

## SIGBI President's November 2018 Blog



### Think on It!

Dear Soroptimist friends,

It is an enormous privilege to take on the position of President of SIGBI. There are so many stalwart Soroptimists who have filled this post before me and I hope to emulate their achievements as I work to lead our Federation over the coming year.

I would not be the person I am today without having been a Soroptimist. Being a member of Soroptimist international Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) has enhanced my life and made me even more determined to do the best I can to support and encourage other women and girls to be the best they can.

I am extremely grateful to the Federation Management Board (FMB) members for all their support and hard work. I am pleased to welcome four new members to the Board, Ruth Healey, Director of Finance, Kay Richmond, Director of Programme and Judi Chaddock and Shirley Jones, Directors Without Portfolio. I am sure they will be an asset to our team. The same goes for the dedicated team at SIGBI Headquarters under the leadership of Gina Coad. It pleases me to see the cooperation as different officers and SIGBI HQ staff collaborate on various projects.

I want thank the Federation Councillors who play an integral part in communicating the views of Regions, Countries, National Associations and Networks at Board meetings in person or through correspondence. I welcome new Federation Councillors to the role and thank them sincerely for stepping up as leaders in our organisation – without them a valuable avenue of communication from and to the Board would be lost. As members, we all appreciate what they do for us, often unseen and unrecognised, to keep our organisation running smoothly.

At the Conference in Liverpool I had the honour of installing Regional, National Association and Network Presidents to their new role. Some are continuing in office, some are sharing the role and others are taking up the role for the first time. I congratulate and thank you all for becoming a leader in our organisation and I wish you well as this year progresses for us all. I hope to consult with both the Regional Presidents and Federation Councillors about the burning issues of redeveloping the Board to make it more streamlined, redefining our Programme Action to take greater account of the Sustainable Development Goals and understanding what opportunities charitable status can bring us as we move forward together.



This year's theme is **"Think on It!"**. It gives us an opportunity to look at a different angle to our project work. We know the importance of good mental health and well-being and we need to promote this throughout our clubs so that, as members, we can all feel valued and cherished. We can do the same for the women and girls we support by learning more about the impact domestic violence, female genital mutilation and trafficking, for example, has on the well-being and mental health of women and girls. Why not take a look at [the website for the tools to use to raise awareness of mental health issues](#) in your area and also hold an event to promote the well-being of members? Send a story of what you do with an action picture and we will share the most innovative in the magazine. The various initiatives inspired by this theme underline the commitment Soroptimists make to improve the lives of women and girls.

I have already had the pleasure of visiting the length and breadth of the UK, attended the Soroptimist International Board and general meeting in Budapest and joined Soroptimists from Soroptimist International of the Americas at the Convention to hear and learn from other Soroptimists. It is now time for me to visit members across our Federation to hear what motivates you to be the woman you are, learn about your challenges and to seek ways to support you further, in order to achieve our vision to work with women and girls so that they can be the best they can be.

In this year I pledge to be a listening, reflective and active President of our Federation and I look forward to working and learning from every single Soroptimist. Being a Soroptimist enables us all to make a difference and being a member of SIGBI binds us together with a common set of values and a common goal to do our best to make a change for the better for as many women and girls as we can. Your passion motivates the Board to continue with all our efforts to strengthen and modernise our Federation for the future!

Best wishes

Sue Williams

SIGBI President 2018-2019