



The Link

A global voice for women

I/2014-2015 N° 236

20th SI Convention in July 2015
Istanbul Awaits Soroptimists
from Around the Globe

A Call for Best Practice Nominations
A Club Without Projects
Is a Club Without a Future

NGO Forum at the UN in Geneva
Evaluating Women's Rights
20 Years after Beijing



Soroptimist International (SI) is a worldwide organisation for women in management and professions, working through service projects to build a better world for women and children. There are currently some 85,000 members in more than 3,000 clubs in 126 countries. Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) is one of four SI Federations. It has some 35,000 members in over 1,250 clubs in 60 countries. Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships. For more information about the aims, activities and projects that characterise our organisation, please visit our SIE website at www.soroptimisteurope.org.



Note from the Editor

IS THE LINK PASSÉ?

I wouldn't have thought that a printed magazine with coverage of important topics for the Federation and personal accounts of the activities of Unions and Clubs would lose its appeal. However, when SIE HQ told me the subscription figures for the new Soroptimist year, it was a rude awakening. Subscriptions have dropped by 2000 copies! That is a lot by any standard.

To be sure, I myself am an enthusiastic consumer of online information and have campaigned for our use of social media for many years. Even I have become dependent on my iPad for newspapers, topical information and convenient reading material. And yet, although I may download an e-book, I will often purchase the hardback version as well. For my generation, there is something special about holding a printed book or magazine.

Therefore, as much as I appreciate the value of online publications, I wonder if we will lose some of our tradition and readership, if we give up our printed magazine. After all, not all Soroptimists are active Internet users. Haven't we got a duty to keep these long-standing members informed as well? Ideally, we should accommodate both worlds: respect for the past and readiness for the future! However, the magazine is financed through subscriptions, and it is not fair to those who pay.

We won't gain new members if we don't move with the times, but we shouldn't risk losing touch with our venerable Soroptimists in the process!

Christine Cromwell-Ahrens, Editor, The Link

Cover page



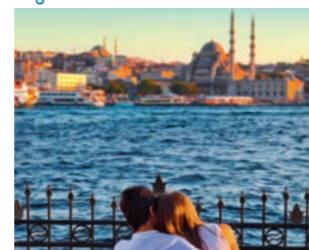
The impressive Galata Tower is just one of the architectural beauties awaiting us in Istanbul.

(Photo: Shutterstock)

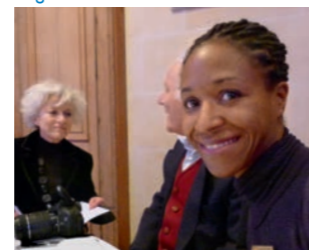
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Dear Soroptimist Friends

It has been an eventful first quarter! Participating in the NGO Forum for Beijing+20 in Geneva was exciting and inspiring. Our delegation made recommendations, particularly in the areas of education and the elimination of violence against women, networked and lobbied government representatives. Now we look forward to the CSW59 in New York in March 2015, where the main focus of the session will be on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that affect its implementation, and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission will carefully review the progress made in the past 20 years, and Soroptimists will play an important role.

Say No to Violence!

International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25th November and Human Rights Day on 10th December are very important dates for our organisation. Soroptimists have been battling violence against women for decades now, and yet, this scourge shows no sign of waning, let alone of disappearing. Women around the world, in every country, in every city, in every community continue to suffer from abuse – just because they are women. Let us carry on with the same commitment into the future. In a time of economic and political crisis in the world, we must do so with renewed energy, with renewed dedication. Through our joined voices of 35,000 women, we say, 'No to violence'!

Human Rights Day marked the end of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. It is also a reminder that all forms of violence against women are a violation of women's human rights. And 10th December is also Soroptimist Day. Introduced in 1982, it highlights Soroptimists' commitment to defending the rights of women and girls and campaigning for those less fortunate than us. Just imagine that when Suzanne Noël founded the first Soroptimist Club in Europe in 1924, she and her female compatriots did not even have the right to vote!

An exemplary fighter for girls' rights

An exemplary figure in the fight for girls' rights is Malala Yousafzai who on 10th December became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate in history for her struggle to secure the right of all children to education. During her acceptance speech, she commented on the Taliban's attempt to assassinate her. 'The terrorists tried to stop us', she said. 'Neither their ideas nor their bullets could win. We survived. And since that day, our voices have grown louder and louder...I tell my story not because it is unique but because it is not.' Her speech shows her spectacular wisdom.

I would like to draw your attention to the article on the SI Convention, which will take place in July in the fascinating city of Istanbul. Please do not miss this wonderful opportunity to meet Soroptimists from all over the world! The SI Convention website – www.si-istanbul2015.org/ – provides all

the necessary information and do not forget that early bird registration closes on 28th February 2015!

