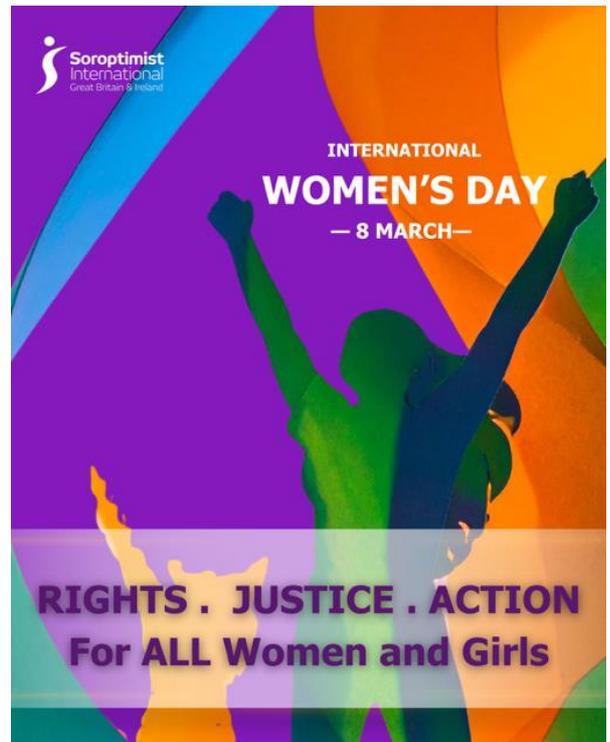


**ptimist  
International  
Edinburgh  
news  
notes  
anecdotes**

SIEnna 241 February 2026



**STANDING UP  
for Women and Girls**



**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
SPEAKER AND NETWORKING  
EVENING**

**JOIN US ON Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March  
7-9pm**

**At Carnegie Conference Centre,  
Fife Learning Campus,  
Dunfermline. KY11 8WH**

**Speakers: Stephanie Drummond.  
DI Domestic Violence  
Investigation Unit.**

**Lynsey Duthie. Safety, Health,  
Environmental Protection  
Advisor, Babcock International.**

**Networking and Discussion.  
Free Event.**

**Donations of Toiletries for  
Women's Aid welcomed**



**Soroptimist International Perth**  
warmly invites partners, community groups and supporters to our

**International Women's Day 2026 - Launch Event**  
Celebrating Women's Independence & Launching Free Financial Workshops

This event celebrates women's independence and marks the official launch of a programme of free financial workshops for women and girls, to be delivered across Perth city throughout 2026.

This event is free and everyone is welcome  
Please RSVP by registering via the QR code below  
by 1st March to secure your place  
or go to our Facebook page  
<http://www.facebook.com/sigbiperth/>

**Event Details**  
Saturday - 7th March 2026 | 10:00am - 3:00pm | Civic Hall, 2 High Street, Perth

**Programme for the Day**

<b>Welcome &amp; Registration</b> 10:00am - 10:30am	<b>Professor Dame Sally Mapstone</b> Principal and Vice-Chancellor University of St. Andrews
<b>Welcome Address - John Swinney MSP</b> First Minister for Scotland	<b>Musical Interlude with Singer Jasmine Munns</b>
<b>Poetry Recital - Zim Mackintosh</b> Acclaimed Perthshire poet	<b>Complimentary Light Lunch, Workshop sign-up &amp; Information Stalls</b> 12:30pm - 14:30pm
<b>Emma Jackson</b> Head of Social Justice Citizen's Advice Scotland	<b>Event Close</b> 3:00pm

STANDING UP for Women and Girls

Search Soroptimist Perth Scotland or click this link <http://www.facebook.com/sigbiperth/>

For the first time we have out this event on Eventbrite so ticket can be booked by clicking the link which takes you to the event. Tickets are free. We have capped the number at 50 at the moment but we will see what the response is and may be able to increase the spaces if demand is high.

