



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

June 2011



MEETING WITH MICHELLE BACHELET

An honour to be invited to represent you all at a meeting in London with the under Secretary General of United Nations for Women, Michelle Bachelet. In her speech Ms Bachelet said that her appointment had realised the dreams of millions of women and girls around the world for a global champion.

She said that **WOMEN ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE** and that to build a better society we have to empower women.

She went on to talk about the key priorities for UN women

1. To empower women to take their proper place in leadership
2. To end violence against women
3. To engage women in all aspects of peace and security processes
4. To enable women to achieve economic autonomy
5. To make gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting

To quote Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon "Where women are educated and empowered, economies are more productive and strong. Where women are fully represented, societies are more peaceful and stable"

Michelle Bachelet will drive forward the women's agenda which is of course our agenda.

To find out more about this remarkable woman and UN Women go to www.unwomen.org

www.facebook.com/unwomen

www.twitter.com/un_women

www.youtube.com/unwomen

MONTREAL CONVENTION: Still time to sign up and share in a great experience with your sister Soroptimists from all around the world. www.si-montreal2011.org

PROJECT SIERRA: We want to hit that target of £1 million. Have you done your final event?

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director



SIGBI/UNICEF PARTNERSHIP PROJECT SOROPTIMISTS FOR PAKISTAN

This month I would like to share with you links to two short films about the recent work of UNICEF for our project. The first is an Education project where UNICEF are supporting temporary learning centres bringing normalcy to children's lives. Many girls are attending, some for the first time. However it is difficult learning in a tent in high temperatures and new schools are being built. These schools will be child friendly and have proper water and sanitation.

Talat Pasha APD has visited this area she says "I have myself seen these schools in the remotest parts of Sindh. Hundreds and thousands of such schools are needed to usher in literacy to end the tragedy unfolding in Pakistan. Thank you all for helping Pakistan through UNICEF"

You can watch this film at link <http://youtu.be/paNpgpTXSSU>

The second film is a Health project for mothers and children to improve maternal health and child survival in a country where 1 in 10 children die before they are five. Immunisation and free medicines were given, also polio drops as more cases of polio have been detected in Pakistan this year. You can watch this film at

<http://youtu.be/whACmgWDy0Q>

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

'LOOS FOR LYNN' - SI LAGOS MAINLAND AND SI MIDLAND ARDEN



Modern toilet facilities have been completed for the adult Literacy Class and the Nursery

Class and the Nursery of the Soroptimist run school in Lawanson, Surulere Lagos. Inside and outside loos and tiled showers are almost complete at the Fresh Start Centre near

Kampala Uganda. Both projects have benefitted from donations made to the 'Loos for Lynn' fund. Look for more news about the 'Loos for Lynn' fund in the next edition of **Soroptimist News.**



SIGBI BEST PRACTICE AWARDS 2010-2011, A GENTLE REMINDER!

The Programme Team will soon start the process of selecting projects for the awards which will be presented at the Brighton Conference. A project can only be considered for an award if a report has been entered on the online reporting database. Now would be a good time to make sure your programme reports are up to date!

The Programme Team



SI Bonaberi (Cameroon) made the 8th of March a special day this year. We had seminars educating our girls and women of the Adult Literacy School Program about their rights to inheritance and education as females in our society. Educating a female is educating the society. **SI Bonaberi Douala**

SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

You only have to read some of the reports that have been put onto to our **Online Reporting System** - <http://reports.soroptimistinternational.org/> to see that many positive actions are improving access to education for women and girls in Zimbabwe. It was then rather alarming to read a report by Chumile Jamela submitted to the Women's UN Report Networks (WUNRN) about sexual harassment in higher education. The report begins with an account of Lisa a first year engineering student who has surmounted many challenges to get to university only to be faced by sexual harassment from lecturers and the possibility that she may never achieve the empowerment she had been waiting for all her life.

PLEASE take time to read this disturbing and moving report in full by following this link to the WUNRN website. http://www.wunrn.com/news/2011/05_11/05_16/051611_zimbabwe.htm



Helen Owen APD Education



TEA TIME FOR CHANGE: WITH PARTNERS TRADE JUSTICE MOVEMENT

On Thursday 9 June 2011 you can ensure that your MP hears the call for justice for people

living in poverty. At a time of economic challenge, poor countries are feeling the pinch more than most - so it's more important than ever for us to call for justice for poor people. That's why Action Aid, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Save the Children and Tearfund are working together to ensure that politicians hear that their voters care about poverty. Soroptimists too are getting involved. You can meet with your MPs and ask them to take action on our behalf, and positively influence policies affecting people in poor countries. Find out more at www.teatimeforchange.org.uk



Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

SOME STARTLING STATISTICS

Violence affects approximately 45% of all women



across Europe. An estimated one-fifth of women in the EU suffer from violence within the home and more than one in

ten women is a victim of sexual violence involving the use of force: in the UK, 80,000 women experience rape or attempted rape; in France, one woman is killed every three days by her partner. Domestic violence alone costs EU Member States one million Euros every half hour! The annual budgets of EU Member States for programmes for the prevention of violence against women are 1000 times less than this figure.

Last month the European Women's Lobby (EWL) initiated a broad European advocacy movement, gathering NGOs and decision-makers, lobbying for an EU comprehensive action on violence against women and for 2013 to be the European Year on combating and preventing this human rights abuse. They deem this to be the best way to draw attention to the spreading phenomenon of violence against women and its impact on society, To date, the EU has had no binding legislation in place to deal with this most pervasive abuse within its borders, though there have been several calls for action. This special Year would be a perfect opportunity for the EU to formulate a comprehensive policy framework and along with other national institutions to raise awareness on the issue and renew their genuine commitment towards a Europe free from all forms of violence against women.

Jackie Paling APD Human Rights and the Status of Women

NO WOMEN NO PEACE. NO WOMEN NO PEACE are excited to announce the launch of the

'No Women, No Peace.' campaign video! The video, shot on International Women's Day 2011, features activists including SI's Past International President Hilary Page speaking out for women in conflict areas. Many of the issues faced by women in conflict have been ignored, and brave women all over the world are actively trying to make their voices heard. Watch the video on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com) and share it with your friends to help women in conflict. You can't make peace by leaving half of the people out. <http://www.nowomennopeace.org/>

SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN MAY:



Funds raised: **\$230,502** Women helped: **35,625** Girls helped: **14,279**

