

**ptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 237 September 2025

Minutes of Business Meeting of 10 September 2025

Chair Alison welcomed members after the summer break and especially welcomed Gari and Lindsey after their health concerns. She also welcomed guests Susi and Vicki.

News of members
Best wishes were sent to Pat.

Apologies Nikki, Liz L and Pat.

Minutes of business meeting of 11th June.
Matters arising will be dealt with at the meeting.

Membership
Anna has attended an online discussion with new SIGBI membership secretary Sandra Anne Taylor MBE. There is more information on the Hub.
Anna attended online the all Scotland membership group; Crieff, Easter Ross and Hamilton have low numbers.

Region - Anna
Scotland South Region AGM is on 27 September. ACTION - Alison, Chris and Sue to attend.
At the membership forum Sue Midgely will speak as a new member.
Alice Henderson from Fife Climate Action Network will speak in the afternoon about climate change action across Scotland.

Anna met Githa who is on Edinburgh Council Equally Safe Partnership ; she works for Edinburgh University and will give out

to Freshers the Soroptimist information on business cards re safety. Liz is also in contact with Githa.

A date for diaries is 27 June 2026 when SI Scotland South Region celebrates its 90th anniversary at Stirling Court Hotel in Stirling. Clubs are asked to think of successes eg 3S when mostly girl candidates received a donation to help with initiatives such as Operation Raleigh, the Region Sustainable Fashion event which led to an SI evening at the Art School and eventually to our club Sustainability Art Prize to students. SI Dunfermline have made a video.

Finance - Dorothy
Dorothy reported that Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) had sent a thank you for the £500.00 donation to the Myanmar earthquake appeal.

Programme - Alison
September - Programme Action in depth
October - Scottish Love in Action (SLA)
November- tbc
January - Deborah Kingsley, SIGBI Director of PR and Marketing.
February - Archivist at Edinburgh University re remarkable women eg Gertrude Herzfeld, a founder of SI Edinburgh.
March - to be arranged. Possibly facilitated discussion on SIGBI's updated equality, diversity and inclusion statement and the involvement of transgender women in clubs.
ACTION Alison will send dates of meetings to members and Janet at our venue.

Programme Action (PA) - Liz/ club members

Kids Love Clothes KLC - Lindsey has organised this for 18 September at 10 00. Dorothy, Elaine, Lindsey, Liz and Sue will attend.
Beach cleaning at Longniddry Bents no2 on 23 September from 10 00 - 12 00. Lindsey and Sue will attend. This is organised by the Marine Conservation Society which is surveying the type of litter at the beach.

MP contact
Liz has had no response from Christine Jardine MP who had previously met Pat Black and indicated that she would like to meet us; Ms Jardine's mother was a Soroptimist.

ACTION - Judith will try contacts to find another address.

ACTION - Liz will follow up once more and possibly contact Jenny Minto Lib Dem MSP for public health and women's health as well.

Programme action 2025 - 2026: Liz suggested that the first hour of the 24 September meeting will be planning for the 16 days of activism and the second hour will be for discussion of our priorities for the coming year.

ACTION Liz asks for suggestions from members who cannot attend the 24 September meeting.

Region: SI All Scotland group on women's experience of the Scottish Justice System (Survivor Information Space)

Liz is the chair of this group; the group was set up after a Region meeting when Hannah a survivor of domestic abuse bravely spoke at a Region meeting to help improve the situation for women going through the criminal justice system.

The group has been expanded to include reps from Police Scotland.

The Scottish government survivors and witnesses task force is working on a multi agency 'hub' of information for survivors as part of wider project to improve the experiences of women survivors in the justice system.

Liz will send the group's position paper on the role or Soroptimists to members and to Slenna.

SIGBI Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement

SIGBI recently sent this guidance. ACTION Chris will forward to members. There was discussion on the date (possibly March 2026) for a an evening to address this subject.

ACTION Anna will do an introduction with a time line; she suggested the book 'Women who wouldn't wheesht' which gives the background to the recent court action about defining a woman. Chris recommended this book which is in Edinburgh City Library.

