

Minutes of UKPAC Meeting held on Saturday 27 March 2021
Zoom Platform

PRESENT

Chairman	Liz Dominey
Vice Chairman	Lindsay Green
Secretary	Maureen Maguire
Treasurer	Rhona Bowler
Website/Communications	Kathy Warrick
Cheshire, North Wales & the Wirral	Esther Roberts
London Anglia	Sharon Richardson
London Chilterns	Pamela Robertson/Jackie Paling
Midland Chase	Christine Corless/Edna Schafer-Hughes/Zena Lear
Midland East	Helen Everett
North West England & Isle of Man	Anne Jackson
Northern England	Karen Alexander
Northern Ireland	Rita Allen
Scotland North	Janice Wilson
Scotland South	Brenda Kay
South East England	Yvonne Freeman
South Lancashire	Sriya Kulupana
South West England & Channel Islands	Di Hill
Southern England	Eleanor Evans
Wales South	Bobbie Sheldrake
Yorkshire	Susie Westwood
Programme Director	Kay Richmond

OBSERVERS

Federation President Elect	Johanna Raffan
Federation President Elect	Cathy Cottridge
Federation Finance Director	Ruth Healey
Republic of Ireland	Mary Courtney
Malta	Lina Borg Vassallo
Midland chase	Ann Dawson
Midland Arden	Anne Rogers
Midland Arden	Isobel Smith
North West England & IOM	Judith Grocott
South East England	Penny Robbins

APOLOGIES

Cheshire, Nr Wales & Wirral	Gillie O'Rourke
Midland Arden	Denise Carson

1	<p>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz opened the meeting by welcoming Federation President Johanna, President Elect Cathy, Federation Finance Director Ruth and observers to the meeting. A roll call was taken and Maureen noted apologies. 	
2	<p>MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 16 January 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minutes from the meeting held on 16 January 2021 having already been agreed by member were formally agreed. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting. 	
3	<p>OPENING REMARKS AND REPORTS</p> <p>3.1 Chairman Remarks and Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liz spoke to the fact that she had been very busy over the past few weeks because of CSW and other matters. Liz stated that her report had been tabled and asked if there were any questions or comments. Liz referred that this committee welcomed all types of reports, what worked well and what did not work well and why, this means that everyone learns. She reminded everyone that we are all volunteers and that we work hard at trying to do everything right and on time but we all have to recognise that we have other calls on our time and energy. She related that at times, members become angry and upset when it seems that there is no response to what they consider are urgent or critical matters, but the one thing that we all need to remember is that we all share the same vision and the same tears especially in wanting to improve the lives of women and girls. She referred to 2 critical matters that had arisen in the past two weeks, where a lack of communication between different parts of the organisation had led to embarrassing situations The first one was the recall of the placards being prepared for the March walk which the WI were holding in recognition of violence against women. She apologised that this had been carried out in the wrong order as agreement had not been obtained from WI to prepare these placards using their logo. The second matter was in relation to an email that had been circulated stating NOT to take action or comment on social media on the action being taken by Turkey in relation to its government withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. This was a contradiction of other advice received and caused considerable confusion in considering whether to publish a written statement received from the CSW NGO Alliance of which UKPAC/SIGBI are members, with regard to this matter. This statement is now on the SIGIB/UKPAC website. Members debated the matter and recognised that there is a need for guidelines to members on who decides what to publish and what not to publish. Members believe that these were 2 high profile situations and that it would have been good for Soroptimists to make a more widely publicised statement and be seen to be taking action. Members would like UKPAC to be a signatory to some widely publicised petitions. This has been researched before and often necessitates being a member of the originators organisation, which often incurs a fee. At the time it was decided that this was unsustainable. Members identified that not all members see the information from HQ. Kay advised that both a statement from her and a message from Federation President 	

Johanna were sent to all clubs. Unfortunately, SIGBI is not in control of what happens to this information at club level.

- Members further agreed that they would like to see quick responses but that these need to be consistent, social media is a massive force.
- Liz reminded members that two weeks previous to the very sad demise of Sarah Everard, a mother had lost her two daughters. Recently this mother has spoken out and said that there had been widespread media outburst on the murder of a “white” woman, whereas her daughters who had also been murdered, did not receive the level of outcry because of their ethnicity.
- Liz in closing the discussion on this issue, advised that UKPAC and SIGBI do not have the resources to react as quickly as some would like, but if there is a volunteer or volunteers who could, please contact her to discuss.
- Liz then advised of good news with regard to a query raised within her own Region, which demonstrates how well Soroptimists can work together. This had been about a Rail Survey that had been carried out back in 2003/4 and 2006/7 with regard to women’s safety on the railways. Many members were involved in retrieving information to help SI Southern Region with their query
- It was suggested that it may be very appropriate for UKPAC to re-ignite this survey bearing in mind that, at present, the trains are quite empty and women would be more vulnerable to abuse.
- Kay suggested that this could be used elsewhere in the Federation, for example India.
- Liz agreed to review the documentation and bring back to the committee.

