

**Minutes of UKPAC Meeting held on Saturday 30 January 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/Gillie O'Rourke
London Anglia	Sharon Richardson
London Chilterns	Jackie Paling
Midland Chase	Edna Schafer-Hughes/Christine Corless
Midland East	Helen Everett
Midland Arden	Denise Carson
North West England & Isle of Man	Anne Jackson
Northern England	Jane Katsambis - proxy
Northern Ireland	Rita Allen
Scotland North	Janice Wilson
Scotland South	Brenda Kay
South East England	Penny Robbins
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	Johanna Raffan
Federation President Elect	Cathy Cottridge
Director PR, Marketing and Communication	Nish Ghosh
Republic of Ireland	Mary Courtney
Ann Dawson	SI Stafford
Molly Bryne Robinson	SI Greater London
Anne Rogers	SI Stourbridge
Kathy Olley	SI Stourbridge
Anne Wood	SI Leicester
Jill Anderson	SI Lincoln
Pat Carruthers	SI Perth
Jennie Gilham	SI Yorkshire Region
Lillian Murchison	SI Perth

**APOLOGIES**

London Chilterns	Pamela Robertson
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1	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liz opened the meeting by welcoming everyone especially Federation President Johanna, Federation President Elect Cathy, Director of PR, Marketing and Communications Nisha and observers to the meeting.</li> <li>Maureen noted the members attending and apologies were noted.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD ON 7 November 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that the Minutes from the meeting held on 7 November 2020 had already been circulated and approved by email.</li> <li>Liz thanked members for doing so as it enables the minutes to be uploaded to the UKPAC section on the SIGBI website within a short period from the meeting.</li> <li>To view the minutes on the website, members were advised to go the Members Area on the website. On RHS of screen, there is a drop-down menu, click on Programme, click on UKPAC and this will take you to resources, where the minutes may be located.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b> <i>Members to advise clubs of how to locate the minutes of the UKPAC meetings.</i></p>	All
3	<p><b>REPORTS FROM REGIONAL CHAIRS</b></p> <p>All chairs had been asked to provide a project number on which they wished to speak on during the meeting. A spreadsheet showing the number was uploaded to Dropbox. Opening the discussion, Chair Liz advised that it was good to hear what went well in a project but more importantly, if something went wrong, then we would all know what not to do in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cheshire Nr Wales and Wirral reported on Project 55653</b> – SI Ellsemere Port &amp; District which relates to The Port Grocery, a service that is delivering food and essentials to over 2,500 people per week during Covid-19 and raised £55,000 in grants and donations. A further initiative recently developed - ‘The Port in the Storm Crisis Café’ is also a centre offering professional advice, craft and therapy rooms.</li> <li><b>London Anglia reported on Project 56475</b> – SI Ipswich &amp; District that focussed on recycling. This project sought views and opinions from members on what could be recycled and the opportunities for doing more. The members now have a better oversight of recycling facilities in the local area and plan to take a virtual trip to one of these.</li> <li><b>London Chilterns reported on Project 56296</b> –SI High Wycombe &amp; District who provide toiletries and Christmas treats for the Mayor’s “Bags of Joy” campaign. This enabled 30 more families could be supported.</li> <li><b>Midland Arden reported on Project 56292</b> – SI Stourbridge &amp; District purchased 8 toilet blocks (2 each) for girls’ schools in Uganda, Pakistan, Malawi and Zambia. This project covered many areas, used money that had been in a dormant account, promoted “Loos for Lynn” project, and helped to make Stourbridge a Toilet Twin Town. Members noted that Twinning Taps is a way in which to improve hand washing and hygiene facility.</li> <li><b>Midland Chase reported on Project 56552/56557</b>– SI The Wrekin who sought to make public aware of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the effect that fast fashion was having on the planet. Posters, old T-shirts and a patchwork</li> </ul>	

banner depicting the SDGs were used to create the awareness during The Festival of Imagination.