The preparations for the Governors' Meeting in Lisbon next May are well under way. SIE HQ is working hard to get the papers out in good time, and you will have seen the call for the Best Practice Awards and the Photo Competition. I hope that you will be as active as last year in the two competitions, and I look forward to crowning the winners in Lis-



On the occasion of chartering SI Subotica, the first club in Serbia, SIE President Ulla spoke to the national media about Soroptimist and its objectives.

bon!

Listening to our young Soroptimists

At the NGO Forum in Geneva, I met a very interesting young Soroptimist, Cécile Mouëza, from SI Chambéry-Aix les Bains. She told me about her dreams and ambitions as a Soroptimist, and why she has accepted to become Club President. I am sure that Cécile will inspire you as well. In fact, that experience is why I came up with the idea to have a series on young Soroptimists in *The Link*.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to SIE. I wish you, dear friends, a peaceful, healthy and Happy New Year 2015 and hope that it will be filled with exciting Soroptimist events, successful projects, friendships, partnerships and a lot of fun!

Yours



ISTANBUL AWAITS YOU!

The Hagia Sophia is just one example of the beautiful architectural features of Istanbul's cityscape.

The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul has a very unique atmosphere mixing the flair of the East with the modernity of the West.

'Exciting, stimulating and thought-provoking in every dimension', are the words SI President Ann Garvie chose to describe the programme of the 20th SI Convention to be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9th-12th July 2015. She invites Soroptimists from all four Federations to share the unique experience of an international Convention, which offers the opportunity to forge and refresh global friendships.

There will be interesting keynote speakers at informative plenary sessions, which will also feature numerous young Turkish women speaking about topical issues. Participants will learn about outstanding Soroptimist Projects of Excellence and gain a better understanding of Turkish culture. Bustling and abounding with magnificent historic buildings, Istanbul is a city of rich cultural heritage, which will be put on show in the accompanying programme. In addition, pre- and post-Convention tours will offer wonderful opportunities to visit other parts of Turkey, such as Cappadocia and Ephesus, to name just two.



The Convention theme, *Soroptimists Educate to Lead, Fresh Ideas Empowering Women*, is certain to inspire our membership. 'Each delegate will be stimulated and empowered to deliver the mission and vision of the organisation when returning to her Club and local community, says SI President Ann.

In early November Convention Chair Emine Erdem announced the launch of online registration. She invites members to secure their place at this global gathering. Early registration for the Convention at a reduced fee closes on 28th February 2015. Please visit <http://www.si-istanbul2015.org/> to register and check the various services provided.

'Clubs can showcase their Soroptimist efforts by reserving stands for their displays', says Convention Chair Emine. Just send an email to sidesks@si-istanbul.org for more details and to sign up. If you would be available to help the Organising Committee as a volunteer during registration, please contact volunteers@si-istanbul2015.org.

Fresh Ideas Empowering Women!

On its 20th anniversary, the Convention offers a unique opportunity to reflect on past successes, celebrate the present and shape our future. 'Soroptimists are coming together in Istanbul to share and develop fresh ideas for empowering women, says SI Convention Executive Director Programme Anne Simon, who along with the Organising Committee has been instrumental in devising the programme.

Reflecting the diversity of the Soroptimist movement, but also of the number of challenges confronting women today, the programme will be a compelling mix. 'In addition to discussing the status of women and girls around the world, we will be showcasing the many exemplary accomplishments of Soroptimists across all continents to improve the lives of millions of women and girls', says Anne Simon.

Come to Celebrate!

Join the sessions and listen to distinguish speakers highlight how our organisation has helped educate and empower women and girls, as well as fight violence against women and facilitate access to healthcare. Visit the Soroptimist Projects Fair to view inspiring projects developed by fellow Soroptimists throughout the world. Celebrate Best Practices when each Federation presents its 'Best Practice' project - each a uniquely successful undertaking that has improved the lives of women and girls on a large and lasting scale.

Let's Learn and Contribute!

During the Convention, we will debate with and learn from distinguished and renowned speakers with expertise in women's issues. We will challenge ourselves to reflect on our own role as a women's organisation in influencing and shaping the global women's agenda. Much progress has been made for women and yet gender equality is still far from being achieved. In the sessions and workshops we will address such needs in the areas of education, economic empowerment, health, the elimination of violence against women and sustainable environment. Workshops will provide an opportunity to further develop members' skills in advocacy, project-building and communication via social media.

The Convention team - Seated from left: Local Committee Chair Lale Kaplan, SI President Ann Garvie and Convention Chair Emine Erdem. Standing from left: SI Treasurer Patricia Carruthers, Convention Executive



If there is one word that defines SI Clubs and members it is creativity! For decades now, Soroptimists have been designing and implementing truly original projects. The Convention will thus also be the opportunity to explore ideas and strategies for the future of our organisation. Join us in Istanbul to participate in the global consultation on the future of our organisation, in order to reinforce its unique and successful model. 'Your knowledge, personal history, experience, vision and ideas will help tremendously in this reflection process regarding the future of the organisation,' says SI President Ann.

