

LONDON CHILTERNS REGION

PROGRAMME ACTION REPORT – 11th MARCH 2017

* First of all, congratulations to all clubs who had an item featured in the February edition of Soroptimist News – Hertford, Lewisham, Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead, St. Albans and our own Regional Meeting in December celebrating Human Rights Day.
* Congratulations too to London Central and South West for being highlighted by Barbara Dixon in March edition of Programme Action Magazine, and to Thames Valley for featuring under World Book Day.
* You have all been very busy since our last meeting and you have been reporting your events on the Programme Action Report Forms. It is from these forms that Yinka will be reporting on our region’s actions at the UKPAC meeting being held today. So, do continue to keep your reports up-to-date and, wherever possible, include a photo. To make this easier for the person completing the forms, send any photos taken of the event to her as soon as possible, so that she has these already stored on her system when she comes to fill in the forms.

It’s really interesting seeing what everyone is up to and I’ve picked out three to share with you:- firstly, Bedford held a “Multidisciplinary Team Launch” which lead to the development of an effective multidisciplinary team to address all aspects of Modern Day Slavery in Bedfordshire. This is an extension of SI Bedford already working with Police. Secondly, a member of Lewisham advertised their project to support a local women’s refuge on social media and volunteered to pick up donations from people who contacted her. Thirdly, to support their local Rape Crisis Unit, members of High Wycombe packed bags for shoppers at their new Waitrose a busy day before Christmas, collected funds and handed out leaflets. People were “ jolly and generous” and £305 was raised. More importantly, two victims came forward to ask for referral to Rape Crisis and Soroptimists were able to help. I selected these three just because they demonstrate that Programme Action doesn’t have to be all about fundraising.

* Just in case you’ve missed the news, MPs voted 138 to 1 in favour of the Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence Bill (commonly called the Istanbul Convention Bill) at its third reading on 24th February. The Bill now progresses to the House of Lords. Thank you to all of you who lobbied your MP on this.
* Do think about signing petitions on the SIGBI website. These have been selected for us and are updated regularly. Just go onto the SIGBI website and click on “Sign a petition”. The downside is that organisations will continue to send petitions, but just delete. Update on the Malawi Child Brides petition – the Malawi Parliament has agreed in a landslide vote to close a loophole that was making it easier for children to be forced into marriage. Last night, I circulated to clubs a petition inviting the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to meet with NGOs at this year’s Commission on the Status of Women. Do encourage your members to sign this one.
* For updates on the Prison Reform Trust go to : [www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/PressPolicy/news/vw/1/ItemID/406](http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/PressPolicy/news/vw/1/ItemID/406)
* CSW61will shortly be getting underway – 13th-24thMarch. Daily blogs will be sent by the SIGBI delegates, which will be posted on News Item on the Sigbi website so do please visit every day to keep up with events.
* **Dates to remember:**

 International Women in Engineering Day: 23rd June 2017.

 SIGBI Day of Action: 15th July 2017. *Pam Robertson*