- **Midland East reported on Project 56540** – SI Leicester continued their support of the Young Women’s Refuge by providing and delivering monthly activities focussing on crafts, gardening and cooking. 3 activities boxes have been delivered, a supply of laundry bags and towels for each resident together with hamper and gifts at Christmas.
- **NW England and IOM reported on Project 53442** – SI Grange-over-Sands who continued with the development of the sensory garden together with local students from a nearby school. The benefits of health, well-being and local wildlife were discussed and led to the making of wind chimes and planters by the students. Long term benefits for others are the results.
- **Northern England reported on Project 55567** – A regional project -Poems in a Pandemic was developed last year during the pandemic and enabled carers to produce art and poetry of their thoughts and feeling during these uncertain times. Fundraising is on-going to enable a book of these poems and pictures to be produced as a book.
- **Northern Ireland reported on Project 56544** – SI Bangor supported the local Women’s Aid Centre during the 16 Days of Activism recognising the rise in reported incidents of domestic violence during the pandemic. Club members knit Teddies for the children, and provided presents for the women, as well as donating a generous sum of money to make Christmas more enjoyable.
- **Scotland North reported on Project 56278** – SI Perth recognising that human trafficking exists within their city, supported the organisation SOHTIS (Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland) to fund a longer term programme enabling rehabilitation and integration into society through dignity and respect. The money was raised through a Rock Choir concert and matched funded from the Hunter Foundation.
- **Scotland South reported on Project 56253/56717** – SI Paisley and SI Glasgow City - 16 Days of Action. SI Paisley’s “Reclaim the Night” March was reduced because of Covid-19 but members still managed to participate at a wreath laying ceremony. SI Glasgow City carried out a number of activities during the 16 days including contact with local councillors, lighting of buildings and photo-shoot with the Lord Provost of Glasgow.
- **South East England reported on Project 56407** –SI Medway & Maidstone provided financial support £500 to the local Fire Aid project for gender equality and promoting employment opportunities for women and girls in Poland with their fire service. The donation went towards the training of women and girls, provision of equipment and transportation of a modern fire appliance from Kent to Poland. SI Tunbridge also supported this with a donation of £500.
- **South Lancashire reported on Project 54482** – SI Liverpool joined a European Environment Research project involving the local Universities, the City Council and other Liverpool communities by taking part in 2 workshops which were designed to bring more nature and natural features and processes to cities, landscapes and seascapes via the concept of “Nature Based Solutions”.
- **South West England and Channel Island reported on Project 55472/55809** – SI Barnstaple and District through their “Knickers for Knowledge” project continue to work with the SI Bulawayo club to fund the purchase of suitable premises to start a home industry to produce sanitary pads for girls. This will enable the girls to have uninterrupted education and also provide employment for local women who have been affected by HIV/AIDs. Funding was provided through members taking

on a 10km challenge.

- **Southern England reported on Project 56797** –The Region held an event with Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs to receive an update on the progress of the Domestic Abuse Bill. The talk was originally conceived as an event to bring together a group of women in Sutton who were interested in starting a Soroptimist club. Letters/emails have been sent to Baronesses and MPs. Clubs shared out amendments and Baronesses between us, to maximise our combined reach and this project has acted as a legacy to Barbara Watts- who sadly passed away just before the event. Link to YouTube video of the event – <https://youtu.be/5U7TsERPkdY>.
- **Wales South reported on Project 56668** – SI Haverfordwest & District provided financial donations to families in need of assistance just before Christmas via their local primary school. This was in response to a discussion which the club members had and discovered that some families would be choosing between food and heating at Christmas, let alone having money for extras like presents.
- **Yorkshire reported on Project 54249** – SI Sheffield chose toilet twinning because it fulfils the aims of Soroptimist – empowers, educates and enable women who are the most disadvantaged when there are no toilet facilities in the village. The project encouraged different establishments, and members of the public to donate £60 towards the charity, and it achieved the twinning of 42 toilets.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the above projects. One area of interest is that pharmacies especially Superdrug are collecting used tablet blister packs for Marie Curie funds.

Liz then asked Brenda to speak as she had written a report – (which is on dropbox) about UKPAC having a focus for what they reported on and so may be a larger impact.

Brenda advised that we are good about talking to ourselves, but how do we promote ourselves to others, none of us are experts, but we need to get the word to outside the organisation, so perhaps we need to co-ordinate more. Knowing in advance which topic will be addressed at a meeting would help all Committee members to be prepared to report on what is happening within their Region on that topic. Clubs would then know in advance what they needed to have on the database. For example, we could focus on specific UN Days, the minutes would form a report and this report would make more of an impact on our website and social media than smaller, ad hoc updates.