Chris suggested March 2026 rather than November 2025 as the situation may be clarified by then; members may also be more informed when

questioning candidates for the Scottish election in May 2026.

16 days: It was suggested that 26 November meeting could feature a speaker on elder abuse eg from scams; Clephane suggests Hourglass.

ACTION Alison and Clephane to investigate possible speakers and Judith to gather relevant information, and members are also invited to suggest speakers. Alternative speakers could be from UN House Scotland
ACTION Alison and Gari to liaise.

LinkNet - no update

Best Practice Awards - Liz and Pat have submitted Orange Cafes.

Orange Cafe - next date is 25 October - venue to be confirmed.

Elaine suggested a walk along Portobello Prom and a coffee stop, wearing orange or a similar activity at the Botanics, the Meadows or Princes Street Gardens.

The Welcoming - Sue has opted out. Elaine reported that the majority of attendees are men as she and Liz attend on a Friday afternoon which is a school half day when the women are child minding.

There was discussion if this is the best way to champion women.

Elaine and Liz are invited to the AGM on 6 October.

Elaine suggested making a connection with Open Arms which is run by the Lothian Regional Equality Council. ACTION Revisit at 24 September meeting.

SIGBI Ballot

Election of Federation Liaison Councillor - unanimous vote for Aileen Eland
ACTION - Liz to send to SIGBI

AOCB

Discussion about collecting the key to the venue, ACTION Sue or Anna can collect during working hours.

Social media: Liz stated that Pat is the only SI Edinburgh Facebook admin person permitted by SIGBI.

Pat is in touch with SIGBI to see how we can change this.

Liz has the password to access SI Edinburgh website.

There was discussion on other use of social media eg LinkedIn which is initially free.
ACTION To discuss on 24 September.

SIEnna deadline - send items to Gari and Clephane by the deadline of 18 September.

Next Meetings

Wednesday 24 September - in depth Programme Action (PA) meeting -chair Liz
 Wednesday 8 October - business meeting - chaired by Nikki



Photo from SI Edinburgh Summer outing to Dalkeith Palace on Saturday 28th June 2025
 We had a tour of Dalkeith Palace, which none of us had visited before.
 Followed by lunch outside the kitchen at the restored stable block. The sun shone!
 In the photo: Sue M, Winifred, Anna, Lindsey, Alison and prospective member Susi P

Minutes of SI Edinburgh Business Meeting,

Our Business and Speaker Meetings

September 2025-April 2026

We would ask that the Chairperson takes responsibility for:

- Determining and issuing the Agenda
- Agreeing the minutes
- Taking forward any actions as required from the meeting
- For the period of chairing (ie from the date of the first meeting chairing, to the date the next person takes over)
- Acting as the 'presidential' point of contact, if required
- Accessing Club gmail to receive any relevant Emails and send emails to members using Group email

Meeting invites will be sent by Nikki on the Sunday preceding the meeting
 In most cases technology for the meeting will be supported by Nikki/Liz/Words & Actions 4 Peace.

2025

September 10 Business Alison

24 PA Discussion Liz

October 8 Business Nikki

22 Nikki Scottish Love in Action

November 12 Business Liz

26 Nikki

December 10

Christmas Social

2026

January 13 Clephane

28 Clephane Deborah Kingsley SIGBI

February 11 Elaine

25 Elaine

Lothian Health Archives

March 11 Sue

25 Sue Discussion on SIGBI's EDI policy

April 8 Liz

22 Liz

AGM

Women's Support Project

A Manifesto for a fair future for women in the 'sex industry'

For the elections to the Scottish Parliament elections 2026

Equally safe

Equally seen

Equally supported

End the criminalisation of women who sell sex and clear any prostitution-related criminal records

Use existing prostitution legislation to protect women and tackle exploiters

Provide dedicated exiting services for women who decide to leave the sex industry

Invest in robust support for women involved in selling sex

enquiries@womenssupportproject.org.uk

A happy little trio of SIEdinburgh members pose for a photo at Kids Love Clothes out at Ratho Mains last Thursday 18th - and yes, we managed to empty and sort, a full 'bin' of black bags of clothing for children here in the city.



