



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

May 2011



Soroptimist International



SI KEY REMINDERS

Do look at the monthly focus on the SI website. Comments on this will be gratefully received either to SI HQ or via the programme team so that we can make it useful and what you, the members, want.

Have you read E-TIS?

Have you done your final fundraiser for Project Sierra?

remember that this project finishes at Montreal.



Have you registered for the SI convention in Montreal? SIGBI are running five workshops at convention.

Programme voting delegates: information has gone out to all delegates explaining the new way that this will work.

Global impact reporting - of education and leadership projects - all your work from January 2010 to December 2010 is being collated by members of the programme team and this will be used as part of the launch of the new Soroptimist led focus/project when launched at the convention. Thank you for all that you do and keep up the good work-whenver I get "down" all I have to do is to go on the SI website and read your programme focus report forms and then I realise what amazing women we all are.

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL?

'Because I am a Girl is Plan International's campaign to fight gender inequality, promote girls' rights and lift millions of girls out of poverty. This of course means



giving girls equal access to education. Economic data and UNESCO education statistics, estimates the economic cost to 65 low and middle income and transitional countries of failing to educate

girls to the same standard as boys as a staggering US\$92 billion each year.

Plan are so committed to their campaign that they have added a new strand to it - a global petition to the UN to make 22nd September the International Day of the Girl.

Just go to <http://plan-international.org/girls/>

to sign the petition.

Helen Owen APD Education



10 YEARS AGO

It is over ten years ago since the Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR1325), was unanimously adopted by United Nations Security Council.

Recently Nepal celebrated the adoption of National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325

Nepal is one of the countries which has signed to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP).

The adoption of an NAP was highly important for gender inequality in Nepal, particularly as there was zero representation of women while signing the Comprehensive Peace Accord in November 2006, after a decade of conflict and political instability.

Still a startlingly small number have signed given UNSCR 1325 has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. A large number of countries who are United Nations member states with NAPs have yet to sign. Do find out if your country or where your friendship links are based have adopted a National Action Plan. If not, you could lobby to work on this very important area.

Coming back to the 'Bridge' event, it not only symbolized "Women for Peace" but also gave us an opportunity to involve young girls, so that they may be aware of their rights and the importance of these issues. **Talat Pasha APD International Goodwill and Understanding**



WORLD RECORD BREAKING BUNTING!!

Thank you to all clubs and Regions who participated in decorating

Fairtrade cotton bunting in Fairtrade Fortnight, and to all of you who have sent in your bunting to be part of the Guinness World Record attempt. This will take place on World Fair Trade Day – Saturday 14th May.

Fairtrade have been completely overwhelmed by the volume of bunting and by the care and creativity with which it has been decorated.

Volunteers and staff at Fairtrade are now busy sewing it all together and preparing for the great hanging in Battersea Park on World Fair Trade Day.

The deadline for returning bunting has now passed, so please don't send it in now. If you missed the deadline, perhaps you could sew it together and display it locally on World Fair Trade Day 14th May.

Thank you for submitting your Programme Reports of your activities for Fairtrade Fortnight, I am enjoying reading them, and will of course report all Soroptimist work to the Fairtrade AGM later in the year.

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

facebook

HOT OFF THE SI FACEBOOK PAGE! This week (2nd – 8th May) is the Global Campaign for Education's Global Action Week! Millions of campaigners around the world will be taking action, by reading and telling stories. The theme is "It's a Right! Make it Right! Education for Women & Girls Now!" What will you do to remind your leaders of their MDG commitments relating to education and gender equality? Find out lots more at <http://www.globalactionweek.org/>



The theme: **FORESTS: NATURE AT YOUR SERVICE**
Forests cover one third of the earth's land mass, performing vital functions and *services* around the world. 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods. They play a key role in our battle against climate change, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere while storing carbon dioxide.

Forests feed our rivers and are essential to supplying the water for nearly 50% of our largest cities. They create and maintain soil fertility; they help to regulate the often devastating impact of storms, floods and fires.

Forests are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on land, and are home to more than half of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects.

Forests also provide shelter, jobs, security and cultural relevance for forest-dependent populations. They are the green lungs of the earth, vital to the survival of people everywhere -- all seven billion of us.

Forests embody much of what is good our lives. Yet despite all of these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, Global deforestation continues at an alarming rate, every year, 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed.

Check out the [WED pack](#) for interesting suggestions on what you could do as well as the [Around the World Archive](#), which lists the activities organized in the past years in more than 112 countries. More information and ideas on <http://hqweb.unep.org/wed/index.asp>

Ruth Dodd APD Environment



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO LAND

Women in Africa contribute 70 per cent of food production. They also account for nearly half of all farm labour, and 80–90 per cent of food

processing, storage and transport, as well as hoeing and weeding but women often lack rights to land. Land rights tend to be held by men or kinship groups controlled by men. Women have access mainly through a male relative, usually a father or husband. Women's right to land has seldom been considered in development debates, yet where land is more equally distributed and managed between men and women, there is a marked improvement in economic development, child and maternal health, and education. More information and case study can be read on my web page at <http://soroptimist-gbi.org/our-work/apd-information/economic-and-social-development/> *Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development*

SI OF THE AMERICAS HAS PRODUCED A PAPER 'Reaching out to Women when Disaster Strikes.'
<http://www.soroptimist.org/whitepapers/WhitePaperDocs/WPReachingWomenDisaster.pdf>

On any given day, natural disasters—floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis or wild fires—can strike in any area of the world. Disasters result in property damage, loss of life and the creation of displaced persons or refugees needing assistance with safety, housing, nutrition and health care. Today, a large number of people are still feeling the pain and suffering from recent disasters. According to a landmark study by the UN, global disaster risk is increasing worldwide due to unsafe cities and the combined impact of environmental destruction and climate change.



While disasters create hardships for everyone, women and children are disproportionately vulnerable. During natural disasters, women and children are 14 times more likely to die than are men [Kristina Peterson]. Following the 2004 Asian Tsunami, Oxfam found that women made up more than 70% of the dead. Women lack mobility and access to resources, have increased family responsibilities and are susceptible to physical danger. Despite the vulnerable position of women prior to and following a disaster, their special needs are often ignored, as are their unique abilities to respond. *Rita Allen APD Health*

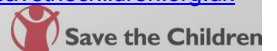


BAN KI MOON CALLS ON UNIVERSITIES TO PLAY A ROLE IN PROMOTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Ban Ki-Moon recently said "Women remain second-class citizens in too many countries, deprived of basic rights or legitimate opportunities" He was speaking at a meeting of University Presidents. He called on

universities to help in the fight to overcome discrimination and change perceptions about what women can and should do. He also said universities can play "a significant role" in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Mr. Ban said it was vital to give girls and young women the inspiration and tools so they have the opportunity to achieve. *Helen Owen APD Education*

SIX MONTH PART-TIME OPPORTUNITY WITH SAVE THE CHILDREN: Save the Children are looking for campaigners across the UK and are offering the opportunity to lead our campaigns and to recruit a movement of mums to help ensure that children everywhere get the vaccines, medicines and access to the doctors and nurses they need to grow up healthy and well. To see the full advert and find out more email campaigns@savethechildren.org.uk or call 020 7012 6412



SIGBI FEDERATION SUCCESSES RECORDED IN APRIL:
 Funds raised: **\$63,580** Women helped: **3,378** Girls helped: **5,335**

