SIGBI AND UN ECOSOC STATUS

FEDERATION PROGRAMME ACTION

Pat Black IPP SIGBI

Women inspiring action, transforming lives

What is ECOSOC?

"The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the United Nations' central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development."

What does ECOSOC do?

- Co-ordinates policies on economic social and environmental issues

- Is responsible for the implementation of agreed development goals eg Millennium Development Goals

- engages a wide variety of stakeholders – policymakers, parliamentarians, academics, major groups, foundations, business sector representatives and 3,200+ registered non governmental organisations (NGOs)

How does Ecosoc do this?

Through a regular programme of forum and meetings including

- High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) provides political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, and review progress

- Humanitarian Affairs Segment, that takes place in alternate years in New York and Geneva, seeks to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations' humanitarian efforts.

- Youth Forum, held annually since 2012, brings the voice of youth into the discussion of the Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 development agenda.

- And many others

Soroptimist International
Great Britain & Ireland

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

- Commission on the Status of Women CSW

- Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW

Women inspiring action, transforming lives

Where do SI and SIGBI fit in?

SI = General Consultative Status

SIGBI, SWP and SIE = Special Consultative Status

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

Commission on the Status of Women

What is it?

- A Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- Meets annually in New York to consider main theme

- Global Policy-making body dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women
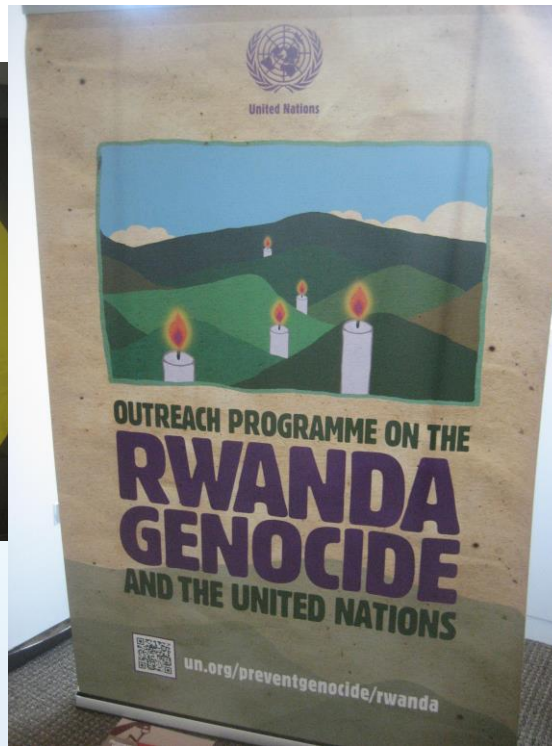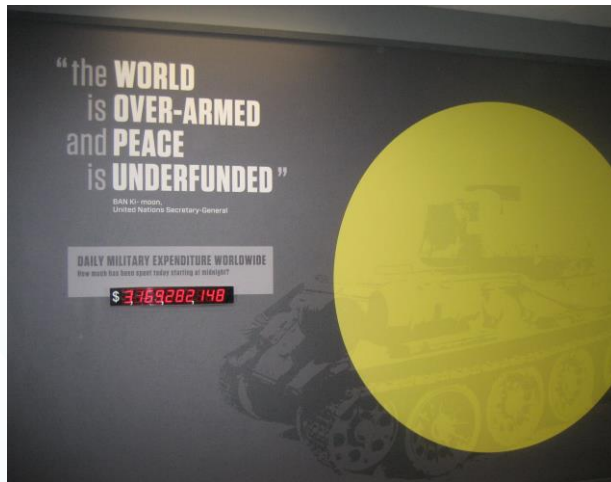
Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

Commission on the Status of Women

How does the Commission work?

- Made up of 45 members elected by ECOSOC for 4 year term

- Globally work in regional groups consisting of

  - 13 African states

  - 11 Asian states

  - 4 eastern European states

  - 9 Latin American and Caribbean states

  - 8 Western European and other states (includes US and Canada)

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

Commission on the Status of Women

Commission on the Status of Women

- Meets annually in New York for 10 days

- Work starts during the year before the meeting with Open Working groups Major groups and Consultations regionally

- In many regions Governments include NGOs in discussions

- Secretary General produces a report on main theme

- UN Women compiles a draft policy document for discussion

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

How do Soroptimists get involved?

- Soroptimist UN reps provide year round information

- UK Soroptimists belong to UK CSW NGO Alliance

- UK Soroptimists consulted by UK Government on documents

- SI holds promotional events with partners during first week of CSW

- Soroptimist delegation works with other NGOs on N America/Europe caucus

- Soroptimists contribute amendments to policy documents

- Soroptimists LOBBY

Women inspiring action, *transforming lives*

What did SIGBI do?

- Contributed to SI events
- Submitted amendments to policy documents (Text/Agreed Conclusions)
- Lobbied Governments especially UK
- Lobbied European Union negotiators
- Led sessions of the NGO N America/European Caucus
- Attended Arab Caucus meetings
- Attended briefing meetings every day

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives

What did SIGBI do? The difference between Week 1 & Week 2

Week 1
- UN Women Consultation and briefing day
- Jan Hemlin and Sue Biggs contributed to SI events
- Networking with other global NGOs
- Attend many informative events held by UN Women, Governments and NGOs

Week 2
- Far fewer NGOs present
- Concentration on negotiating the Agreed Conclusions
- Work with groups of NGOs to monitor text changes
- Lobby hard

Women inspiring action, transforming lives

Commission on the Status of Women

What more can SIGBI members do?

- Get involved and informed during the year

- Each Federation Country Programme rep to get involved

- Each Federation Country PAC to lobby their Government

Women inspiring action, *transforming lives*

CSW 59 March 2015

- Main theme will be Bejing Platform for Action + 20

- Governments have been asked to report on their implementation of BPfA by May 1st 2014

- Regional discussions through UN Women have already taken place

Women inspiring action,
transforming lives