Liz welcomed Isobel Smith and Judith Grocott who had joined the meeting.

3.2 Vice Chairman

- Lindsay advised that she had not submitted a report and that she had been involved with the issue relating to the WI and apologised to members.
- Lindsay indicated that she had been in contact with their Public Relations Officer who had indicated that she would relish working with Soroptimists.
- Lindsay advised that new members could order their UKPAC badges from her. Cost is £5 + P&P.

ACTION

Members to advise Lindsay should they wish to purchase a badge.

3.3 Secretary’s Report

- Maureen advised that her report had been tabled.
- She referred members to the application received from Ann Hodgson for the position of Treasurer. Members unanimously agreed to the appointment of Ann as the Treasurer for 2021-2023.
- Maureen advised everyone that her term of office for Secretary would be complete at the end of October and asked members to speak with their clubs member to consider this position. It was agreed that the role could be carried out on a job-sharing basis should two people wish to consider a joint application.
- Dates for 2021-2022 were agreed as outlined:
 - 29 January 2022 – zoom meeting
 - 26 March 2022 – face to face – Solihull
 - 25 June 2022 – Zoom platform – could be a study day
 - 10 September 2022 – zoom platform
 - 27 October – 2022 – Face to face at Belfast Conference/via zoom TBA

ALL

	<p>ACTION Maureen to advise Ann Hodgson of her appointment Members to ask Club members to consider the role of UKPAC Secretary – which could be job-share Members to advise their regions of the dates for UKPAC meetings.</p> <p>3.4 Website and Communications Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathy advised that her report was on Dropbox for members to read. • Kathy also mentioned that she had knitted 100 Teddies for the 100th Centenary and she explained that Teddies are a great way to reduce trauma in children in adverse situations. She would like the Teddies to travel over the UK, to be of use in situations, and for other members to replenish these before they are moved on. Members to get in touch with Kathy directly. Please see attached link to webpage. https://sigbi.org/ukpac/our-work/centenary-trauma-bear-appeal/ <p>ACTION Members to contact Kathy directly re the “Teddies”</p> <p>3.5 Federation Programme Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kay spoke on the CSW which she had attended virtually together with 128 members and advised that a video is being made of the SIGBI presentation on Human Trafficking. It will be available next week on the SIGBI website. 	<p>MM ALL ALL ALL</p>
4	<p>FINANICAL MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhona presented a forecast for the current year ending 31 March 2021 and advised that it is projecting a surplus of £14,368. She asked members to advise her of any outstanding expenses claims/costs by the 2nd April 2021 at the latest. The accounts can then be finalised and be prepared for auditing. • Rhona further advised that the Budget for y/e 31 March 2022 was approved at the last meeting, including a one year levy payment holiday. That budget generates an anticipated loss of £14,250. After absorbing that loss an estimated £24,258 remains in reserves at the end of the coming year (March 2022). A number of various areas are being looked at to further utilise these reserves - please see the minutes of the last meeting. • It was suggested by Kay that UKPAC could take on the payment for NAWO from SIGBI. Further suggestions from members also referred to UKPAC taking on membership of significant partner organisation. It was agreed that the UKPAC Executive should explore and bring recommendations to the next meeting. <p>ACTION UKPAC Executive to research possible organisation that UKPAC may wish to join and bring options to the next meeting in July.</p>	<p>EXE</p>
5	<p>REPORTS FROM STRATEGY SUB-GROUPS</p> <p>5.1 Modern Day Slavery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice advised that her report was on dropbox for members to read. • Janice had attended the three cross party group in Scotland on Modern Day Slavery and was horrified to learn that there had been a sharp increase in child trafficking over the past year. <p>5.2 Prison Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lindsay thanked members for writing to their MPs etc. on the proposed 	