'The Local Committee will be delighted to welcome you to Istanbul and appreciate your support for the Convention' says Convention Chair Emine. 'If you have not registered, I urge you to do so now at www.si-istanbul2015.org/!' And to follow the latest news go to the Facebook page, '20th Soroptimist International Convention'.

Beril Atakul, Communication Officer, SI Convention Local Committee

Director Programme Anne Simon, Local Committee Programme Director Inci Artan, SI Global Executive Director Deborah Thomas, Local Committee Secretary Esra Disperati, Local Committee Social Programme Coordinator Guliz Cinar, Local Committee Communication Officer Beril Atakul and Convention Treasurer Yasemin Ozes.



Soroptimists from near and far came together in Brugge for a memorable weekend. Photo: Myriam Raes

European Meeting and Friendship Days in Brugge

‘WOMEN ARE A FORCE FOR PEACE’

It was a memorable October weekend in many respects: a conference in a setting surrounded by signs of wars – from medieval times, the eighteenth century and two World Wars. Brugge, the UNESCO world heritage town in Flanders, has certainly known difficult times.

For the participants of the 10th European Meeting and Friendship Days with the motto ‘Women for Peace’, these difficulties are history, but they nevertheless remind us of the millions of people who were not as fortunate. And many still experience violence and war every day.

At the opening of the Friendship Days, SI President Ann Garvie remarked that only four percent of those negotiating peace are women. She therefore urged Soroptimists to be proactive and influence civil society globally to fight the evils of war. ‘Peace can only be achieved by understanding, tolerance and respect for all human kind. And if we cannot end our differences now, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity,’ she said. She then underlined the importance of education and the possibilities for Soroptimists to affect change by means of education.



SIE President Ulla Madsen (left) thanked Silvana Arbia, 2013 winner of the Soroptimist Peace Prize, for her interesting and inspiring talk. Photo: Myriam Raes

Powerful and informative speeches

The raw reality of how patience, tolerance, security and justice are still a dream for millions was presented on the following day. The various lectures contained examples on three levels: results of sociological and medical research, practical support and help, and the struggle for laws and justice. Two Belgian ‘Mothers for Peace’, Jennie Vanlerberge and Martine Mossuyt, provided the most painful details. They set up a safe house for women and children in Istaliff in Afghanistan. The centre started with a small hospital and school in 2002. The hospital is now a health centre, daily frequented by 200 patients, and the school also offers agricultural projects and sewing and art activities, which enable women to earn a living and become independent. They described the harsh reality of life under the pressure of sharia and the Taliban in a country where illiteracy has risen to 90 percent and rape, violence and criminality are daily ‘normalities’.

Marleen Temmerman and Katlijn Malfiet told participants that this situation was no exception. The former is a professor in gynaecology at the University of Ghent and director of the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the WHO in Geneva. Her research and field experience, for instance in Africa and the Middle East, show how traditional practices and ways of life hinder equal rights, and even safety. The latter, a deacon of the Social Faculty of the Catholic University of Leuven, explained how these problems exist in education, politics, financial matters and jobs as well.

Seeking justice for women

Both speakers got the support of Silvana Arbia, winner of the Soroptimist Peace Prize 2013. The former clerk of the International Court in The Hague and Head of the International Tribunal for Rwanda explained how the handling of war crimes follows the same patterns of denial, as soon as women and girls are concerned. She dealt with denial issues personally during her involvement with international war crimes in The Hague and her activities for the Rwanda Tribunal. Thankfully, Silvana Arbia’s closing lecture had an uplifting ending, as the Rwanda Tribunal made it possible to honour women rights as human rights and treat women as victims of war crimes as well.

Ann Garvie’s call for education, understanding and adequate leadership combined with

women’s courage can become reality. It may take patience and time, but if we Soroptimists put our hearts and strength into it, we can indeed show the world that ‘Women are a force for Power’.



Marthe Claeys, Mimi Marivoet and Mia Vanpeperstraete laid a Soroptimist wreath at the moving remembrance event in Ieper. Photo: Bie Loones



Chair of the Organising Committee Mimi Marivoet paid tribute to the late SIE Past President Eliane Lagasse, whose idea it was to hold the European Friendship Meeting and Days in Brugge. Photo: Myriam Raes

Catching up with and making friends

Meeting friends (again) and exchanging news were important elements of the Friendship Days as well. The closing dinner and the excursions in Brugge on Sunday gave us an opportunity for contact and bonding. There was also an outing to Ieper (Ypres) to remember the victims of two World Wars. President of SI Belgium Marthe Claeys, Chair of the Organising Committee of the Friendship Days Mimi Marivoet, and President of SI Ieper Mia Vanpeperstraete laid a wreath at this occasion. It was a memorable ending to this very interesting and inspiring weekend. The seven Clubs of Flanders can be proud of what they accomplished. It is a pity that SIE PP Eliane Lagasse, the originator of the event, could not share it with us because of her sudden death in January 2013. However, her husband and daughters received many words of gratitude in her honour.

