



PAM

(Programme Action Magazine)

September 2010



RESULTS OF THE SI BOARD MEETING

- The Long Term Project: Education and Leadership agreed overwhelmingly by votes from all four Federations - The SI programme team will start to produce specific objectives and strategies to fulfill this goal.
- The "Go Ahead" given for developing the Soroptimist foundation
- A new structure for "Where we stand"

Advocacy: Do go onto the SI website and click on ACT NOW button on the homepage to find out about current advocacy.

www.soroptimistinternational.org

SI Blog: It is on the SI home page, just click and that will keep you up to date with campaigns, current issues and reports from our UN representatives.

GEAR: now to be called UN women. On 2nd July the UN voted unanimously to create a new entity to focus on meeting the needs of women and girls. UN women will merge four previously distinct parts of the UN system. For more information

www.unwomen.org

Petition to No 10: In advance of the international meeting to discuss the MDGs, together with Women for Women International, we will be presenting a petition to the UK Prime Minister on September 7th. This is to urge the UK government to prioritize the issue of global gender inequality as this impacts on poverty which we believe is a very gender sensitive issue.



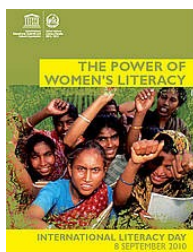
DPI (Department of Public information) meeting: Melbourne Australia. A deputation of Soroptimists led by Programme Director Dawn Marie will be attending this meeting. They will be running a workshop together with WAGGGS.

Hilary Ratcliffe SIGBI Programme Director

International Literacy Day 8th September 2010

UNESCO has announced their theme for International Literacy Day 2010, it is: 'The Power of Women's Literacy' To find out more visit the UNESCO Literacy web site: <http://cms01.unesco.org/en/literacy/>

If you click on the picture under 'Highlight' you will open a PDF file. Go to pages 3- 4 and read a powerful message for International Literacy Day from Irina Bokova the first woman Director General of UNESCO. **Helen Owen APD Education**



Dr. Talat Pasha APD for International Goodwill and Understanding and member of SI Karachi Central is helping with relief work in the flood stricken area of Southern Pakistan. Via Facebook, the following are extracts from some of her firsthand reports:

•'Saw about a hundred patients at Cantt railway station where flood victims needed medical

attention. Two young girls had given birth to babies just three days ago. 'Aura' an organisation for children suffering from Cerebral palsy provided me with the van, the volunteers and medical supplies to do the work I had set out to do.'

•'Saw patients at Jumma Goth. Directed 3 full term pregnant ladies to hospital. Most children are suffering from acute skin conditions and diarrhoea - supplied medicines and ointments. One 15 yr old girl was having a threatened abortion. The suffering and living conditions are shocking, but many young mothers can still manage to smile!'

•'Spent an exhausting, sad day at Shanti nagar, where the entire garbage of Karachi is dumped. Flood affectees are sitting in the middle of this filth. Sat in van and saw about 150 patients. Filth, smell, flies and the condition of the patients and children was too disturbing. They are living in such inhuman conditions.'



•'Very, very busy packing emergency food supplies, clothes etc. Will be leaving for the interior of Sindh to take these to Thatta where people were told to evacuate in the middle of the night within two hours. They are sitting on the road to Karachi with no food or drinking water. Left home at 5.30 am for Thatta, the journey and the condition of the poor people left you speechless....'

•'Distributed mattresses, food packages, water coolers, buckets, bed sheets, milk packets, sandals and clothes in Shanti Nagar, Bhitaabad Super Highway and Cantt Railway station. Exhausting, but worth every minute!'



The women and children of Pakistan need help urgently. There is information on the SIGBI website about how to donate through SIGBI Emergency Relief Fund.

<http://soroptimist-gbi.org/>



The International AIDS Conference (IAC), Vienna, Austria: 18-23 July 2010. The theme for the conference was "Rights Here, Right Now" which emphasized the critical connection between human rights and HIV. The programme focused on:

- The central importance of protecting and promoting human rights as a prerequisite to a successful AIDS response;
- Achieving universal access to AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support;
- The current state of the epidemic in all regions, including southern Africa, the most heavily affected region, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, a region experiencing one of the fastest growing epidemics that is heavily fuelled by injecting drug use;
- Leadership, accountability and action; and
- AIDS investments into broader health and development goals.

