

October 2018

THREE EVENTS IN OCTOBER - Heather Knott - Editor, PAM



September will have been a busy month for most clubs with International Literacy and Peace Days. I know that there have been several celebrations of these two important dates.

One such event was held at the National Arboretum on 22nd September where a group of 15 Soroptimists visited the plot to commemorate the Int. Day of Peace.

I recently read a Reuters survey about the 10 worst countries for women. Violence against women has not gone away, 3 of these countries are in our Federation; we must continue our work to help them.

India: harassment and sexual violence cultural and traditional practices, and from human trafficking.

Afghanistan: non-sexual violence, access to healthcare, and access to economic resources.

Syria: access to healthcare and non-sexual violence. Joint third with the United States on the risks women face of sexual abuse.

Somalia: access to healthcare and for putting them at risk of harmful cultural and traditional practices.

Saudi Arabia: named 2nd most dangerous country for women for economic access and discrimination, including in the workplace and in terms of property rights.

Pakistan: economic resources and discrimination, cultural, religious and traditional practices, including so-called 'honour killings'.

Dem. Rep. of Congo: ranked 2nd most dangerous country for women as regards sexual violence.

Yemen: access to healthcare, economic resources, risk from cultural and traditional practices, and non-sexual violence.

Nigeria: torture, rape and killing civilians human trafficking.

USA: joint 3rd with Syria for sexual violence, including rape, sexual harassment, coercion into sex and a lack of access to justice in rape cases.

Barbara Dixon
Programme Director

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a worldwide annual campaign involving thousands of organisations, to highlight the importance of breast awareness, education and research. Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting women and, in the UK, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed in their lifetime.

Research is focused on four key areas • Risk and prevention • Early detection and diagnosis • Treatment • Secondary breast cancer. The UK's biggest breast cancer research charity, [Breast Cancer Now](#), believes the four-pronged approach to research will allow them to achieve their ambition by 2050, that no one dies from breast cancer.

There are several ways we can help. We can hold [fund-raising events](#) or buy 'pink' products to raise money for vital research. We can [campaign](#) to help women get access to the breast cancer drugs they need. And we can share information with others so we all know how to [check our breasts](#) for early signs, because the earlier breast cancer is diagnosed, the better the chance of successful treatment.

11th October - International Day of the Girl Child

Every 10 minutes, somewhere in the world, an adolescent girl dies as a result of violence. Today's generation of girls are preparing to enter a world of work that is being transformed by innovation and automation. Educated and skilled workers are in great demand, but roughly a quarter of young people, most of them female, are currently neither employed nor in education or training.



Of the 1 billion young people who will enter the workforce in the next decade - over half of whom are adolescent girls - more than 90% of those living in developing countries will work in the informal sector, where low or no pay, abuse and exploitation are common. Work is being done alongside all girls to expand existing learning opportunities, chart new pathways and calling on the global community to rethink how to prepare them for a successful transition into the world of work. Under this year's theme, [With Her: A Skilled GirlForce](#), International Day of the Girl Child will mark the beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to advocate for, and draw attention and investments to, the most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

18th October Anti-Slavery Day

Campaigners who led to the abolition of slavery in the British colonies would be surprised to learn that there is an anti-slavery society still today; and even more surprised to learn that, in 2017, there were an estimated 40 million people in slavery around the world.



Forced marriage was recently included in estimates of people in slavery by the International Labour Organization (ILO). [Anti-Slavery](#) has advocated for this recognition for many years. Forced marriage represents a fundamental denial of rights to millions of women and girls. Ending it is critical to advancing and promoting the rights of women and girls and hence in ending slavery. So while we celebrate

the historic successes in fighting slavery, we should also be shining a light on the daily reality experienced by so many people round the world. People who are abused, exploited, and denied their freedom.

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FOCUS ON THE CARIBBEAN
Rayner Rees, APD- Economic Empowerment



This month's PAM focusses on what has been happening in the Caribbean and their recent projects. The Caribbean Network consists of seven islands – Anguilla, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and Turks & Caicos. There was concern in August about the earthquake that affected Trinidad & Tobago and we were relieved to hear that all was well.

Every year as they celebrate International Women's Day, the Caribbean Network takes the opportunity to raise its voice as they continue to Educate, Empower and Enable the lives of women and girls throughout the world. They support women who have been abused, they recognise women who have been trailblazers in their various vocations and they continue to raise awareness of the need to support our sisters all over the world.

In their celebration of International Women's Day 2017, several clubs embarked on the theme 'Be Bold for Change' when they marched and drew attention to the ever-increasing incidences of violence against women.

Many of the clubs have been very involved in educational programmes focussing on literacy, training staff in Restorative Practices and sharing expertise in the music education programme. **SI Barbados** provided portable water butts for a primary school – which fits beautifully with SI President Mariet's theme of Women, Water and Leadership.

At the other end of the age scale one project was designed to educate women 50+ years of age by teaching the basic computer skills so that they could confidently function in today's technologically-based world. 'Sister put your best foot forward' was a project designed by SI Barbados aimed at educating and empowering women with the tools necessary to navigate the job search process and successfully enter or re-enter the working world

In 2017 the U.S. Department of State reported:
"The Government of Trinidad & Tobago does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. Trinidad & Tobago is a destination, transit, and source country for adults and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour."

Because of this, **SI Newtown** worked with the Counter Trafficking Unit of Trinidad & Tobago to ensure that young women in the communities were made aware of signs of trafficking and providing the girls with the knowledge to safeguard themselves.

With environmental issues, concerning all of our clubs **SI San Fernando** in Trinidad & Tobago celebrated World Environment Day by raising awareness on the problems of plastic pollution, which is relevant, both at an international and local level, causing problems especially for the marine environment.

Single use plastic is one of the major causes of plastic pollution so the clubs chose to educate the population about the negative effects of plastic, encouraging the purchase of reusable shopping bags at a subsidised cost.

Congratulations to the Caribbean Network working hard to fulfil the aims and objectives of our Federation.

Soroptimist International Barbados
Sister Put Your Best Foot Forward!
Professional Development Workshop
A FREE development workshop designed to equip WOMEN with the tools needed for a successful job interview.
● Presentations by HR Professionals
● Résumé review session
● Tips & Tools to help you be your best
Date: Saturday January 13th, 2018
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: Hildegard Weekes Activity Centre, Eden Lodge, St. Michael
To register and for more information email: register.sibevent@gmail.com

The stories of Soroptimist International (Newtown, Trinidad and Tobago) (SIN) continue their popular workshop series for young ladies with our upcoming workshop on:
WORKSHOP SERIES
MY Sister's Keeper **Not For Sale**
A Workshop on Human Trafficking
Saturday July 28th, 2018
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
COSTAATT's Ken Gordon School of Journalism and Communication Studies
Alcazar Street, Newtown
STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Soroptimist International Newtown, Trinidad

Soroptimist International San Fernando
Beat plastic pollution
Use reusable shopping bags!
Plastic destroys marine animals. Turtles mistake plastic bags for jelly fish which is their favourite source of food.
<https://sigbi.org/san-fernando/>
Soroptimist International of San Fernando

Days of interest in October

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month **10th** World Mental Health Day **11th** World Obesity Day
- 11th** International Day of the Girl Child **12th** World Sight Day **16th** World Food Day
- 17th** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty **18th** Anti-Slavery Day **20th** World Osteoporosis Day