



#SoroptimistVirtual2020

**Women inspiring action,
transforming lives** 

Hello and welcome to our virtual Federation Programme Action Committee event.

We are going to be looking forward and Building Back Better using recent experience as the building block. The Covid pandemic has highlighted the inequalities which we have been trying to address over past years. Do we have a better opportunity to do so now that the inequalities are obvious to all? We believe so.

First of all, I need to advise you about how to make the most of this virtual event. My apologies to those of you conversant with the way in which Zoom and similar platforms work.

There will be a button marked 'Networking Room/Chat' which allows you to chat to all attendees. You can post your messages here, but not questions.

Questions can be posed using the separate button for that. Ruth Healey, our Director of Finance will be moderating those questions in the first half, and Vice-President Cathy Cottridge in the second half. They might combine similar questions.

I will then ask the relevant Assistant Programme Directors to respond and we will do our best to answer all. Those questions not addressed today will be responded to after conference.

It gives me great pleasure to hand over to President Isobel for her opening remarks.

Build back better for the future

Isobel Smith

SIGBI President 2019-2020

WE STAND  UP
FOR **WOMEN!**
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Pillars of SIGBI's Strategic Plan

- Membership
- Programme Action



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There are two pillars to SIGBI's strategic plan..one is Membership and the other is Programme. All other functions create the environment for these to flourish.

Programme attracts members

- Awareness
- Advocacy
- Action
- Service



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We know that Programme attracts members ...through awareness, advocacy and action – can service projects attract women to join us in Build Back Better activity? The programme that follows will be interesting for us to hear about the work that is going on and we have the opportunity to share ideas and best practice.

What is meant by “Build back better”?

- UN use the term for their disaster recovery process:
 - Recovery
 - Rehabilitation
 - Reconstruction
- To increase the resilience of nations and communities.



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I wondered about the theme of today...Build Back Better and was curious to understand what it meant and where it came from. Doing a Google search (other search engines are available, including Ecosia where searching helps to plant trees) I found it is a term used by the United Nations General Assembly 2016 to describe their disaster recovery process - the use of the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after a disaster to increase the resilience of nations and communities.

I wondered if the Pandemic is being classed as a disaster. I found one country who was saying it was, some say it is an emergency crisis and some just say it is a pandemic!

Is the pandemic a “Disaster”?

It has certainly led to:

- a disproportionate social and economic impact on women and girls
- an increase in gender-based violence
- Interrupted schooling for millions of girls worldwide



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The fact that the pandemic is having a disproportionate and devastating social and economic impact on women and girls with skyrocketing levels of gender-related violence placing the lives of many more women and girls at risk and millions of teenage girls around the world staying out of school affecting their education and the possibility of achieving their potential and life choices? Is that a disaster? It is being called a pandemic within the pandemic...

I wondered what could Build Back Better look like regarding these issues and the other issues women face regarding pay and benefits inequality, perhaps its access to health care, unpaid child and family care, cash and loans equality.

What Soroptimists have done to help?



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These issues have (always) been central to Soroptimists and what we have taken action on. Also the fact that Soroptimists have continued to be active in these areas over the last months is testament to us knowing how important they are. Now that the world's focus is also on these issues – maybe this is a great opportunity for us.

What Soroptimists have done to help?



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UN Secretary General said, the goal will be to build a better future in which the world can take the opportunity of an economic reset to ensure the rights to life, dignity, and security for everyone. Moreover, as the pandemic has shown the world who is doing the work that really matters, including nurses, teachers and care workers, we might end the inequities of unpaid care work and create new economic models that work for everyone. “Recovering better” must expand its reach beyond governments. The private sector, academia, institutions of all kinds, and civil society must be fully engaged.

What Soroptimists have done to help?



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What does this look like for us and the work we do? “I’m excited about today and I look forward to the insights we will gain by spending this time on this very important strategic pillar of Programme. An opportunity to Rethink the Future seems to be a phrase which is being used a lot. Every member in every club across the Federation has a role to play through our projects to Build Back a Better world for future generations. We Stand Up for Women and together we can do it!



Federation Programme Action Committee Belfast 2020

Asia

- Bangladesh
- India
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

The Caribbean

- Anguilla
- Barbados
- Grenada
- Jamaica
- St Vincent
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Turks & Caicos

Europe

- England
- Ireland
- Malta
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales

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Thank you President Isobel for that great introduction.

We will present contributions from all 18 countries in the rest of this first session, within the 3 clusters shown here. They have been compiled by representatives from each country, working with the Assistant Programme Directors.

After the break the Assistant Programme Directors will each present their view of the future and how we can work together to 'Build Back Better'.

Over to the Asian network to start the session - these presentations will run sequentially.