Ally de Vries, Editor of De Soroptimist

A CLUB WITHOUT PROJECTS IS A CLUB WITHOUT A FUTURE!

Two key results came out of the 2014 Membership Consultation in which more than 710 Clubs participated. High-quality and impactful projects and energetic teamwork are absolutely vital to the life of Soroptimist Clubs.

SI Catanzaro in Italy proposed and set up a laboratory for the nutritional rehabilitation to treat people, especially young women, suffering from eating disorders at the University Hospital of the University Magna Graecia of Catanzaro.



.With the vast majority of our members rating the high quality of projects and good teamwork as essential components for the retention of members, the conclusion is clear: a Club with no projects is, unfortunately, a Club without a future. It was striking how this insight came from Unions and Single Clubs alike, and from vastly different regions. It underlined our *raison d'être* as an organisation which provides women with a platform to serve their communities and whose Clubs and members help improve the lives of women and girls in very concrete ways!

Tremendous commitment is evident

And that is indeed what Clubs are doing through the fabulous work and dedication to the women in their communities and beyond. The tremendous commitment to improving the lives of women members is clearly evident through their

work in the areas of Education, Economic Empowerment, Elimination of Violence Against Women, Health, and Sustainable Environment. This is demonstrated daily through the project reports (PFRs) Clubs and Unions are submitting through SIE's new reporting system. Since the system was launched in March last year, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of projects reported – more than 800 of them! This incredibly high percentage of 70 goes to show that the Federation's 'bottom up' approach is the right guiding philosophy for the way the Board and SIE Headquarters support you. We can only encourage you keep up maintain this new dynamic!

Selecting the best of the best

This is also why the Programme and Advocacy team is so thrilled to launch the 2015 Best Practice Awards! Last year, following a significant simplifi-

cation of the submission process, our members sent us a truly unprecedented number of submissions. With 113 projects received from across our Federation – from Unions, Clubs, and Single Clubs alike – the Jury faced no easy task in selecting the 11 winners. While the selection criteria were decided upon ahead of time, and while each member of the Jury conducted their assessment independently in order to reach the most fair and transparent result, they all still expressed the great challenge involved in selecting the 'best of the best'.

This year, the Best Practice Awards Jury is once again looking forward to immersing themselves in the wonderful world of your projects. Let's keep up this phenomenal momentum and see even more submissions this year!

The 2015 Best Practice Awards winners will be announced at the Governors' Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, in May 2015. Like last year, the 11 winners (one Project of the Year winner, and a winner and runner-up for each of the categories, i.e. Education, Economic Empowerment, Elimination of Violence Against Women, Health, and Sustainable Environment) will be celebrated through a number of different media, and through the Best Practice Awards brochure, which is distributed to each Club in our Federation.

Best project of the biennium

Moreover, one project will be selected as SIE's best project of the last two years and will be presented by President Ulla at the Soroptimist International Convention in Istanbul, Turkey, in July next year! Each Federation will be able to share its flagship project with the anticipated 1,200 Convention participants and with international dignitaries who will be taking part in the event. So don't miss the Best Practice Awards submission deadline on 28th February.

SIE President Elect *Maria Elisabetta de Franciscis* and SIE Executive Director *Anne Simon*



