



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

May 2010



Long Term Project:

You should have all received the information about this. Please will you encourage all your clubs to read carefully and then vote. There is also a follow up letter on its way to all clubs from me with some more information. Any queries either contact SI on email hq@soroptimistinternational.org or SIGBI Federation office: email hq@soroptimist-gbi.co.uk

E TIS: Next edition will be published in June so copy to the editor by the end of May. The theme for this edition is Partnerships. So if you have anything you want to share about that aspect of your programme work please send in an article of no more than 500 words with a photo if possible. Please also send a copy to me. I look forward to reading your contributions.

Email editor@soroptimistinternational.org

Receive TIS direct to your inbox

Simply email editor@soroptimistinternational.org and you will receive your very own digital magazine each quarter. It couldn't be easier!

Promotional Flyer: The small concertina leaflet "Transforming the lives of women and girls" has been updated and reprinted. We have 15,000 copies at SIGBI HQ they cost 15p each but are a great marketing tool. Do get them and use them

"Arbor Day" September 25th 2010: Do put this special event in your diary and come to the National Memorial Arboretum and share in the celebration as we plant three trees at our plot. (letter sent to clubs)

Tickets are on sale from:

Email annette.porter@virgin.net.

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE UK GENERAL ELECTION ON MAY 6th!!

After almost 100 years, when the first woman, Lady Astor, took up her seat as the first woman MP in the House of Commons, women make up 19% of MPs at Westminster. The Welsh Assembly has 47% women members and the Scottish Parliament has 35%. In Northern Ireland, women are substantially underrepresented in the political process. The case for more women MPs has been won and the main parties agree we need more women in parliament. But what is the best way to do it? In India, the parliament there has passed a Bill which will set aside a third of seats for women at every level of India's legislature – from the regions to the national. At the moment, only 10% of India's MPs are female with even less at regional level. Some

Clubs have done work on this issue. For example, **SI Pune Metro East** in India has had a presentation to raise awareness of the Women's Reservation Bill. Clubs in **Mauritius** are aiming to double the number of members in Parliament and Local Government with their project "Women in Politics". What do Clubs think is the best way to tackle this issue?"

Judi Chaddock
APD Human Rights & the Status of Women

Members of SI Karachi Central went to Hyderabad to Charter our new club SI Hyderabad Central. The following day we set out to the Desert of Thar on a fact finding mission. The Soroptimists engaged with the people of Thar at every level to find out the issues that are most pressing. Water is one of the major issues there. We attended a Seminar and Workshop on Water and Thar and its problems were again on top of the agenda. The only way water is available is through tube wells which have to be dug deep. The estimated cost of one Tube well is about 1500 Sterling pounds.



The photo shows one of the lucky villages of Thar which does have a well, but thousands of women and children are not so lucky and travel for miles and for hours to bring back a pitcher or a bucket of water.

Talat Pasha SI Karachi Central

Trade Justice Movement **CONGRATULATIONS** to Penny Veness, who has been re elected to the board of Directors representing Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland at the Trade Justice Movement.

I attended the Annual General meeting and public meeting "Change Trade not our Climate" in London on April 15th. The event was well supported, with speakers from Friends of the Earth, War on Want and the South African Municipal Workers Union. The Trade Justice Movement campaigns for Trade Justice not free trade, with the rules weighted to benefit poor people and the environment.

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development





UN Security Council Resolution 1325 10th ANNIVERSARY:

The 10th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security in October 2010 will offer a significant opportunity for Member States, the UN and civil society to work together to ensure that concrete, measurable and positive action will be taken to empower and protect women in conflict situations. Events such as Ministerial Meetings of the Security Council are being planned for 28 and 29th October on Women, Peace and Security to mark the 10th Anniversary that will ensure that all relevant actors will translate policy into results for the second decade of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. **Judi Chaddock APD International Goodwill & Understanding (Acting)**

SI Surulere help at Atunda Olu School

On the 11th of March, SI Surulere participated in the Interhouse Sports competition of Atunda Olu School for the Physically and Mentally Challenged Children. Every year, the school with the help of SI Surulere organizes a sports event where the children grouped into houses, stage a competition amongst themselves with events such as track and field, games and match pass. Participation in sports is important for the physical and emotional health of the physically and mentally challenged child. Sports can improve strength, endurance, and cardiopulmonary fitness while providing companionship, a sense of achievement, and heightened self-esteem.

The picture shows the children as they get ready for a race called 'fill the basket race'. There was also a dancing competition and also a dress modeling competition. The Interhouse sports competition is always an interesting event.



Nneka Chris-Asoluka President SI Surulere.



Odette Kayirere is one of the founders of AVEGA, an organization set up shortly after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda to help the many widows and orphans left traumatised and destitute. Odette lost her husband and was left with six daughters to raise. Despite her own difficulties, she went on to adopt several more orphans and set about organising small solidarity groups for widows. Soon AVEGA (Association des Veuves du Genocide Agahozo) came into being and Odette generated a range of activities to help women and children deeply affected and traumatised by the genocide – counselling, the construction of houses, the opening of schools and health centres and other projects such as bee keeping. Now her innovation and courage has been recognised by the Women's World Summit Foundation and she became one of ten laureates awarded the 2009 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life.

Judi Chaddock APD IGU (Acting)



What will you do to celebrate World Environment Day 5th June 2010? The Billion Tree Campaign is continuing, although for many of us June is not a good month for planting trees. **Update at 30th April 2010**

Target	Pledged	Planted
12,000,000,000	11,621,690,031	10,050,076,187

<http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/>

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity



During the year, people will celebrate the diversity of life on the planet, and its contribution to human well-being, while working to take the steps needed to combat its loss. At the ceremony in Berlin, political leaders urged the issue of biodiversity protection to be elevated to a level with other issues such as climate change and economic development.

<http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome>

The International Union for Conservation of Nature publishes The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Further information and resources can be found on their web site <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
Ruth Dodd APD Environment



ANTI SLAVERY LEGISLATION

The Anti Slavery Bill received the Royal Assent on April 8th. This means an Anti Slavery Day will be held. The date has yet to be decided. **Judi Chaddock APD Human Rights & the Status of Women**

It is well documented by UNICEF and others that getting children back to school following major traumas such as war and disaster is one way to help bring a sense of normality back into their lives. A regular routine, familiar faces and a caring environment provided by school help in part to restore confidence and make children feel safe.

UNESCO report that a few schools in Port au Prince have begun to open three months after the deadly earthquake on 12 January. Normal lessons for the children will be replaced by a special syllabus developed by UNESCO and the Haitian Ministry of Education to take into account the trauma and disruption experienced by both children and teachers.



Under the new syllabus, education will be resumed in stages starting with psychosocial activities, such as singing, dancing and creative expression, to help children cope with the extreme stress they experienced as a result of the earthquake. They will also learn about earthquakes as a natural

phenomenon. Regular lessons will resume a few weeks later. To read the report at length visit

<http://www.unesco.org/en/education>

Helen Owen APD Education