



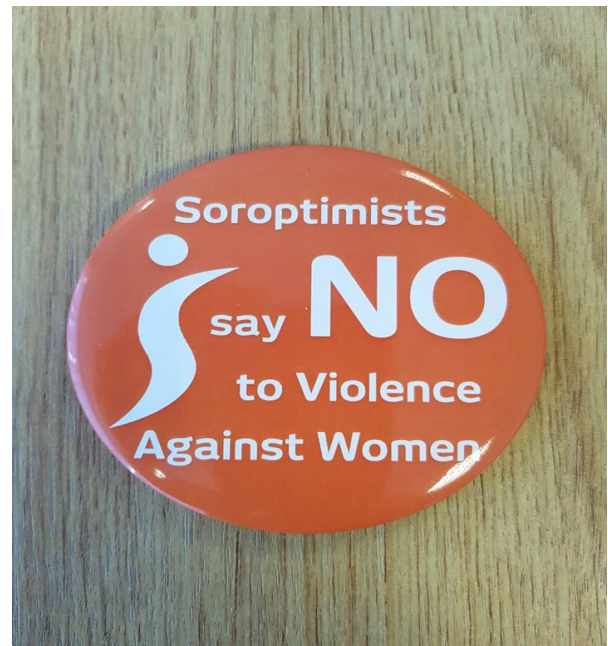
**Soroptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

**SIEnna 211 October 2022**

**SIE President's Message**

Can you believe it? Even more drama, turmoil and change hitting the UK in the past month! It makes you wonder 'what next'? Hopefully a period of consolidation, steadying the ship and ultimately, stability – politically, economically and emotionally. It is a times like this that I believe organisations such as ours have to remain calm, focused and positive and seek opportunities collectively and individually to help people struggling with the uncertainty and worry of the present situation. And that includes our own members, families, friends and neighbours who might (unusually) be experiencing stress financially and emotionally – can we spot the signs? a quick chat, a sympathetic ear, some reassurance/advice might make all the difference.

Collectively, an immediate action we could take would be to donate some of our funds and I will be making a suggestion at our next meeting that we support Trussell Trust and the SIGBI Benevolent Fund – happy to take any other suggestions if you are close to a cause that is helping people get through the current challenges.



If you know of a Soroptimist you would benefit from this support then confidential contact can be made with the Benevolent Club Secretary or the relevant Regional Representative – if you want any help in locating either of these email addresses then feel free to give me a shout)

And finally Easyfundraising! Myint Su is regularly flagging the ease of this fundraising activity and you will have seen an email from Chris quite recently promoting it across SIGBI. (£576 raised so far for SI Edinburgh!) There are many companies offering to donate a % of your on-line spend (at no extra cost to yourself!) and if you set it up right, every time you click on your favourite site it will automatically remind you to request the donation! Simple!!!!

Click on Link: sign-up now: Search Cause – type in SI Edinburgh (or any other organisation you would prefer to support) and click when found: follow the sign-up instructions. You should see a 'set donation reminder' in the top right hand corner – click on that and you are all set!

<https://sigbi.org/what-we-do/our-charities/benevolent-fund>

## **SI Edinburgh Business Meeting held on 12th October 2022**

### **At Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel (ECYH) and on zoom**

**Present** President Elect Liz (in the chair) + Myint Su, Lindsey, Marjory and Anna (minutes) Zoom Clephane  
Apologies President Nikki, Christine, Edith, Dorothy, Kathleen, Gari, Alison, Morag, Irene.

Winifred

**Soroptimist Vision & Mission** read by Marjory

**News of Members** Former member Patricia C. Was ill on return from Australia and has now returned to Spain. She wishes to keep in touch with club members and club activities.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

Correction On page 5 should read “ Pat offered to dig out the winning designs from a school competition that **Edinburgh Peace Initiative (EPI)** had organised some years ago”

President Nikki E club will be a future focus and she will take forwards with UNhouse

Ballots for SIGBI have been sent

Christine had contacted the relevant person at Edinburgh City Council on black posters by Princes Street Gardens. These are reserved for use at Edinburgh Festivals. But there may be the possibility of SI Edinburgh displaying posters in other council properties. The council rep is not unsympathetic to the idea of posters – all ideas to Liz

**Women in Custody.** Clephane: This is shared between Saughton And Corntonvale Prisons. Women spend very little time in custody.

There is a lot of information on the prison website on visiting inmates

Margaret M (SISS region) finding out about criteria for visiting.

Action Await and See what information Margaret M, SISS region finds out re visiting.

**Patch for Peace.** Myint Su displayed her completed colourful Patch.

Action Myint Su will take a photograph of the finished patch and hand over the completed patch at SIGBI conference in Belfast to hand over to SI Fernando for its club 60th anniversary.

**Treasurer report** – no update

**Membership** Suggested dates have been circulated to membership groups from SI Scotland North and South.

Any items for suggestions for this meeting to Anna

Would it be possible to invite a representative of UNHS interns to our club meetings? Perhaps a co - opted member?

### **Programme Action**

Lindsey has seen posters on social media on stalking from SIGBI but these have now disappeared

Lindsey has arranged for three members to sort childrens clothes for **Kids Love Clothes** on Tuesday 18th October at Ratho.

