from International President Hanne about this and also about the December 10th appeal. The money from this will help to fund **OUR** project which will be launched in Montreal

Programme Voting delegates: A chance to influence our way forward for 2011-2015: A call has gone out from the SIGBI office for delegates to the SI convention in Montreal. We are allocated 22 delegates from our Federation. The "job description" will be available in January to help delegates to know what is expected of them. The workshop will be held on Saturday July 9th. Delegates are self funded. Information to help you all in your preparation and thinking for this key role will be available soon.

CSW: Meeting in New York from February 22nd. The theme is "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". Information has been distributed to your programme representatives and it is on the SI website. You can use this to lobby your country representatives before this important meeting. **Please** get involved so that our delegation can really have an impact at the meeting in New York.

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director

NEW AGENCY BEGINS ITS WORK

On New Year's Day 2011 the United Nations made history as UN Women, the UN agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, has officially begun its work. This ambitious new organisation consolidates and scales up UN actions to achieve gender equality, offering the promise of accelerated progress in realising the rights of women worldwide.

Formerly known as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women emerged from the agreement by UN member States – backed by strong advocacy from the global women's movement that more must be done so women can claim equal rights and opportunities.



The new body merges four UN agencies and offices: the UN Development Fund

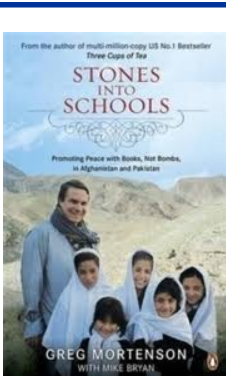
for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender issues, and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW).

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon said "UN Women will significantly boost UN efforts to promote gender equality, expand opportunity and tackle discrimination around the globe". "This is a time of great promise," said UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet, formerly President of Chile. "We have a historic opportunity to accelerate the achievement of what champions of gender equality have worked towards for years."

For more information go to: www.unwomen.org

Many Soroptimists will embrace the new agency, having been members and supporters of UNIFEM.

Jackie Paling, APD Human Rights/ Status of Women



THREE CUPS OF TEA by Greg Mortenson was featured in PAM last year. His next book **STONES INTO SCHOOLS** continues with further accounts of his humanitarian efforts to establish schools for girls in Afghanistan following on from his work in Pakistan. In this book he also shares his vision to promote peace through education and literacy - a very good read!

Helen Owen APD Education

PAM is produced monthly by the Programme Team and can be found on the SIGBI website. <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/our-work/> It is aimed at all members to inform and update them about Programme work. Does your Club, Region, Country or National Association have anything they would like to tell the rest of the Federation about their Programme work? If so please send a report (no more than 200 words to helenmowen@yahoo.co.uk or any of the APDs by the 25th of any month. Photographs (jpeg file) are also welcome. Please make sure they come with a title or a caption. **The Programme Team look forward to receiving your reports.**

RE-USABLE SANITARY PADS

A shocking report by ISL [Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods] has revealed that due to lack of resources, some young girls in Zimbabwe are using pieces of cloth, newspapers, cow dung and tissues as sanitary protection.

http://www.thezimbabwean.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36380:poor-girls-use-newspapers-cowdung-as-pads-during-menstruation&catid=72:thursday-issue

The report was released by Lifa Methie, Director of the ISL in Zimbabwe. ISL is collaborating with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development in an effort to improve the reproductive health of marginalised women through provision of re-usable sanitary pads which are safe alternatives to what the girls are currently using.

Pictured: Re-usable sanitary pads – a cheap alternative for the marginalised girls



ISL trains women on how to make re-usable sanitary pads for their own use and as an income generating project. Rukasha revealed that her organisation had distributed 1000 pads to rural girls in Bindura Secondary Schools

including another 1000 to disadvantaged women in Nyabira and Mhondoro. The organisation targets disadvantaged women and schools.

There is a call from women for the tax on sanitary products to be scrapped—the Finance Minister states that tax is necessary due to low cotton prices. Many companies have not ventured into manufacturing due to Zimbabwe's economic decline and due to lack of gender budgeting, young girls are disadvantaged because resources are not addressing their needs.

Rita Allen APD Health

GENDER VIOLENCE /ACID ATTACKS AND WOMEN



Rupali had a dream of a happy marriage. She was given a nice wedding with a motorcycle as dowry. Her dream was shattered just after six months of her marriage. Her

husband and mother-in-law put pressure on her to bring more money from her parents. As her parents could not give more money, there were frequent arguments and fights.

One night this argument progressed to a severe beating and her mother-in-law held her hands behind her back, and her husband poured acid into Rupali's mouth.

Neighbours rescued Rupali and brought her to a nearby Health Complex where doctors could not provide first aid. She was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and Acid Survivors Foundation of Bangladesh (<http://www.acidsurvivors.org/>) found her dying as her parents could not buy medicine for her. She was given medical aid. It took her six months to say her first words. She now works for a beauty salon and is happy that her husband got a life imprisonment.

Jahana was also attacked with acid because of dowry. Every year 5% of the total acid attacked people get burns for dowry related disputes. Over 70% women and children are attacked with acid every year in Bangladesh.

Acid Attacks are one of the worst forms of gender-based violence. Women are also attacked for 'honour'. Acid may also be thrown on women to take revenge from the men of the rival tribe.

We, women have to work for peace, dignity, against dowry and for peaceful conflict resolutions. We need to stand up for each other so that women in third world countries can have their rights.

Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 28th Feb – 13th March 2011



Show Off Your Cotton Label – Host a Fashion Show or Clothing Party
Show off your Coffee Label – Hold a Coffee Morning or Coffee and Cake evening
Whatever you do this Fairtrade Fortnight

Get Loud and Proud about Fairtrade - Have Fun and Make a Difference

Download Action Guide and resources at <http://online.fairtrade.org.uk/>

More information at <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/our-work/apd-information/economic-and-social-development/>

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

WORLD WATER DAY: The theme for 2011 is "Water for Cities"

<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/campaign.html>

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March of each year as the World Day for Water by adopting a resolution. This world day for water was to be observed starting in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21.

Water for life <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/waterforlifebklt-e.pdf>

Ruth Dodd APD Environment