	<p>amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill and noted that she had received an email from Dame Vera Baird to thank member for their input. It had been a massive effort by members. She asked Regional Representatives to pass on this thank-you to members. Katy Swaine Williams, from the Centre for Women’s Justice, would also like to see any letters that members had received from their MPs as she would include them in her report. Please send via Lindsay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She noted that we needed to wait to see what the new Commissioner for Domestic Abuse – Nicole Jacobs would be taking forward in her Strategy and that perhaps we would learn more at Study Day. <p>ACTION Members to pass on Dame Vera’s thank-you to all Clubs.</p> <p>5.3 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine advised that the report had still not been received on the observations that had been carried out by the members of Midland Chase and Midland Arden, even though these had been electronically emailed to the Police some time ago. • She noted that the Courts would soon be re-opening after lock-down and the Regions who wished to take this forward, would soon be able to do so. • Discussion ensued on how all of this data could be collated. A previous thought of using a member who had statistical experience is not viable as she has left the organisation. Members to consider this and bring suggestions to the next meeting. <p>ACTION Members to consider how this data collation could be effected and bring suggestions to the next meeting.</p> <p>5.4 COP26 and Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz advised that there had been a request for interested people who may want to volunteer as hostesses for COP26. This involves 2 weeks in Glasgow or Edinburgh and speaking with delegates attending COP26. • Brenda advised that there had been 6,000 applications from interested persons for a total of 1,000 place. She felt that the commitment was huge and that because of the requirement to be available for the 2 weeks, it may put some people at a disadvantage. • Kay advised that it was important to be working together and that although she had submitted an application for a SIGBI display stand for a maximum of 2 days, she will not be advised until the end of May. Anyone else who is interested is to advise Kay of this. • Sriya brought up the information that one has to commit for 2 weeks in order to volunteer under the Glasgow Council’s Volunteer scheme. She indicated her interest and said that she realised the commitment. <p>ACTION Members to advise Clubs that there may be an opportunity to man the SIGBI stand should it be approved and to let Kay have their details.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
6	<p>CSW 65</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Liz advised that she had asked Lindsay, as a first time attendee at CSW 65 to give some feedback on her experience. ➤ Lindsay advised the following: ➤ She had taken 2 weeks holiday to attend ➤ She had covered 54 hours of meetings and seminars 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There were 25,000 attendees with over several hundred different sessions, exhibitions, conversation circles, plenary session, parallel sessions and also the main meeting which was shown on live TV at the UN ➤ It had been interesting – her first thought ➤ Had to negotiate the virtual event and she asked various people how to get the best out of it. ➤ She attended all of the Soroptimist sessions and then decided to attend those areas where she had an interest – Modern Day Slavery and Abuse/Violence Against Women ➤ She found the sessions better than the webinars as you were able to raise your voice. ➤ She has taken many notes of various sessions and will spend some time in sorting these ➤ Thoughtful ideas have been given for potential areas to take forward ➤ Overall, an amazing experience. ➤ Liz advised that the Secretary General had asked NGOs to take action for inclusion within their own countries, and that the member states needed to “UNmute” Civil Society. She felt that the UK delegation had embraced contribution from Civil Society and was pleased to see 4 representatives in their discussion. She complimented Pat Black on being part of the text group. ➤ She felt that in attending the UK/NGOs meeting, it was interesting to hear the comments on the document – the word “gender” does not translate well in other languages; the need to include girls as well as women; the issue that Malta has changed the requirement for names of mother and father and instead it is using parent 1 and parent 2, also that gender is not assigned on their birth certificates, which will have an effect on data collection over the years, and a detrimental effect on women and girls. ➤ Members commented that they had dipped in and out and mentioned various sessions as being outstanding, especially those that included ➤ Young child activists who displayed their passion and eloquence. ➤ Gender Equalities – Pathway to Peace – for being so down to earth and spoke about the power of truth. ➤ Opening Session - poetry – “We have a mountain before us the fight is going on” ➤ Everyone noted that they needed time to digest all that they had watched and taken part in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members commented that training for CSW should start early in the year. • Kay mentioned that 2021 was an important and busy year for the UK because of the G7, COP26 and the Global Partnership for Education’s Replenishment Summit which are being chaired/co-chaired by the UK Government. 	
7	<p>FUTURE MEETINGS AND STUDY DAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz advised that the plans for Study Day were on track. The morning session would concentrate on Modern Day Slavery and the afternoon on Domestic Abuse. Speakers had been confirmed • Maureen advised that to date 206 members had registered. She thanked members for trying out registration, the breakout rooms and advised that she would put up a poll at the end of the meeting. • Liz advised that the theme for the next meeting on Saturday 3 July 2021 would be “Climate Change” and asked members to look at projects relating to this theme 	

	<p>within their Regions.</p> <p>ACTION <i>Maureen to contact all UKPAC Regional Representative to submit their Project number three weeks in advance of the meeting- these are to be on projects associated with "Climate Change".</i></p>	<p>MM</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no other business • Liz thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed. 	

Signed

Date