Nisha Ghosh, Federation Director PR, Marketing and Communication remarked that there are two pillars to our organisation – Membership and Programme – why are we not linking programme to getting new members, we need one single voice, not separate, every bit should be the same message. Yes we can talk about our legacy and our bright past but we should say to non-members – “We need you” for a brilliant future.

Other members raised the issue of encouraging younger members for continuity, we need different type of clubs and membership, as a group, we cover many areas but nothing in depth – so need a theme for a meeting and to have in-depth discussion.

Liz thanked everyone for their input and agreed to review the content of the meetings.

**ACTION**

***Liz and Executive to review focus of meetings.***

EM

	<b>Maureen to upload infographics to Dropbox on receipt from Di Hill.</b>	<b>MM</b>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>FINANICAL MATTERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer Rhona gave an overview of the proposed budget for 2021-2022 and answered questions from the Representatives.</li> <li>• Members approved the draft budget for 2021-2022.</li> <li>• Rhona advised that the Executive wished the meeting to give approval to Lindsay Green, Vice-Chair UKPAC being added as a signatory to the Bank mandate. Currently there are three signatories – Liz, Maureen and she. Both Maureen and she will be leaving the Committee in October. The Executive feel that it would be prudent to add Lindsay at this time, as there is a process to follow for adding people to bank mandates.</li> <li>• The members agreed unanimously for the adding Lindsay Green as a signatory to the UKPAC Bank mandate, held with Lloyds Bank.</li> <li>• Rhona also advised that she needed to change her surname with Lloyds Bank as she is now Mrs Kettle and the Bank mandate is in her maiden name of Bowler.</li> <li>• The members agreed unanimously for changing Rhona’s surname from Bowler to Kettle.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b><i>Members to note that the budget for UKPAC 2021-2022 is approved.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Treasurer Rhona to make the arrangements with Lloyds Bank to add Lindsay Green as a signatory to UKPAC bank mandate.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Treasurer Rhona to make arrangements with Lloyds Bank to change her surname from Bowler to Kettle as she is now married.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhona spoke to the forecast of the financial surplus for the year ended 31 March 2021, and advised that this would be approximately £14,000, which is slightly higher than the surplus at 31 March 2020.</li> <li>• She further advised that a number of proposal have been received as to how this underspend should be used and these included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A UKPAC Levy holiday for 2021/2022 – year end 31 March 2022. The UKPAC levy will be payable again from April 2022 and subsequent years</li> <li>➤ Small grants to support individual/club project work</li> <li>➤ Sponsor someone to attend CSW</li> <li>➤ Activities at COP26 in Glasgow</li> <li>➤ Invest in technology</li> <li>➤ Employ a professional to get our message out/improve the marketing</li> <li>➤ Capture of specialist domestic violence court data and collation of the outcomes from the various regions taking part – produce a report.</li> <li>➤ Donation to the Diamond Education Fund</li> <li>➤ Donation to President’s Appeal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Opening discussion, Liz advised that this underspend is as a result of members paying their levy, and UKPAC not having spent what was anticipated during the last 18 month period. She felt that it should be used towards a UKPAC Levy Holiday and for other UKPAC work, she would not be in favour of it being donated to other charities.</li> <li>• All members agreed to a “UKPAC Levy Holiday” for one year only – this is approximately in the region of £15,000.</li> <li>• A suggestion that there may be members who have the expertise and skills in dealing with statistics, and research work. Federation PE Cathy advised that she</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>RK</b></p> <p><b>RK</b></p>

