

<b>Regional Reports</b>	<b>Soroptimist International Northern England</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Regional Council Meeting 14 March 2026</b>
<b>Report of: -</b>	<b>President Shirley Hallam-Gould (November 2025 – February 2026)</b>

Happy New Year 2026 to everyone and welcome to my first report as your SINE President 2025 – 2026. A special thank you to all the Regional officers who have volunteered their services and retired. A warm welcome to those members who have taken up their new roles. My Theme is “**Together we Thrive**”.

**Work in Progress: -**

1. Work in partnership with clubs and other agencies. – Lots of on-going evidence of activities.
2. Appoint a President Elect – We have a volunteer.
3. Appoint a PA chair of Zoom meetings. – Congratulations to Christine Thomkins SI Newcastle. Zoom meetings are held on the first Monday of the Month.
4. Support and use the SINE website and use HUB
5. Regional Project. Look forward to hearing about the PA’s proposed Regional Project on 14 March.
6. Visit 9 Clubs in the Region – 2/9

My themes for 2025 – 2026:-

- The SIGBI Cervical Cancer Campaign
- Women’s Safety on Public Transport
- Domestic Abuse

Thank you for your support!

Since taking up my role as you President, I have visited 3 clubs, SI Darlington, SI Newcastle upon Tyne and SI Tynedale. I plan to visit SI Stockton in May and look forward to visiting the remaining 5 clubs before the end of my year.

**The SIGBI Cervical Cancer Campaign**

Thank you to Sue Williams, SI Darlington who forwarded the Cervical Cancer Campaign – 2026 Activity Plan. *Link to Plan:* [Cervical Cancer Activity Plan 2026](#)

**Women’s Safety Planning Group - 12 Month Media Social Campaign**

I was invited and accepted an invitation to join this working party and have attended their zoom meetings since last November.

This group’s campaign covers my 2 other Themes of **Women’s Safety on Public Transport** and **Domestic Abuse**

My additional notes give further information. *Link to Notes:* [WSG Additional Notes](#)

**Women’s Safety on Public Transport**

My work so far.

1. Go North East contacted SIGBI office looking for a Women’s Group to support them in their proposed Training Programme. “Women’s Safety on Public Transport”. Lyndsay Green, Director of Programme and I felt this was an opportunity not to be missed. Since then, I have made contact with Gary Edmonson, the Examiner and Compliance Officer who is keen to work with us on evaluating their Training Programme as well as sourcing real case studies. I was assured by him that this Programme addressed female drivers as well as female passengers. He has been most supportive of my requests for materials to evaluate. The Regional Council meeting on 14 March at the Auctioneer will provide the opportunity for further discussion.

2. A number of documents will be available on the SINE website, including a Questionnaire for members to complete before 31 May 2026.

*Link to the questions and the On Line Questionnaire: [Safety Of Women and Girls Questionnaire](#)*

The Go North East Marketing Manager is linked into our emails. It is hoped that Soroptimist findings will be taken into consideration when planning future Training Programmes across the country.

3. I continue to attend both the North Tyneside Branch/North East Public Transport User's Group. (Bus, Metro, Ferry, Rail, Walk Cycle). The Group is campaigning for an integrated, publicly accountable transport system connecting Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and County Durham. They support improvements for walking, wheeling and cycling.
4. I met with Kate Winstanley, NE Combined Authority Transport Policy and Strategy Officer who is very keen to be involved with the SI Campaign.
5. I met with the North Tyneside Elected Mayor, and CEO to discuss my themes. They were very supportive and keen to provide links to work in partnership.

### **Domestic Abuse**

The working party is looking at Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Their 12 month social media campaign includes planning for change and raising awareness. It asks for every member to raise awareness of and take action. It identifies there are many ways we can enlist the help of men and improve the safety of women. The Working Party outlines a theme for each month, use of graphics and provides suggestions and links to social media.

I have permission from SI Tynemouth WBD member Margaret Parsons to share a document she prepared for the club. "Peace Offerings". The main themes of the document are :-

1. UN Days of Action
2. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
3. Campaigning for Women's Rights
4. Eva Schloss's Legacy
5. Effective Campaigning Strategies
6. Advocacy for education and Respect

Margaret suggests we check out the information provided by the Fawcett Society.

*Link to: [Peace Offerings](#)*

*Link to:*

<a href="#"><u>Meeting an MP</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>How to Start A Petition for Change</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>How To Create a Campaign</u></a>
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- Are any clubs able to support The Year of Reading?
- What are you doing for International Women's Day 8 March 2026?
- Please continue to complete your Programme Focus Report Forms.
- Please forward your photographs and accounts of activities to Bethan for publication on the SINE website.

I appreciate everyone is busy, but I hope you found something of interest in this report.

**See you at RCM 14 March at the Auctioneer, Carlisle.**