## Friendship Link with Maribor, Slovenia

I received this from Nada, Maribor, Slovenia a few weeks ago and I thought it might be of interest to some of the club members - it is quite amazing the work the two clubs put in and certainly kept Nada very busy over the past year as she was also the club President. Happy reading! From Lindsey



News of SI Maribor

The project: The Soroptimists of Maribor launched a project to support young women in starting their own businesses, fostering creativity, self-reliance, and economic independence. In collaboration with the Regional Development Agency for the Podravje-Maribor Region, nine women completed a four-month entrepreneurship programme. Two participants with the strongest business plans were awarded 1,000 € each in a p

**Barefoot Latin America's Fundraising and Partnerships Manager, Catriona, will be giving a talk to SIE later in the year... Here is a little update:**

*In Guatemala, 8 women from remote, off-grid, indigenous communities are training to become solar engineers with [Barefoot College Latin America](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/barefoot-college-quatemala).*

*At Barefoot's regional training centre in the Maya Ixil Region, non-formally educated women learn how to assemble, install, maintain and repair solar home lighting systems and products.*

*The 10-week residential course also includes a co-created women's empowerment curriculum covering key topics in financial and digital literacy, health and wellbeing, human rights, social equity and entrepreneurship.*

*Upon graduating, Barefoot women solar engineers bring light to their villages, breaking entrenched gender norms and building thriving and resilient rural communities and ecosystems.*

*To support renewable energy access and indigenous women's technical training, visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/barefoot-college-quatemala>.*



Minutes of SI Edinburgh Business Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – Hybrid (Zoom & face 2 face)

Chair: Elaine welcomed members and prospective member Susi.

**Apologies:** Dorothy, Irene, Liz M, Gari.

**Minutes** of business meetings of 14/01/2026 and 28/01/2026 (continuation of the meeting of 14/01/2026 was conducted at the start of the 28/01/2026 meeting) were accepted.

Matters arising

In memories of Kathleen the date of her Presidency was corrected to 2004-2005 and will be updated in SIEnna.

Actions updates

Passing of Kathleen - Pat has sent obituary to SIGBI and Nikki will inform SIGBI and Scotland South Region of Kathleen's passing for their records.

16 days of activism - Judith had agreed to circulate slides re a North Lanarkshire presentation she had attended re the attitudes of men who buy sex.

Equally Safe Partnership (ESP) – Liz and Sue had responded to the draft 'Respect her Space' questionnaire intended for 13-18 year olds. The feedback has resulted in the questionnaire being pulled and another approach to gather opinions /views is being considered.

**Scotland South and North Region** 90th celebrations at Stirling Court on 27/06/2026 from 11am to 4pm.

A save the date flyer will be distributed. (\*\* see later in SIEnna)

SI and SIGBI presidents will attend and the nominated charity is White Ribbon Scotland (men who support the elimination of violence against women and girls).

Clubs are asked if they wish to make a presentation 10 minutes maximum to showcase their work.

Display space will also be on offer, where we could eg feature orange cafes.

Calendar for 2027 - will be A4 size and will illustrate activities across the region. Each club is allocated a month; we have May 2027. We have to supply three photos with a deadline of 1/10/2026. Anna suggested a theme of local, international and peace; and link to Strategic Development Goals (SDGs). Lindsey suggested a photo of the presentation of the SI Edinburgh Art College Sustainability prize, the orchard at Castlebrae school, Kids Love Clothes - all activities that are current and continuing.

Elena has made a Google drive to which she can add photos. ACTION – please send to Elena any historical/current photos that may be used for the presentation/calendar/display

ACTION :Pat can send photos she has collected on orange cafes for the Google drive file; we may have to ask clubs for permission to display the photos.

By 27/2/26 Nikki to respond to the organising committee and confirm SI Edinburgh would like to do a presentation and would also like a small display area at the event (probably only Flip Chart size – considering a collage of Orange Café photos from across the globe and highlight it all started in SI Edinburgh!)

### **Membership**

Anna thanked members for their feedback re her presentation at the last meeting.

Liz had recently presented Elena with her badge and membership certificate.

Due to family commitments Vicki has decided to transfer to Associate Membership. We hope she will return to Club membership when she has more capacity.

We now have 19 full members.

A membership request was recently received via SIGBI; Anna will continue to follow it up and arrange a face to face meeting.

### **Programme Action (PA)**

Lindsey reported on Marie Curie collection - Elaine Lindsey and Sue will collect at

Morrisons in Gilmerton and Edith at Morrisons in the Gyle.

Orange cafes will take place at Patina cafe in South Gyle, Edinburgh Park at 11 00 on Wednesday 25th February and on Saturday 25th April when we will possibly host MP Christine Jardine.

NOTE : THE ORANGE CAFÉ ON 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY HAS SINCE BEEN CANCELLED

Pat reported that Liz is keen to start organising for the 16 days of action in November.