	<p>could forward possible members who she knew had these skills. She will be in contact with Liz.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COP26 - Programme Director Kay reported that Federation President Johanna and President Elect Cathy and she have been in discussion with Government officials and arrangements are being taken forward as there is the possibility of having a display stand. Members will be asked to volunteer for manning of stands and also acting as hosts to visitors in Edinburgh and Glasgow. See <a href="https://ukcop26.org/volunteer/">https://ukcop26.org/volunteer/</a> Glasgow Council may cover expenses for volunteers. She further advised that this was a UN summit and therefore was not just the UK, rather it was worldwide. It has also been decided that the Day of Action 2021 will be on the Environment. Further details will be available once arrangements are finalised.</li> <li>• Director of PR, Marketing and Communication advised that the work that may be required to be undertaken for COP26 could be produced as a promotional brochure or film. What members did to prepare for COP26?</li> <li>• Di advised that she had received an infographic on women and the SDGs, and we should put some focus and funding into this type of research. Di to send this to Maureen who will upload infographic onto Dropbox.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <i>All Regional Representatives to advise their Regional Treasurers and their members of the “one year UKPAC Levy Holiday ”</i>  <i>Chair Liz to liaise with Federation President Elect Cathy re the possibility of members with skills and expertise for collating data and carrying out research.</i>  <i>Programme Director Kay to keep UKPAC informed of developments and possibilities for members to become involved with COP26 in Glasgow and Edinburgh.</i>  <i>Members to visit the website for COP26 and speak with members who may be interested in volunteering.</i></p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>LD</p> <p>KR</p> <p>ALL</p>
5	<p><b>CURRENT TOPICS</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Organisation and Sub-Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz thanked Brenda, Janice and Esther for sending through information with regard to Devolved Government administrations. She felt that it was important for UKPAC members to be aware of the areas that have been devolved to the four Nations. Information is on Dropbox</li> <li>• Kay advised that UKPAC should not forget about the Crown Dependency areas – such as the Channel Islands. Currently there are no clubs in the Isle of Man.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.2 Study Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz advised that the Executive had recommended that the Study Day should not be held on a face to face basis, having regard to members being reticent about travelling.</li> <li>• She asked approval from members to holding this on a virtual basis and the proposed 17 April as a possible date.</li> <li>• Members agreed that this decision was the most appropriate for the reason given and agreed that 17 April should be planned as a virtual event.</li> <li>• Liz advised that she felt it would be held in 2 session – one before lunch, then a break of an hour and then a further afternoon session.</li> <li>• Planning was under way and Dame Sarah Thornton has agreed to speak for 30 minutes and to take questions for a further 20-30 minutes.</li> <li>• A training session would then follow with delegates in different break-out rooms. The afternoon session is still in the planning stage but she hoped to have Nicole</li> </ul>	