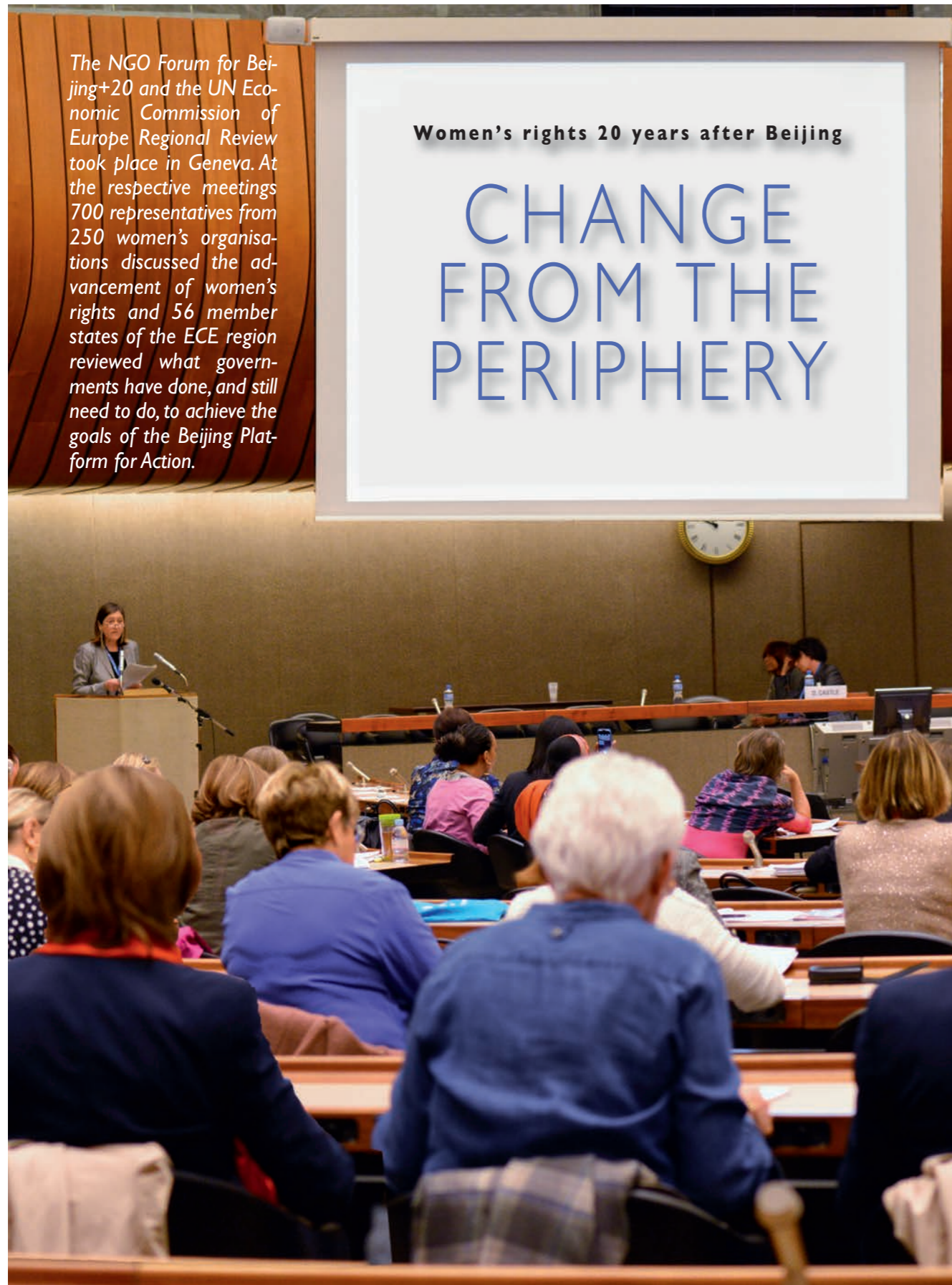
To help migrant women and girls to better integrate in the community, SI Murau in Austria organised German language courses and childcare.



SI Antananarivo Mandrosoa in Madagascar planted hundreds of trees in the village of Ambohidehilahy to alleviate the effects of corrosion.



SI Wels in Austria realised a sustainable project in a village of Tanzania in Africa to provide access to good drinking water and allow especially women to cultivate crops for economic independence



The NGO Forum for Beijing+20 and the UN Economic Commission of Europe Regional Review took place in Geneva. At the respective meetings 700 representatives from 250 women's organisations discussed the advancement of women's rights and 56 member states of the ECE region reviewed what governments have done, and still need to do, to achieve the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Women's rights 20 years after Beijing

CHANGE FROM THE PERIPHERY

SIE Chair of the Extension Committee Maria Luisa Frosio spoke at the NGO Forum about the education and training of women.
Photo: UN Rep Wilfrida Hendrickx

If you have never been in politics before, it is quite an experience to participate in a big United Nations forum for the first time. I had the chance to do so in Geneva in November, when I attended, as part of a strong Soroptimist delegation, a forum organised by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women under the slogan 'Act, Advance, Achieve Women's Rights.'

Sending a Strong Message

Before I try to explain what this was all about, I would like to share with you two side-comments I picked up, which were not really part of the discussions or reports:

It always seems that there is so much more power in politics than in what we as individuals can contribute. But then, there was this message: 'change in society comes from the periphery, not out of the middle'. This means that while laws are passed and are certainly necessary for change, real change comes from you and me, when we help women and girls, when we talk to others about women's rights, when we raise awareness whenever possible and when we insist on change. We need to talk about it, not only among us women, but also to men and boys. Most of them are just not aware that they do not treat women in the same way in which they would like to be treated. And there was another remark by an eminent philosopher, a man: 'I have never seen so many women together who sent such a strong message like here. It is the first time that I realise that women have now taken the initiative and that there is no way back. I no longer see the rights of women as rights of individual women, but of half of humankind' (he insisted not to say mankind). With those words he showed great satisfaction that women's equality to men in all aspects of life is now steadily improving, and expressed his realisation that it is not up to men anymore to 'grant' those rights to women, but that it is women who are successfully fighting for them.