ACTION Please send photos of ANY SI Edinburgh activity to Pat for her Facebook and website postings.

Convention on the Status of Women(CSW) - Pat, Elena and a colleague from UN House will attend the CSW in New York in March. Pat and Elena have organised a panel on women, peace and security with the aim of training peacekeepers re the involvement of women. This takes place online on 18th March at 15 00 UK time.

ACTION Elena will send out a flyer; book ASAP via UN House Zoom as numbers are limited.

### **Transgender discussions**

SI Edinburgh on 28<sup>th</sup> February held a meeting to inform members about the subject of transgender people prior to a facilitated discussion on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Liz had written to SIGBI re their policy statement and what level of legal advice was taken to inform the policy. They confirmed that the Board had considered the various legal positions and statements in the public domain, and had taken advice from the then SIGBI Director of Governance , who is a solicitor specialising in the law relating to charities and NGOs.

Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the SIGBI position in particular transgender position . Sue will chair and we have arranged for an external facilitator to help manage the discussion.

ACTION Judith, Liz, Nikki and Sue to meet before this to provide background information to the facilitator and define the objectives of the discussion on 25/3.

ACTION Christine to circulate the notes taken at the meeting on 28th February on this subject.

### **Sustainability Award to Edinburgh School of Art student**

Alison and Liz to meet Art College at the start of March; they will also check on publicity of SI Edinburgh by the College

### **Programme**

Orange cafe on Wednesday 25th February at 11 00 at Cafe Patina, South Gyle (**SINCE CANCELLED**); NOTE this is near Edinburgh Park tram stop not the shopping centre.

Speaker on 25th February (hybrid chaired by Elaine) will be Louise Williams from Lothian Health Archives on prominent women doctors

Business meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March (hybrid chaired by Sue)

Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March (hybrid chaired by Sue) on SIGBI's EDI policy

Business meeting on 8th April (hybrid chaired by Liz)

AGM on 22th April (hybrid chaired by Liz)

Orange cafe at cafe Patina on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April possibly with Christine Jardine MP

Business meeting on 13th May

On 27th May presentation of the Art College award; note that the date may have to change due to student's commitments.

Gari's daughter Catriona is available as a speaker (on Zoom) and could possibly support at short notice if required, either in May or when meetings recommence in September after the summer break.

### **AOB**

Voting for SIGBI Director of Governance. Members voted unanimously for Louisa

Parry ACTION: Nikki to send back our vote to SIGBI

Elaine has received an invitation for the club to take a stall at the Grange Fair on Saturday 5th May at a cost of £30.00, which we will accept.

Number 63 hotel A Go Fund Me page has been set up to raise funds for on going improvements to the fabric of the building – article and link in January's SIEnna.

AGM - as the club has shares we are entitled to vote. ACTION Nikki will be proxy voter for the club.

SI Paisley 80th anniversary lunch will be at the Glynhill Hotel on 29th March.

SI Perth are having an event on 7th March to recognise International Women's Day. (see details in SIEnna)

Lindsey will attend a Scottish Women's Convention (SWC) International Women's Day event at Glasgow City Chambers on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

SIEnna - copy date for next edition Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February



**CELEBRATING SUCCESS  
SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Joint Conference and celebration.  
Stirling Court Hotel and Conference  
Centre**

**Stirling University.**

**Renatta Trotman SI President  
Gillie O'Rourke SIGBI President**

**White Ribbon Scotland**

**Club success stories**

**Cake and Prosecco**

**More details and booking form to  
follow shortly.**

In case you haven't yet had a chance to take a look - here is a link to the resources on the SIGBI website for International Women's Day this year.

We may wish to think about how they could be used either on social media but perhaps also as printed cards or posters?

The theme, "Rights, Justice, Action" - might also prompt some ideas for activity?

<https://trello.com/b/CKrJLpfs/international-womens-day-2026-soroptimists-trello-board>

**JOIN THE ZOOM CALL to the CSW!!**  
SIE members Elena and Pat and UNHS intern Rhys will be giving a civil society presentation at the CSW at the UN in New York on 18.3.26 at 2.30pm.

Join the zoom call:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89034383956?pwd=Zy82prje3TvUKbnlaaF0DBFwJCfPhz.1>

Meeting ID: 890 3438 3956  
Passcode: 968700

Time: Mar 18, 2026 02:30 PM London