More information on the conference can be found at: <http://www.aids2010.org>

Shantha Rau Barriga researcher and advocate for disability rights for Human Rights Watch says the special vulnerabilities of women with disabilities must be kept on the agenda. A study by the World Bank and Yale University in 2004 found that women who have a disability have higher rates of HIV infection because of their risk of physical abuse, isolation general poverty and lack of access to services and information. Few HIV programmes are designed to serve people with disabilities and few disability programmes incorporate HIV services. Governments, U.N. Agencies and HIV organisations should actively work with disabled persons' organisations and include people with disabilities in all stages of their programmes. *Rita Allen APD Health.*

Planning for 2011

Can your club or individual members get involved with Earth Hour 2011?



Earth Hour is a global campaign to showcase what can and is being done all over the world to combat climate change. Earth Hour is a worldwide initiative showing how individuals, communities, businesses and governments can address the threat of global warming if we resolve to work on it together.

Earth Hour 2011 will be held on Saturday March 26 between 8.30PM and 9.30PM in your local time zone.

Earth Hour encourages individuals, businesses and governments to show leadership on climate change through their actions, to use Earth Hour as a platform to showcase to the world what measures they are taking to reduce their carbon footprint. It asks everyone to take personal accountability for their climate impact and make behavioural changes to facilitate a low-carbon lifestyle. Taking the first step is as easy as turning off your lights. By switching off your lights for Earth Hour you are making a statement on the indiscriminate threat of global warming and a commitment to a low-carbon lifestyle.

What can you do?

Take part as an individual

Hold a club event and take part as a group

Encourage other people to take part, companies, local governments and other organisations

For more information visit <http://www.earthhour.org/>

Ruth Dodd APD Environment



Make world trade work for people and the planet

Our partners Trade Justice Movement TJM have recently

published a paper

TJM Organisational Strategy 2010 - 2013

TJM is a coalition of 60 organisations, NGOs and trade unions, with a membership of millions, who represent development, environment and other interests. TJM is led by a board of NGOs, currently: Action Aid, CAFOD, Fairtrade Foundation, Friends of the Earth, Soroptimist International GBI (SIGBI) War on Want, Reading International Solidarity Centre,

TJM has a strong history of high profile campaigning, and our clubs have worked on lobbying projects Economic Partnership agreements (EPA's) unfair trade agreements drawn up between the EU and developing countries, and partnership campaign "Be a Trade Hero"

TJM's Vision: A trade system that works in the public interest, prioritises poverty eradication and is socially and environmentally sustainable

TJM Strategy: states it will promote the trade justice agenda by providing a forum for sharing ongoing work in the sector and highlighting the links between different issues that members are working on. SIGBI is mentioned in the paper as working on Labour Rights, HIV, Humanitarian response to the floods in Pakistan and Gender. Please visit the website www.tjm.org.uk for more information.

Sue Challoner APD Economic and Social Development

GO ORDERS MAY BE SCRAPPED

Go orders or Domestic Violence Protection Orders give police the powers to ban suspected domestic abusers from their victim's home. The Orders were being introduced under the Crime & Securities Bill 2009/10. But the Home Office has deferred the pilot scheme until the Comprehensive Spending Review has reported in the Autumn.

WOMEN AT THE TOP



Women can struggle to get on at work if they have children. It seems that even at the very top, women with children are at a disadvantage in competing for jobs. The number of women in the most senior executive positions is actually decreasing and nearly half of the biggest companies have no women at all on their boards. The government says it wants to increase the number of women reaching the boards of public companies. Is it time to do as Norway has done? There, it is now mandatory for women to make up 40% of the boards. When Sweden suffered steep economic challenges over a decade ago, an informal network of women seized upon the opportunity to lobby for equality for women in the workplace and in politics. So, in this period of austerity in Britain, are we perhaps ready for a Nordic Revolution? For quotas of women in the Swedish Parliament have been as successful as quotas for women in Norwegian companies. *Judi Chaddock APD Human Rights & the Status of Women*