Evaluating Where We Stand

Now let me explain what exactly took place at the UN Centre in Geneva. It was a meeting of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women which sought to evaluate where we stand with women's rights and which strategies need to be developed. The forum covered the so-called UN ECE region only, not the whole world. UN ECE stands for United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, but it also includes North America and Central Asia. At the end of three days

of statements and discourses by different NGOs, a resolution was adopted which was submitted to the UN ECE, i.e. the UN body itself. In the next two days, UN politicians and UN ECE member country representatives spoke and presented the achievements in their countries and the problems that still persist. It is evident that in most aspects of society, gender equality is not yet a reality, and even less so in the Eastern European countries where traditions remain strong. Repeatedly, we heard the appeal to get rid of stereotypes. And that it is time to implement gender parity. All in all, there was optimism that we are on the right track and that the process of achieving gender equality is now irreversible though setbacks often occur in times of political and financial crises.

The whole event was a preparatory meeting for the big UN event at the global level, the CSW59/Beijing+20, in other words, the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will take place in March 2015 at the UN in New York. Beijing+20 stands for the special attention that will be given to the 'Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action' that was adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 20 years ago and which was and still is a landmark.

Bettina Hahne, SIE Representative to the Council of Europe



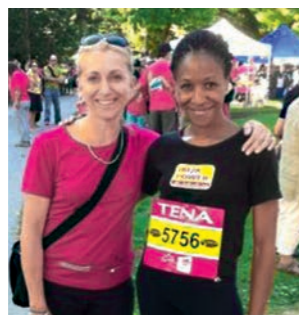
The strong Soroptimist delegation at the UN NGO Forum in Geneva underlined our role in today's efforts to achieve gender equality.

YOUNG SOROPTIMISTS SHAPING OUR FUTURE

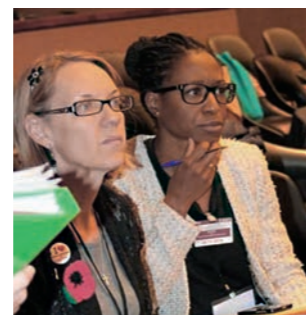


Recruiting young women to become Soroptimists is a key factor in securing the future of our organisation. This article is the first in a series of interviews with relatively new 'young' Soroptimists. Women like Dr Cécile Mouëza will help us find out what we are doing right – and wrong!

Together with her Soroptimist friend Sylvie Mauffré, Cécile ran to raise money for breast cancer research.



Cécile attended the NGO Forum in Geneva and was impressed by the work of the SI UN representatives.



Could you first please tell us a bit about yourself?

em My name is Cécile Mouëza. I'm 35 years old, single and I don't have children. I live in the Savoie in France. I've been a dental surgeon for 10 years. For the past two and a half years I've worked alone in my surgery. Before that I had a partner.

How did you hear about Soroptimist International?

em I heard about SI from Françoise L'Hopital, a friend's mother. She wanted her daughter to join the club and then eventually became my sponsor.

What inspired you to become a member?

em Before joining the club, I volunteered in a Food Bank in my region and did humanitarian work as a dentist in Haiti. These two experiences were very rewarding, but incompatible with my current job in terms of hours. SI means I can help other people as well as continue in my profession. What's more, the cause we defend – women's empowerment – touches a chord. I became a Soroptimist in October 2011.

Has club life met your expectations?

em It was complicated when I first joined the club. I felt that we didn't really achieve much because we were organising events to help fund associations. It's hard to go from humanitarian work to a service club. What's more, you join a group where the members have all known each other for a long time and are of different ages and lead different lives. Two women who joined the club with me actually left. Their resignations motivated me to talk to the other members and get to know them better. I also understood that preparing an event could take a very long time because we are volunteers and have to manage our careers and private lives at the same time. In December 2013, an interclub conference organised by SI Annecy gave me a chance to meet our SI representatives to the UN, one of whom was Wilfrida Hendricks. Her presentation brought home to me SI's national and international scope and the impact of our actions in the world.

What would you suggest we do to attract more members of your age?

em I think the sponsor and the club member responsible for Extension should take the

new member under their wing so that she doesn't feel lost. Members sometimes behave in ways that newcomers don't always understand. In general, I think we should emphasise the fact that SI is an international NGO. The values and causes SI defends should be highlighted. Members my age are starting their careers and have young children, so they lead very busy lives. They become Soroptimists to engage in actions. Monthly meetings where members spend too much time chatting without making any progress with the ongoing actions are not very interesting for these young women. Of course, friendship is important so that everyone wants to work together, but time should be allotted for working efficiently.

When you become President, what plans have you got for the club?

em I plan to focus on communication and visibility. I would like to structure meetings, re-motivate club members and encourage them to attend other SI events. I want to take each member's personality and skills into account so that they can be used to their best advantage for our actions. I would like the organisations we support to be in line with the objectives of SI France. And I intend to add a touch of glamour to our actions! I also hope to recruit at least two members a year during my biennium – and I'd like them to stay!

Would you be interested in taking on positions at higher levels of the organisation?

em I would love to join the team of Soroptimist representatives to the UN in Geneva soon. To do that, I will have to improve my English and have a better grasp of how SI works.

