

Programme Director's Blog October 2017

I am writing this in a post Conference haze of emotions!

- **Relief** – that everything went well,
- **Tiredness** – after the preparation and frenetic pace of life at the event.
- **Anxiety** – that there is so much more to do but couple that with the.....
- **Excitement** – of implementing actions
- **Pride** – in the members who have delivered such great project work.
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I could go on but I won't.

Soroptimism is Programme – the two are inseparable and the feedback from attendees has been very positive. Now it is time to progress and implement ideas and suggestions for the future.

Over the next few days I will analyse the responses from the FPAC forum held on the Thursday before the opening Ceremony.

Delegates were consulted about the future of the FPAC Forum, the relative importance of the Sustainable Development Goals within our programme work and a new way of reporting Programme work.



The White Ribbon Campaign is something we can all aspire to support and [Michael Kaufmann's presentation](#) inspired many attendees to become more involved.



The [Modern Day Slavery \(MDS\) slot](#) evoked a great response and I will be working with my team to ensure more detail is available to all clubs. The presenters of that session, Steve Chapman, KimAnn Williamson and Angelina Rodrigues were delighted with the reaction to their presentation, the contacts they made and the enquiries for more information. They have pledged to help in whatever way they can to facilitate our work in this area.

We hope to set up a special section on the website with links to key agencies and ideas of how you can get more involved or access training. There are several Soroptimists who have completed the full training on MDS and , with their permission, will list their contact details.

I have just had news that KimAnn is preparing a booklet for clubs- watch this space.

All the keynote speakers brought dynamism and enthusiasm to the stage, but there was a single message that ran through them all – “You can do it if you really want”. Every one of us works to support the needs of subjugated women and yes, together we can make a difference.

Immediate Past President Ann encouraged us to step up and lead the way – so let's get started!

I cannot finish without congratulating all the clubs who achieved a best practice award – they were fantastic projects- sadly there can only be one winner but you all deserve recognition for what you do to Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls to reach their full potential. [Read all about the winning projects.](#)

Yours in friendship

Barbara Dixon
Programme Director