

Theresa Nixon

SI Bangor Northern Ireland

Theresa Nixon has been a member of SI Bangor since 1992. She has held positions in all offices in the Club, was a member of the Club Executive for many years and served as Club President from 1998-1999. She was PAC Officer from 2017 to May 2020. She has been instrumental in raising awareness of women's under-representation in power and in decision-making positions.

Theresa encouraged members to lobby for change as the New Deal, New Decade approach to restore the devolved administration at Stormont did not specifically reference any women's issues.

Prior to Theresa's attendance as PAC representative at the SIGBI workshop on prison reform in Belfast in 2019, she invited notable speakers on this topic to the NIPAC meetings to advise on how reforms were being implemented.

Theresa also lobbied for a review of the universal credit two-tier system and urged Club members to raise concerns with their MP's regarding the need for further consideration of social justice matters.

Theresa collated a Regional response to a 2019 Department of Justice consultation document on stalking in NI and suggested changes to afford more protection to victims.

Theresa also convened a series of meetings in NI with other PAC Officers to complete the SI Northern Ireland response to a Department of Health (DOH) consultation document on reshaping breast cancer assessment services. Some subsequent changes made by the DOH resulted in easier access to services.

Theresa also shared with PAC and Club members the findings of a 2019 Criminal Justice Inspection on the handling of sexual violence and abuse cases by the criminal justice system. She encouraged members in NI to advocate for the implementation of these recommendations to improve the lives of victims and survivors.

To raise the profile of Soroptimism and increase awareness of women's health matters, Theresa organised excellent keynote speakers for three events in:

2018 - "The role and experience of women in medicine". This was attended by a number of local representatives from charitable and public bodies and girls from local schools.

2019 - The impact of perinatal mental health and the need for additional support services in NI.

2020 - The implications of eating disorders for women and girls, and awareness of living with endometriosis.

Theresa was a former Chairman of Number 63 in 2014-2015, and gave an unwavering commitment in personal time, knowledge and experience of governance to help make Number 63 the place to be in London. She was responsible for upgrading the manager's flat and the IT facilities, and ensured that the domestic staff received the London living wage.



In 2010, she helped organise a major charity event at the House of Lords, raising funds for the Federation Quadrennial Sierra Leone project to give disadvantaged children a more secure future.

In 2018 she helped organise a further House of Lords charity fundraising event, raising £1000 for integrated education so that children from all traditions could learn and play together with respect and not fearing religious or cultural diversity.

Theresa was elected SI Northern Ireland Regional President in 2019-2020 and engaged with members in all Clubs throughout the Covid 19 pandemic, providing collective leadership. She encouraged Clubs to review and reform their methods of collaboration and engagement so as to reach out to all members. Theresa also led and hosted the NI Youth Award in February 2020, enabling many young girls to gain experience of public speaking. She collaborated closely with President Catherine Gilpin from the Republic of Ireland in reformatting the North-South Conference into a one-day event in May 2020 with excellent and inspirational speakers (unfortunately the event had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions).