



**Soroptimist
International
Edinburgh
news
notes
anecdotes**

SIEnna 246 September 2026



**SIGBI Women's Safety Group
12 Month Social Media Plan**

SIGBI Women's Safety Group are running a 12-month social media campaign and are encouraging as many Soroptimists and Clubs to take part as possible. There is a separate focus for each month. The campaign started in May 2026.

Campaign Aims

- To raise awareness about women's safety and involve men and boys in the debate
- 12 social media posts to go out monthly – on or close to 10th of the month

Introduction

Each government in the UK has developed a strategy for ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

A key focus for Soroptimists is the safety of women & girls. We want to support each government and make sure they maintain their focus on ending VAWG. One way of doing that

is to involve men and boys in the debate, as well as highlighting the tools and practical support that is available. Soroptimists recognise that engaging men as allies in the changes we seek is essential to the long-term and successful eradication of VAWG. Many women feel unsafe because of the attitudes and behaviours exhibited by some men, whether these arise from peer pressure, entrenched cultural norms and traditions, or an individual's own harmful experiences.

This campaign hopes to tackle this head on and we are asking Soroptimists in the UK to join our campaign to raise awareness of and take action on the many ways we can enlist the help of men and improve the safety of women.

September focus and linked organisation: Suzy Lamplugh Trust
<https://www.suzylamplugh.org>

Did you know?

Research by L'Oréal Paris and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust suggests that: -

- 80% of women in the UK have experienced harassment in public spaces.
- 88% of people in the UK have experienced some form of unwanted behaviour on public transport in the past five years.
- The most common behaviours include staring, intimidatingly sitting or standing too close, and verbal abuse

Training available
You can learn how to recognise harassment and support women safely by joining a free 30-minute training webinar: Stand Up Against Harassment. It is available on different dates at

[Stand Up Against Street Harassment Training](#)

This training empowers you to act as an active bystander when you witness harassment — without putting yourself at risk.

 Watch the launch video by L'Oréal here: <https://youtu.be/pcVUvFEPjas>.

Trello Board resources

Resources and text for all 12 months are available here

<https://trello.com/b/vExIz77A/womens-safety-12-month-soroptimist-social-media-campaign>

Liz M. September 2026

Link from Judith, regarding an article linked to Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls

<https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/?a=75266>

Information on the Knife Angel

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/community-safety-antisocial-behaviour/knife-angel-edinburgh>

We are coinciding our next Orange Cafe (23/9/26 @ 11 am at the Out of the Blue Drill Hall Cafe, Dalmeny Street) to be within walking distance of the sculpture whilst it is situated at the bottom of Leith Walk - join us for a coffee and chat and a visit to this iconic sculpture before it moves on!

John Swinney talking about the Government intention to introduce a Misogyny Bill (sic) and a Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls Bill - one to keep an eye on! Letter to our local MSPs?

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DdUGICvke8s/>

Fringe Play

Christine attended an inspiring Fringe play with two actresses playing a doctor and a ward maid in a Scottish Women's Hospital. The script is inspired journals, letters and archival material held by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The play forms part of the Surgeon's Hall Museum two year Women in Surgery project.

Note From Alison

Alison wishes to thank everyone, who has sent her cards and kind messages following the recent death of her mother. She has greatly appreciated them at this very sad time.

SI Edinburgh Business Meeting Minutes 9th September 2026

Our vision

“Women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.”

Welcome

Nikki (Chair) welcomed our new member Susi and prospective member Victoria to the meeting.

Apologies

Received from Irene, Chris, Dorothy and Alison

Minutes of last meeting

Agreed to annotation of last minute as GB was not present as stated.

Actions:

- ☐☐ Votes sent and registered
- ☐☐ Beach Clean in July - several folk took part
- ☐☐ Art school award in May presented - excellent choice of candidate. Awaiting photos of the presentation.
- ☐☐ Railway Survey – Nikki to send Scottish survey results
- ☐☐ Website – see email from Nikki for this meeting. Note opportunities for online training. (Susi will attend the in person training if she can) Sue proposed and Lindsey seconded the minutes.

1. SI Edinburgh 100th Anniversary – update.

Action: Preferred options for organising team to explore further for an afternoon event to accommodate travelling

- a) Royal Scots Club
 - b) Caledonian Hall/Botanics
 - c) Apex Hotel Grassmarket
- Date confirmed as Sat 16th October 2027

Dignatories to invite – regional rep, Sigbi President, civic person e.g. Lord Provost

2. Trauma Teddies

Thanks to Pat for the fabulous donation of a bagful of teddies.

Action: Donation ideas – Children First or WomensRefuge, Children’s hospital or Sycamore house(SARCS) or Bairns Hooses

Action: LM to contact

3. Cockermouth 45th Dinner – any attendees Noone able to attend

Action: Pat to reply

4. Meeting technology – teach-in – volunteers – Sue, Lindsey, Liz and Nikki.

Action: To set up first “teach – in”

5. Scotland South Region -

Scotland South Region Meeting & AGM 26th September 2026

Action: - anyone able to go to let Nikki know by Thursday 17th September.