Victims, Witnesses and Justice Bill

This link is to a LinkedIn post from Ellie W about the enactment of the Victims, Witnesses and Justice Bill last week by the Scottish Government.

Ellie is a friend of Hannah M's, the survivor of abuse whom we are working with on the Survivor Information Project for Scotland. Their strength and courage deserves to be widely applauded.

[#survivor](#) [#justicereform](#)
[#femaleempowerment](#) [#scotslaw](#)
[#livedexperience](#) | Ellie Wilson | 74 comments
[linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

Beach Cleans!

What an amazing month of sunshine and Festivals we've had but September is Beach Clean time and a few members have hinted that they might be interested in taking part in one - would be lovely if the weather lasted and, as I'm aware, time is going on and we are nearly at the end of the month, I thought I had better get checking to see what is available at this time and for those who might be interested and are available, I am including a quick rundown of the information from the MCS's web site

Longniddrie Bents 2 - Tuesday 23.09 - 10am - 11am 22 spaces

Musselburgh - Friday 26.09, 11am - 12pm 1 space

As you can see we may have to opt for Longniddrie which has a car park on the beach but is just the hour - so coffee afterwards maybe and has spaces. There is no reason why individual members cannot go it alone, so to speak, if another date is more suitable, and where there are odd spaces - do sign up tomorrow. If Longniddrie is of interest to members, please let me know asap and I will book as a team from SI Edinburgh - for office bearers, be aware there is the Region AGM on Saturday 27th September.

Excerpts from a UNHouse Scotland blog: Double Victimisation: How the Law Re-traumatises Child Trafficking Victims

What is Child Trafficking for Forced Criminality?

Child trafficking is among the most reprehensible forms of human trafficking as it involves the abuse of society's weakest and most vulnerable: [children](#). For the purpose of this blogpost, and in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ([UNCRC](#)), a child is defined as any person under the age of 18.

Child trafficking was first defined in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (hereinafter [Palermo Protocol](#)) as the recruitment, moving or reception of a child for the purpose of exploitation, regardless of the means of coercion as children are seen as lacking the capacity to consent. While this definition was widely adopted among international and regional frameworks, the Palermo Protocol notably omitted forced criminality from its list of resulting exploitations. Child trafficking for forced criminality (CTFC) in which children are exploited '[to commit, inter alia, pickpocketing, shoplifting, drug trafficking and other similar activities which are subject to penalties](#)', thus remains one of the most insidious forms of modern exploitation, especially due to its underrepresentation in legal frameworks and academic discourse. And yet, CTFC is a growing phenomenon with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's ([UNODC](#)) noting a 31% increase in child victims since 2019, a trend further highlighted by [UK Home Office statistics](#) which identified children as the primary victims of criminal exploitation. Children's '[particular vulnerability](#)' and '[perceived profitability, as they are easier to control, manipulate, less likely to resist or escape](#)' and more inconspicuous when committing crimes, make them ideal targets for Europe's criminal networks. In the UK, British and foreign children, particularly boys, are increasingly exploited in '[county lines](#)' operations where gangs groom and violently exploit young children, coercing them into '[distributing and cultivating drugs, as well as commit violent crimes](#)'.

The mental health effects of prosecution on child victims

According to [Mullan-Feroze & Dorling](#) (2022), detention is often an unacceptable environment for survivors of human trafficking. Research has highlighted the severe harm that prosecuting and incarcerating young victims of trafficking causes, further traumatising these individuals, painting them as actionable agents in their trafficking experiences, penalising them with an offender status and criminal record, which can make integration into society much harder ([Zabresky](#), 2013). When children are trafficked, they may be deprived of their liberty and right to be free from exploitation and abuse ([ECPAT UK](#), No date). The environments that these minors might be exposed to due to the prosecution and incarceration process—and the accompanying fears they may experience within them—can be a triggering reminder of their trafficking, worsening their psychological distress (ECPAT UK).