	<p>Jacobs, speak on Domestic Abuse and the role of the Commissioner, followed by a session on Parliamentary lobbying.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timing would be 10.00am – 1.00pm, break for an hour and then 2.00pm – 4.00pm</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b> <i>Members to advise members of the Study Day date</i></p> <p><b>5.3 Child Poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindsay drew member’s attention to a petition with regard to Child Poverty - <a href="https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554276/">https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554276/</a> and encourage all members to sign.</li> <li>• She also advised that there is a call for evidence via a survey on Violence against Women, she highlighted that you do not have to have suffered violence to take part in this survey, rather it is viewpoints that the survey is collecting. Please encourage all members to contribute. Survey may be found at: <a href="https://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/mriweb/mriweb.dll">https://surveys.ipsosinteractive.com/mriweb/mriweb.dll</a> Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy Call for Evidence – Public Survey</li> <li>• To read the easy read Strategy – go to: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-call-for-evidence/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-strategy-2021-2024-call-for-evidence">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-call-for-evidence/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-strategy-2021-2024-call-for-evidence</a></li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b> <i>Members to encourage all members to sign these petitions and take part in the survey</i></p> <p><b>5.4 Online Abuse – Fake Images</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susie Westwood spoke about deep faking which is not illegal in the UK. It is a form of online abuse. Images are taken from online accounts such as Facebook etc, without consent and the images are then put onto porn sites and sold or transposed onto pictures. Some of these are particularly violent films. Susie had previously circulated information about this to all members together with a video. Please ask members to sign this petition as this is a form of violence against women. <a href="#">Petition · The Law Commission: Tighten regulation on taking, making and faking explicit images · Change.org</a></li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b> <i>Members to encourage signing of the petition.</i></p> <p><b>5.5 Clewer Initiative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an initiative that has already been circulated re human trafficking and the two films already released are really interesting and useful for informing members. Two more films are being prepared.</li> <li>• Liz suggested that instead of everyone looking for the release of these films, if someone could take on the co-ordination of this and advise everyone on release. Di agreed to co-ordinate.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b> <i>DI to advise everyone when the next 2 films are released.</i></p> <p><b>5.6 Meru</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helen reported that she had been on the study trip to Meru along with 25 other Soroptimists in 2018 and still maintained contact with Margaret, Manager of the Project, which is still continuing with the education of young girls and women.</li> <li>• The last email was distressing in that Margaret was reporting that due to Covid-</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>DH</b></p>
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	<p>19, there had been a high increase of teenage pregnancies, some due to them not being able to attend school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI Canterbury are in a friendship link with SI Meru and continuing to fund the project, so if any Club or Region wishes to help or support, then please get in touch with Helen with their details.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <b><i>Members to advise clubs/regions to get in touch with Helen if they are still raising funds for Meru.</i></b></p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>6.1 COP26 and Recycling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Esther advised that she is in discussion with Plastecowood with regard to the donating of a recycled bench that will be placed in a park in Llandudno. The Cheshire, Nr Wales and Wirral are also considering planting trees to mark the Federation Conference (now virtual) and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.</li> <li>• It was agreed that a Climate/Environmental sub-group should be established. Members to consider if they would like to be involved in this group and advise Liz.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <b><i>Members to think about their membership of all Sub-Groups.</i></b></p> <p><b>6.2 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christine advised that Midland Chase and Midland Arden had received a de-brief from the Police Service in November 2020. A report is to be provided but she is still waiting on it.</li> <li>• The police felt that positive observations had been documented by the members as did Dame Vera who attended the meeting.</li> <li>• Everything is moving very slowly due to Covid-19.</li> <li>• Midland East SDVC group also on hold but still ready to proceed when police and courts have capacity.</li> <li>• South Lancashire Region also ready to start but unable to due to pandemic. Liverpool have SDVC but Manchester has not – South Lancashire will be lobbying on this.</li> </ul> <p><b>6.3 Prison Reform</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindsay advised that as the Transforming Lives project had ceased, she believed that it was time for UKPAC to look at Women’s Centres and also how to keep women who are given short sentences out of prison.</li> <li>• She advised that the Sub-group would meet to discuss the way forward.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <b><i>Lindsay to set up meeting of the Sub-group</i></b></p> <p><b>5.4 Modern Day Slavery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janice advised that she had sent her report to Maureen and it is now on Drobox.</li> <li>• Janice advised that she had attended a Scottish Government Cross Party meeting this week and noted a research project that raised issues around the trafficking of children.</li> <li>• Janice will be representing UKPAC on the UK Modern Training Delivery Group run by Kim Ann Williamson.</li> <li>• Programme Director Kay advised members that she had received confirmation from CSWNGO Forum that the SIGBI Parallel Event session will be held on 19 March at 2.30pm GMT on "Combatting trafficking/slavery throughout life's course using education, awareness and action." To register for the UN you will need to</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>LG</b></p>

	<p>open an account with Indico, register and Gina has to authenticate it. You then get conformation from the UN. Links for CSW. UN - <a href="https://indico.un.org/event/35605/registration/">https://indico.un.org/event/35605/registration/</a> and <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngo-csw65-forum-advocate-registration-tickets-1373">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngo-csw65-forum-advocate-registration-tickets-1373</a></p> <p><b>ACTION</b>  <i>Members to read Janice's report</i>  <i>Members to sign up for CSW65 as it is open to all.</i></p>	
8	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz thanked everyone for staying on past the time for finished, but felt that it had been a really good meeting.</li> <li>• Federation Johanna thanked UKPAC for their invitation and remarked how informative and interesting the meeting had been</li> <li>• Federation President Elect Cathy also thanked UKPAC for inviting her.</li> <li>• Molly Byrne Robinson remarked that she had found the meeting very interesting and that her colleague who was on the Centenary Action Group with her, may wish to attend the next meeting.</li> <li>• Maureen to contact Ramada, Solihull and re-arrange the booking for March 2022 meeting.</li> <li>• The next meeting which will be on Zoom will be held on Saturday 27 March 2021 at 10.00am</li> </ul> <p>There was no other business and the meeting closed.</p>	

Signed .....

Date .....