

**ptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 239 November 2025



**SI Edinburgh Business meeting 12th
November 2025**

Apologies: Elaine, Christine, Judith, Alison, Nikki

Matters arising: correction to previous minutes. On p2 the region meeting stated to be on 29 Nov. Is in fact on 22 November.

1. Liz opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the venue which is now called Words and Action . The "for peace" has been dropped. Liz welcomed and introduced Aileen Eland from Falkirk Soroptimists who has come to the meeting in her capacity as Federation Liaison Councillor. See item 1a

2. Vicki Waqa our newest member was inducted and received her certificate of membership. Photos duly taken. Vicki gave a brief outline of her background. She has had a long career in nursing, has worked for NHS Education Scotland and for the past year has worked at Queen Margaret University. She has a passion for women's health and has done projects with homeless women and sex workers. She is looking forward to being a member.

Her skills with social media will be put to good use and she is already helping Pat with this.

1a. Aileen Eland, Federation Liaison Councillor (FLC) then spoke. She started by giving a brief outline of her background. Aileen too has a background in nursing (palliative and hospice care) and Alzheimer's Scotland.

By March he intends to visit all the SI Clubs in

Scotland and inform everyone about this new role (Powerpoint presentation circulated with agenda). It is an elected role with a 2 year + 2year term. She reports to the President elect She attends SIGBI board meetings and will produce a quarterly report. The aim is to improve transparency and improve communication from the board down and vice versa. Recognised that the Hub provides some of this but has deficiencies.

3. Programme Action Orange the World 16 days of activism. Will start with an Orange Café in the Portrait Gallery on 25/11 at 11am. Orange ribbons will be handed out. Social media campaign Pat and Vicki will be sharing posts. Hand orange ribbons into Scottish Parliament for MSP's to wear on the day when there will be a debate on the issue. (ACTION Liz to contact the speaker). If no joy Liz to get back to Aileen who has an MSP contact whom she could approach. Speaker at our next meeting (26/11) will be Jessica Chadwick from NHS Lothian who will speak about the Scottish Govt consultation on Women's Health. This encompasses domestic violence. (ACTION Liz to arrange with contact other clubs and invite to attend online)



Photo of IPP Liz presenting Vicki W with Certificate of Membership of SI Edinburgh on Wednesday 12th November 2025

Equally Safe Partnership. (City of Edinburgh Council)

The programme has been circulated. Members encouraged to sign up for events. Quite an academic programme. City Chambers will be lit up in orange during the 16 days and a flag will fly from City Chambers. Ask for Angela. We will not be following up immediately on this.

The Equally Safe Partnership has set up a sub group on Women's Safety in Public Places and has commissioned some work which will cover this. Rather than duplicate efforts we have been invited to send representatives to this group which meets quarterly. Meeting on 13/11. (ACTION Sue and Vicki to join group). For information-signing up to ask for Angela is not mandatory for licensing purposes in City of Edinburgh

SAFE STREETS

Dark nights are here
Please check your Street lights are working
Make our streets safe

Christmas Gifts Sue has been in touch with 4 Square (parent organisation for Women's refuge). They would be grateful for Christmas gifts and have suggested toiletries. Lindsey has been in touch with the refuge and they have approx. 20 clients. For standardisation Sue

has suggested that members donate £5 to the club to cover the cost of these gifts. Lindsey, Sue and Anna will purchase, wrap and deliver to refuge. Will submit receipts to Dorothy.

For £5 you can purchase shower gel, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lip salve and a shower puff. These can be put in a gift bag with tissue paper. There might be enough money to purchase hand cream too.

Bank details:

Soroptimist International Edinburgh

Sort code 83-18-47

Account number 00632913

Please use reference Name/Xmas Gift

(ACTION members to make donation of £5 by 30 November

Region project (Liz) Survivor Information Space. Good relationship with the Domestic Violence group at Police Scotland. Invited to provide feedback on their feedback form.

Scottish Govt has a task force looking at a digital hub for survivors of domestic violence. Have been asked to look at the information and ease of use.

4. Forthcoming events

90th Birthday celebrations. We will be asked to provide some photos of club activities to be included in a 2027 calendar. Will be allocated one of the months.

Will also be asked to give a short presentation at the lunch on 27/06 at the Stirling Court Hotel.

SIE will be 100 in 2027. (Charter date 6/12/1927) Put this as an agenda item for our Jan business meeting.

Christmas social. Instead of a business meeting on 10/12 decided to have a Christmas social and go out for a meal in the evening. Anna will look at booking for about 12 people.

Suggested venues: Howies on Waterloo Place and Ciao Roma on South Bridge. Noted that venue needs to be easily accessible. (ACTION -Anna)

Meeting with Christine Jardine (Lib Dem MP) Has now been arranged for 12 Dec at 1pm at her constituency office in Corstorphine. She is interested in finding out about the work of SI and what we in SIE do. Edith, Elaine, Liz and Sue will attend.

Region meeting. This is online on 22 Nov. 10am -12noon. Link has been circulated. Speaker is from Scottish Air Ambulance service.

5. Membership (Anna)

Welcome Vicky our 21st member. Anna keeps in touch with a number of people who are Soroptimists who live in Edinburgh but are members elsewhere. These include Susie Peacock and Francesca Mutapi. She will invite Kay and Eva to the Orange Café. Elena Kerr one of the interns at UN House Scotland will be invited to the Orange Café.