What are the benefits of joining SI?

em I've met some wonderful people in my club and at SI events. It is reassuring to know we are helping associations with the events that my club has organised. I respect the club's values, and SI's international scope is very interesting.

How do you see the future of the organisation?

em In seven years, we will celebrate SI's centenary. Today's world does not correspond to the world we would like to leave to our children, so SI has every reason to exist!



ExpoVerde in Lisbon, Portugal

LET'S GO GREEN !

In line with the biennium theme of SIE President Ulla Madsen, who attended part of the event, SI Portugal organised an ExpoVerde conference on sustainable environment from 18th-24th October in Lisbon. Details of the event appeared on the Soroptimist website and Facebook, as well as featuring in the widely distributed Lisbon Cultural Agenda.

SIE President Ulla Madsen learns how children at the Helen Keller Centre are sensitised about the importance of a sustainable future.

The programme covered such highly diverse subjects as the green economy, disposable plastic bags, good citizenship and the environment as essential values, Bacalhôa wines, cork production, renewable energy in two youth hostels in Portugal, a project in Cova da Moura about local food, healthy eating habits as well as gender and environment. Paintings, photographs and manufactured goods were also exhibited and much appreciated.

A unique activity took place in Helen Keller Centre, a special school for pupils with and without visual disabilities. Members of our *Guarda Nacional Republicana /Verde* (roughly translated as

the Green Republican National Guard) interacted with the children to teach them how to appreciate and protect the environment. As SIE President Ulla commented after the visit: 'It was especially exciting and a joy to listen to the lessons and talk with some of the children. I believe starting early in educating young children on the fundamentals of nutrition, consideration for others, including those with disabilities, and respect for the environment is crucial to a sustainable future.'

At the gala dinner on the final day, Portuguese and Italian Soroptimists as well as their guests were delighted by the famous Fado performance of Coimbra, sung by former students of our renowned Portuguese University. They also witnessed the signing of an agreement between SI Portugal and the Movijovem youth hostels.

The ExpoVerde successfully raised awareness of the destruction of our planet, due to, among other things, acid rain, smog and plastic materials. If all countries do not find quick answers to protect nature against the perils of economic development and other factors, the planet will become uninhabitable. We, Soroptimists have a special role to play in this effort. Ecological awareness must therefore be taken into consideration in dealings with every sphere of human activity, including agriculture, water management and cultural heritage. As Ulla Madsen said at the end of her stay: 'I want to thank SI Portugal once again for the warm hospitality, for organising such an important seminar and for making my days in Lisbon so fantastic'.

SI Portugal will continue to protect and defend a sustainable environment, by trying to promote alternatives and find solutions. In addition, our Union will focus on empowering women and improving their status. Portuguese Soroptimists are very determined to engage actively in civil society and to put into practice the traditional motto of Soroptimist International: Awareness, Advocacy and Action!

Maria Teresa Maia Carrilho, President of SI Portugal (2013-2015)



Participants in the gala dinner celebrated the success of the ExpoVerde.

UTILISING AN UNTAPPED CONNECTION

Nomvula Mokonyane, the South African Minister of Water and Sanitation, the Water Research Commission, the African Ministers Council on Water and the Women for Water Partnership (WfWP) hosted a conference entitled 'Gender, Water and Development, the Untapped Connection', in East London, Eastern Cape, from 2nd-7th November 2014.

conference, and I represented SIE, as one of the 26 partner organisations of WfWP. WfWP also participated in the preceding General Assembly and the Strategic session to determine the Multi-Annual Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

The conference not only brought together a range of researchers and practitioners in the water, gender and development fields from around the world, but also provided the first step in implementing the 'AMCOW Policy and Strategy for Mainstreaming Gender in Africa's water sector'.

The programme was structured around the seven elements of the AMCOW gender mainstreaming strategy. Participants shared a wealth of best practices pertaining to all seven pillars of the strategy. They were also able to take part in discussions regarding different aspects of water management throughout the conference.

The various representatives from governments and organisations debated about establishing a Global Women for Water Fund. To get women into decision-making positions and to give them the opportunity to influence the process, they have to be

Participants in the water conference in South Africa discussed how to get more women involved in water management.



.The guiding framework for the conference was the Gender Strategy of the African Minister's Council on Water (AMCOW) which identified seven objectives (policy, resources, project implementation, strategic research, capacity building, cooperation and monitoring and evaluation). These will have to be realised to achieve gender equality in the water sector.

SIE PP Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, currently President of WfWP and one of the speakers at the

invited to conferences like this one! 'We also have to be able to support their projects and offer them capacity building assistance', said WfWP President Mariet. A global fund would be a major step in making this possible. 'Women have to be seen as agents of change and water managers, rather than just the victims and water carriers!'

Hanne von Schaumann-Werder, SIE Representative to WfWP



Friendship Links

BUILDING A STRONGER GLOBAL NETWORK

SI Vienna Vivata invited its FL clubs SI Taunus/Germany, SI Budapest/Hungary and Hoeksche Waard /Jsselmonde in the Netherlands for a weekend of workshops, culture and sightseeing.

