

FPAC

I'm not going to take up much of your time as you have a lot to get through and your time should rightly be spent on discussion with each other and the Federation Programme Team and not listening to me.

When I spoke to you last year, I stressed the link between effective programme action and building the future of the Federation. This year, as I have travelled to many areas of SIGBI, I have been struck by the way in which members are indeed seeing the value of focusing on educating, empowering and enabling women and girls so that our message to the public is clear and unambiguous.

More and more Region meetings have the furtherance of project work at their heart. We are seeing more events which recognise that it is through showcasing our project work out in the community that we will raise our profile, recruit members and become partners of choice for government and other NGOs. Support for the BIG Project, especially on the SIGBI Day of Action, is an excellent example and I do want to thank Rita, the ambassadors and all the members who have got behind this initiative.

It has been a pleasure to see first hand so many projects and I must make special mention of the five clubs in Zimbabwe whose members made me so welcome and which do the most amazing work – congratulations. It is great that the Federation is now able to support visits by Programme Director Sue and her APDs to a number of our countries so that we can all keep in close touch as we plan the way forward.

My thanks to all of you for what you have done during this year and my best wishes to those of you who are continuing in office or taking up the role for the first time. Have a wonderful meeting and may you always be women leading change together.