

# SIGBI Programme Director's Blog September 2018



August has been a quiet month on the Soroptimist visit front for me but a lot of work has been done in preparation for the Conference in Liverpool.

It promises to be a great event with super Key note speakers and lots of representation of club projects. There will also be an update on our visit to Meru .

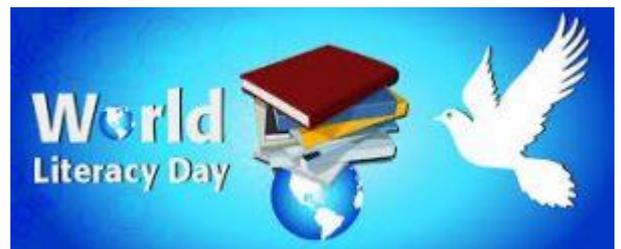
The Best Practice awards have now been selected in each of the current categories and I know there will be excitement and anticipation for those clubs shortlisted.

The timetable for the FPAC meeting is being finalised and all the presentations will be available to delegates – I do hope many will attend.

September heralds two important UN days for Soroptimists:

## 8 September – International Literacy Day

This year's theme is 'Literacy and skills development.' Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist, and at the same time the demands for skills required for work, evolve rapidly. This year's theme explores integrated approaches that simultaneously support the development of literacy and skills, to ultimately improve people's lives and work and contribute to equitable and sustainable societies. The day focuses on skills and competencies required for employment, careers, and livelihoods, particularly technical and vocational skills, along with transferable skills and digital skills.



## 21 September – International Day of Peace



The theme for the International Day of Peace in 2018 is "The Right to Peace – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70"

The theme celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different

legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations.

The Universal Declaration – the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages – is as relevant today as it was on the day that it was adopted.

**"It is time all nations and all people live up to the words of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of**

**the human race. This year marks the 70th anniversary of that landmark document.” — Secretary-General António Guterres**

I wonder how you will be celebrating?

Whatever you do, if it is a project, make sure you put it on the database.

Now that we have Charitable status we need to be accurate at reporting and refine our project work. There is still confusion about where to enter a project, is it Education, Empowerment or and Enabling opportunity- I know that there will be clearer guideline in the next edition of PAM so I urge you all to read it – we aim to help when we can.



I am now coming to the end of my term as Programme Director , a role which has been enjoyable, frustrating, exciting and time consuming- I am glad I was semi-retired when I took up the role – I could not have given it full commitment if working full time but I would not have missed it for the world.

Soroptimism to me is Programme Action and always will be so please keep up the good work and I hope to see many of you at Conference. Don't forget to purchase your orange “Soroptimists say NO to Violence Against Women” badges (only £1) ready for the 16 days of Activism, which start on 25 November 2018.

Barbara Dixon  
Programme Director