6. Finance (Dorothy)

Need to submit meeting dates to Words and Action for next year and inform them that we will not be meeting on Dec 10th. (ACTION Dorothy)

Following our last meeting with Scottish Love in Action decision to pay £30 donation to them (ACTION Dorothy) Dorothy has received an

invoice from SIGBI for £40 – unsure what this is for. To be followed up (ACTION -Dorothy)

7 Programme

Next meeting on 26/11 will be Jessica Chadwick from NHS Lothian (see item 3 above)

8. Friendship Links

Possibility of a joint project with South Perth, Australia. No discussion.

9. **SIEnna** submissions to Gari and Clephane by 21st November.

10. AOCB. Clephane mentioned that she had been subjected to some very misogynistic comments from someone who was very anti women priests.

Marjory has been writing some articles in the run up to COP30. Mentioned that sub Saharan Africa has missed out on some of the opportunities and mentioned that installation of solar panels which are now much cheaper would be step in the right direction.

Anna – has become a trustee of the SIGBI Benevolent fund.

Here is the latest photos from the Orange cafe on 25th October in the Terrace cafe of the Royal Botanical Gardens
The pic includes Alison Anna Edith and Marjory



What about COP30?? Powering Change: Gender- Transformative Climate and Energy Pathways

Women remain underrepresented across the energy sector and are disproportionately affected by energy poverty, health risks, and limited access to finance and technology. Gender-blind policies further exacerbate these inequalities. According to UN Women's latest Gender Snapshot, if current trends continue, 321 million women will still be without access to electricity by 2030, including 275 million in Sub-Saharan Africa. Against this backdrop and spotlighting pathways to gender-transformative climate and energy policies, this event showcases evidence, entry points, and inclusive solutions to accelerate just energy transitions and strengthen cross-sector collaboration.



Solutions Dialogue: Turning Gender Commitments into Climate Impact

This Solutions Dialogue showcases real-world progress and practical cases driving gender-transformative climate and energy action. Speakers will share impacts on the ground and outline bold steps to scale equality in NDCs, PAS, and just transitions.

Organized by ENERGIA and UNIDO on behalf of the Gender and Energy Compact

Co-organized by the Equality Initiative (CEM), Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP)

In the Hot Seat: What Leadership Looks Like for Women in Energy and Climate

This brings together leaders from government, private sector and civil society to discuss a chronic dilemma and fundamental question: Leadership in energy and climate has historically been male-dominated—Why, and how can redefining leadership to embrace women's perspectives transform the sector?

Organized by ESMAP, Iceland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gender and Energy Compact

A Membership Memo:

Good afternoon Francisca,

I would like to invite you to SI Edinburgh's Orange Cafes.

Firstly this Saturday 25th October at 11.00 in the Terrace Cafe in the Royal Botanical Gardens. The Terrace Cafe is next to Inverleith House.

Then on Tuesday 25th November at 11.00 we will be in the cafe of the Portrait Gallery, Queen Street. Soroptimists from other clubs will be joining us.

The next SI Edinburgh business meeting is on Wednesday 12th November at 7.30 pm

The next speaker meeting will be on Wednesday 25 November. It will address Women's Health

You will be most welcome to join us at either cafe or club meeting if your schedule permits. Anna, Membership Convener



Dear Anna

Good evening- greetings from Congo Brazzaville.

Thank you for the invitation and dates- noted for when I might be in Edinburgh.

Francisca

WEBPAGE: <http://pig.bio.ed.ac.uk/>

WEBPAGE: <http://tiba-partnership.org/>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/PIG_Edinburgh

Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parasite-Immunoepidemiology-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parasite-Immunoepidemiology-Group/221050371278082)

[Group/221050371278082](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parasite-Immunoepidemiology-Group/221050371278082)

[Group/221050371278082](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Parasite-Immunoepidemiology-Group/221050371278082)

New webinar



Playing fast and loose



A critical assessment of the United States' engagement with the International Human Rights Regime

Tuesday 11th of November, 4:30 p.m. GMT, online event

Join via this zoom link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9662602685?pwd=L78N7uCA1Pp3OZWcUx9W1rpTJdlO5h1>



with Ryan Conover

This fascinating presentation is now on UNHS website –www.unhscotland.org.uk
For any further information, Ryan Conover, former intern at UNHS, would be able to communicate:
ryan.conover02@gmail.com

BEYOND COP at the UNA Scotland

On behalf of the Beyond COP team we would like to invite you all to attend our first UNAS Earth Ambassadors event entitled "Eco Schools: Youth for Climate Action" on **Tuesday 9 December at 12pm GMT (UK time)**.

The event will be hosted and presented by our UNAS Earth Ambassador from Laos, Souksaveuy Keotiamchanh, and moderated by our UNAS Earth Ambassador from Guinea, Mohamed Bachir Camara. Andrea Gabriel from Keep Scotland Beautiful will also be there to present. To register, please click here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9662602685?pwd=L78N7uCA1Pp3OZWcUx9W1rpTJdlO5h1>



UNA SCOTLAND

BEYOND COP

Beyond COP Report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SPi4nh0JU52vCJv1-nZCv7Zzh3CX_a0e/view?usp=drive_web