Depriving these children liberty retraumatises them by reintroducing feelings of disempowerment that were present during their trafficking (Rafferty, 2018). Literature on child trafficking has, thus, shown that detention causes victims' mental health to deteriorate further (Mullan-Feroze & Dorling, 2022). Moreover, prosecuting child survivors prevents them from receiving the mental health support needed to recover from their traumatic experiences, leaving them in continuous distress. The Helen Bamber Foundation (HBF), a UK charity which supports survivors of trafficking, has reported several '[cases of victims of trafficking for forced criminality](#)' whose mental health conditions—like PTSD and anxiety—are significantly worsened by their time in detention. In addition, physical health problems that go untreated are worsened, also contributing to feelings of hopelessness and mental health deterioration. According to these authors, such environmental conditions also make trafficked victims more susceptible to suicidal ideation and attempts. Even though cases like this are documented mainly for young adults (18-24), the repercussions remain the same, and the situation can even be worse for detained minors because

children face more vulnerabilities due to their ongoing mental development.

What could the effects of double victimisation be?

Without proper system responses and interventions to address the underlying causes of initial victimisation, the prosecution of child victims through the criminal justice system may make them more susceptible to re-trafficking and its associated mental and physical harms (Starseed et al., 2024). Studies like [Chen et al. \(2023\)](#) and [Nichols et al. \(2022\)](#) have argued that the revictimisation of these individuals due to re-trafficking may be caused the fact that the vulnerabilities that first exposed them to being trafficked—and the subsequent vulnerabilities caused by being trafficked the first time, like trauma-coerced attachment—were not mitigated after escaping trafficking the first time. Such vulnerabilities include experiencing childhood sexual, psychological, and physical abuse, unstable legal status, running away and homelessness, and system contact (Starseed et al., 2024).

Attending to children's needs: alternatives to prosecution

The Palermo Protocol states that each State Party must promote the necessary conditions for victims of human trafficking to have a physical, psychological, and social recovery, considering their needs (Martinho et al., 2020; [United Nations](#), 2000). The UK [Modern Slavery Act Statutory Guidance](#) (for England and Wales) and non-statutory guidance for Scotland and Northern Ireland (2015) also emphasise the importance of prioritising the safety, protection, and support of potential victims due to their particular vulnerabilities. However, there is still a gap in protecting the rights of child victims (UNICEF, 2006), such as identifying the child victims and supporting them properly, as well as preventing secondary victimisation through prosecution and detention. According to Martinho et al. (2020), there is a need for current practices to adopt a victim-centred approach that builds trust, autonomy, and empowerment for child survivors.

For victims of child trafficking, mental health professionals recommend trauma-informed support in health care and social services, among others, that is designed to help

trafficked youth address their vulnerabilities and prevent or minimise retraumatisation ([Nichols et al., 2022](#); Rafferty, 2018). This includes short-term psychological interventions such as the use of therapy, and [maintaining healthy relationships](#) that contribute towards the psychological improvement of child victims (Levine, 2017), as well as [more long-term interventions that prioritise the reintegration of survivors](#) back into society (Pascale, 2024). [Salami and colleagues \(2018\)](#) proposed therapeutic approaches that reduce guilt, fear, and shame in trafficking survivors to reverse their vulnerabilities.

To read full article: www.unhscotland.org.uk

Pat B sends her best wishes to everyone in SI Edinburgh

**Orange cafe at Edinburgh Futures Institute
25th August 2025**

The picture is Clephane, Edith Patricia (past member) Anna and Liz M.

North Sea Knitters - Bus Pass activists

I recently read an article on this climate action collective which has members across Scotland.

They have a novel and effective way to start conversations about the climate emergency.

Activists visited the offices of fossil fuel companies to engage with people in charge, with no avail.

Then they started knitting, on occasion in corporate offices!

Across Europe people had been knitting Red Lines which symbolise the 1.5 degrees global temperature increase that is catastrophic.

These are wrapped around eg Parliament buildings and red scarves are given to politicians, and wrapped around statues; the latter happened in Edinburgh.

Knitting is a peaceful non confrontational way of opening conversations during campaigns regarding eg the development of the Rosebank Oil field.

www.knittingforclimate.com.