Lindsey and Myint Su to ask staff at **Cranston Womens Hostel** what Christmas Gifts the residents would like. Then email members with suggestions.

**Action:** Members invited to bring and pack gifts for Cranston Street Hostel Residents at Wednesday 9th November Business meeting at Edinburgh Central Hostel. ( speaker meeting 23rd November zoom only meeting)

Lindsey suggested we could consider supporting **Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal** next year NB need to start organising September 2023.

**Region:** President Elect Liz updated members on the recent SI SS Region Programme Action meeting where there was a lot of discussion on possible debate on preparation for a misogyny Bill. (debate on hold just now)

Baroness Helena Kennedy suggested as a future speaker.

Alys Mumford and Eilidh Dixon were also suggested as future speakers at SISS Region.

There are two proposals being discussed – a speaker meeting to fall on 25<sup>th</sup> January with above speakers (Was Burn's a misogynist?) and

- possible briefing pack/video for schools – Liz exploring with UNHouse and to consider whether Everyone United could be involved already

Also agreed we will contribute to the consultation process when it is published  
**16 days of Action** 25th November-10th December 2022

The focus this year will be Violence Against Women and Girls (VGWG) President Elect Liz has posters and post cards to distribute. (SIGBI theme is Femicide) More available from SIGBI shop

Action members to distribute posters and postcards

(Due to power costs of buildings will not be lit up this year in orange, except the Falkirk club who plan for the Kelpies to be lit up in orange)

**Unite Orange the world** – 25<sup>th</sup> of the month

President Elect Liz and three members met at the Portrait Gallery on 25th September wearing orange.

Action club members agreed to continue to meet for coffee on the 25th of every month wearing something orange. Suggestions of where to meet to Liz.

**Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October will be at the Well Café, Methodist Church, Nicolson Square at 11.00**

### **Refugee Council**

They are keen to keep in touch with Soroptimists re welcoming refugees to the city. Liz has been put in touch with the Welcoming. Tefla is organising women's conversation groups. To include coffee and cake and warm clothing

Eva M's friend met a lonely Ukrainian refugee at South Leith Parish church, but did not get her name. Clephane will follow up.

### **Police Survey on Women's safety for March 2023**

Liz has received some feedback from members, but happy to receive further comments where members have not felt safe in the City of Edinburgh, or where there is poor lighting. Liz will collate response on our behalf.

**Programme** no report

**3SFund** no report

### **Website and Social Media**

Members may consider adding twitter to social media

Thanks to Pat for keeping the website and Facebook consistently up to date.

**Press and Publicity.** The contact at the Edinburgh Evening News has temporarily moved to another department.

### **Friendship Links**

Clephane has circulated newsletters from SI Sioux Falls and SI Caldwell

Anna to circulate newsletter from SI Riverside, Southern California

Nada of SI Maribor, Slovenia would like to commence a friendship link with SI Edinburgh. Members present agreed to this link. Lindsey and Myint Su to coordinate between them

Members to consider whether they wish to accept the invite to the 30<sup>th</sup> celebrations in Slovenia

### **Club Social in December.**

Lindsey has got the Christmas menu from Charwood Restaurant

47 Buckstone Terrace, EH10 6QJ

[www.charwood.co.uk](http://www.charwood.co.uk)

Festive menu 2 courses £22.95, 3 courses £26.95pp There is car parking, and it is on a bus route. Any other suggestions?

**SIEnna.** Items for next edition of SIEnna by 20th October to Gari and Clephane

**AOCB** NB the SIGBI conference in Belfast will be payment by card only. It will be cashless.

### **Date of Next Business Meeting**

**Wednesday 9th November at 7.30 at the Youth Hostel.**

**Members are invited to attend in person to pack Christmas gifts for Residents in Cranston Street Women's Hostel**

On Tuesday 18th, a wee team made it out to Ratho to do a bit of sorting for Kids Love Clothes. We believe this will be a



very tough winter for some families and a couple of bags of seasonal clothing for children - up to the age of twelve - will be a godsend. If you can't manage the 'sorting' you can donate good quality used children's clothing and of course can purchase new pants and socks which are always needed to complete a gift bag.

Thanks to Anna and Myint Su who was a first time out at Ratho!



## **BELFAST 2022 CLIMATE FOR CHANGE**

SIGBI Conference Belfast 2022—27-29 October 2022

Some important last minute notices for people who are attending the Conference next week (and for those who are not):

1. Our Conference Partners, Compassion Belfast, have made a special request: "Our food bank is experiencing a higher than usual demand and our stocks are running quite low so if your colleagues could donate toiletry items such as Deodorant (Male & Female) / Shower Gel / Shampoo / Toothpaste / Tooth Brushes / Female Sanitary products / Nappies (size 4 and 5) and newborn baby cleaning products that would be incredibly helpful as these items are not donated in the same quantity as food." - <https://sigbi.org/belfast2022/compassion-belfast/>

2. When using Twitter to spread the word about the Conference, do include the relevant Twitter handles so that the tweets can be shared. See our Twitter cheatsheet for details of all the handles

and hastags to use—<https://sigbi.org/belfast2022/files/2022/10/Soroptimist-Belfast-2022-Twitter-Cheat-Sheet.png>

3. Remember to check the Conference Website for the blogs on each session that will be uploaded as soon as possible after each session—<https://sigbi.org/belfast2022/>. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