90th birthday calendar

Action: 3 photos needed by 01/10/26. Agreed to look at Orange café; Great Tapestry of Scotland panel and club at Youth Hostel as starting point

6. Nepal Appeal

Agreed donation to Rasuwa Relief Funds

Action: Nikki to check with Dorothy that £100 is affordable. Individuals may also donate directly to Dorothy by 23rd September.

7. SIGBI – Ballots : 11,12,13

Rules of conduct – agreed, Abstain re minutes, APD Health job share – agreed.

Action: Nikki to send vote to SIGBI

8. Treasurer’s report –

To note £500 received from Region surplus

9. Programme Action

- ☐☐ Orange Café – 23rd September 2026, 11am Out of the Blue Drill Hall Café, Leith Walk/Dalmeny Street :Observe Knife Angel : Orange Ribbons available. Publicly advertised as part of the campaign.(All)
- ☐☐ SIS update (Liz) Recent showcase. Still much work to do on access and safety of the website use. Recent showcase attended by project group.Good links still with Police Scotland and ScotGov.
- ☐☐ To note proposed train travel event on Dec 10th event to mark end of 16 days of activism. Details to follow (Liz)

- Up-coming UNHouse/Cross Party initiatives/meetings (Gari) Beyond COP Wednesday 16th September online presentations by earth ambassadors. Gari will send link
- To note SIGBI Womens Safety Campaign – September focus is Harassment with Suzy Lamplugh Trust. Their 30 minute training is worth doing. Liz to post outline of the 12 month campaign in SIEnna.
- Edinburgh City Council ESP(Sue) 16 day activity started. Events online. Various talks. March possible in South Queensferry on 10th Dec
- Kids Love Clothes Proposal for second half of October, (Sue)
- Women's refuge. Check what their thinking is for Xmas Gifts this year (Sue)
- 10. **Programme**
Next Meeting 23rd September Future projects/plans priorities discussion Liz will facilitate

October 28th – Elena and Pat input re their experience of attending CSW in March 2026
- 11. **SIEnna** – Sunday 20th deadline
- 12. **AOCB**
- Past Presidents Badges carried over to next meeting
- 'Sylvia' on at Festival Theatre 13/10-17/10 -Nikki/Sue/Edith and Liz to liaise
- As no member is attending SIGBI conference this year we need to identify a proxy for the GM voting before 19/10/26. Action: Nikki to make enquiries across Region for those attending.
- 13.Membership Report -**
- **Firstly** I would like to say thank you to Nikki (andNikki's friend) for preparing the SI Edinburgh Orange

display on the Orange cafes all on a standout Orange Display Board.

Thank you to Nikki and Elena on the video on the last 90 yearsof SI Edinburgh. It fitted the brief perfectly. Please have a look at the video If you have not already in the June/Summer edition of SIEnna

□□ **SI Scotland North and South membership meeting on 24th August**

New Scottish membership cards are ready to send to the printers

In Scotland South they will be paid for by the region

They will be ready for distribution at the SISS region AGM on 26th September at 10.00 in-person at Grange Manor Hotel.

□□ **Sigbi Membership Campaign**

A survey on membership will be coming out from Sigbi.Please can every member fill it in and return to Sigbi by 30th September

Please check that you are on the Sigbi email list.

Sigbi Taskforce will be put in place after the surveyThere will be assistance in establishing new clubsVolunteers required.

□□ **New Sigbi website**

A training day on the new website will take place in Penrith on the 3rd October. Representatives from Scotland South region will be attending

□□ **Orange café August and Sept.**

A woman came and talked to us. An email follow up has been sent.

Leaflets handed out to 6 people approx.

Soroptimists who live in Edinburgh or have a flat in Edinburgh.

are regularly kept up to date with club meetings and orange cafes.

Please invite any female friends to the next Orange cafe on Wednesday 23rd September at 11.00 at Out of the BDrill Hall, Dalmeny street.

(Anna)

Dates for the diary

Smart Works sale Sat 11th Sept. St Johns 11 – 4pm

23rd September - facilitated discussion re advocacy and action

14th October Business Meeting

28th October speaker CSW feedback

10th December Train Travel Safety Awareness event

(Liz)

Programme for meetings 2026=27

23/9 Speaker Chair Liz

14/10 Business Chair Sue

28/10 Speaker Chair Sue

11/11 Business Chair Liz

25/11 Speaker Chair Elaine

9/12 Social

6/1 Business Chair Clephane

20/1 Speaker Chair Clephane

10/2 Business Chair ????

24/2 Speaker Chair Elaine

10/3 Business Chair ????

24/3 Speaker ????

14/4 Business Chair ????

28/4 AGM Alison

We need volunteers for Business Meeting on 10/2: Business Meeting 10/3: Speaker Meeting on 24/3: Business Meeting on 14/4