These days it is practically impossible to stand alone; in some way the whole world is linked together! Is your club still working on projects alone, or are you sharing your ideas with other clubs? Soroptimists have a unique loyalty to one another. We have committed ourselves to a global organisation which shares objectives and projects in a spirit of friendship and fun to make the world a better place for women and girls.

Soroptimist Clubs around the world are connected through Friendship Links (FLs). Besides the social contact, it is a way to realise Soroptimist projects, offer support and celebrate together – all the things that characterise a true friendship.

The European Federation has 1,260 Clubs in Unions and Single Clubs in 60 countries in Europe, in Africa, in the Caribbean. The diversity is immense. Establishing a Friendship Link offers Clubs the opportunity to get to know different cultures. Being involved in both local and global issues enriches the lives of all members. In addition to FLs, there are possibilities to meet other Soroptimists through Grants of Friendship, study tours, extended visits or taking part in club charters.

Clubs develop Friendship Links as part of their activities. Through these Friendship Links clubs

SI Szeged hosted an evening of Hungarian fish soup for its FLs, which Programme Director Christine Peer (centre) also attended.



can co-operate on joint projects across regions, countries and Federations. They can also share ideas to mark International Women's Day on 8th March or 16 Days of Activism from 25th November to 10th December – <https://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>. You can also use a FL to further your Programme work or to introduce Project Matching.

For Clubs who want more information about how to set up a Friendship Link, please visit the members' area of the SIE website: www.soroptimisteurope.org.

We also need your help to update the existing Friendship Link list. Please ask yourselves, how many of your FLs are really active. Sometimes it may be better to terminate a stagnating Friendship Link.

Please share your Friendship Link stories, memories and reflections. If you are interested in establishing a FL, please contact us via friendshiplinks@soroptimisteurope.org. And don't forget to visit our Friendship Link Platform for Soroptimists on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SoroptimistFriendshipLinks>

If you have a friend you never will be alone; if you have a Soroptimist Friendship Link you will have friends all over the world. Let's use our Friendship Links to build a stronger global network!

Christine Peer,
Programme Director SIE, Friendship Link Coordinator

A collaborative effort in Haiti

EMPOWERING THE WOMEN OF CHAMBRUN

SI France raised € 30,000 to help Haiti after the earthquake, and SI Port-au-Prince invested this sum in a long-term project.

Members of SI Port-au-Prince visited the Chambrun Peasant Movement (MPC), a group of 120 women from Chambrun, about 70 km from the capital. The Club decided to support the region, helping them promote their agricultural produce. Chambrun has a population of around 350,000, most of whom make a living in agriculture and raising livestock. The head of the MPC told the Soroptimists of the need for a grain mill to increase maize



production, promote sales and thus improve the community's quality of life. It was decided to build a hangar to house the grain mill and an office, a reservoir and a place to store the grain. The project was funded by the French Union. Local authorities donated a plot of land.

An engineer from SI Port-au-Prince drew up plans and supervised the building work, with the

help of another engineer who knows the area. The structural work has been completed and the mill has been purchased. The mill should be operational by the end of the year.

It will be managed by seven women from the MPC, and supervised by the Soroptimists for two years. In November the KASIK psychological training centre ran a course for the future mill managers, focusing on the values and qualities essential for managing a community project. The training course was funded by a SIE donation.

The project will be successfully realised thanks to the cooperation between SI Port-au-Prince, the local authorities, the local community, SI France and SIE.

Anne-Marie Hendrickx, SIE Treasurer

Photo Competition 2015

CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The second photo competition of Soroptimist International of Europe – again under the motto, 'With Your Eyes Only' – opened as from 3rd December 2014. The closing date for entries is midnight on 28th February 2015.

In line with SIE President Ulla Madsen's biennium campaign and SIE objectives, this year's photo competition comprises three topics:

- Women and girls securing a sustainable future
- Women and girls promoting better nutrition
- Women and girls raising awareness of climate change

Soroptimist or non-Soroptimist contestants must be at least 18 years old. Each participant may submit up to two photos per category. The entrant must be the sole photographer and hold the copyrights to the photos. If people are shown, they must give their permission for publishing. All photos will become the property of SIE, and SIE retains the right to publish them.

Digital images should be between one and eight MB in size and submitted as jpeg files by email to programme@soroptimisteurope.org. The photographer should give her photos a title fit-



The entrants in last year's competition submitted a number of eye-catching and creative photos.

ting one of the three topics. Please also indicate when and where the pictures were taken. We also require the full name of the photographer, an email address, mobile number and SI Club, when appropriate. The application form is downloadable via the public website under the section 'News' and via the members' area under the section 'Downloads – Programme & Advocacy'.

SIE Programme Director Christine Peer will chair the jury, consisting of Editor of *The Link* Christine Cromwell-Ahrens, SIE Programme & Advocacy Assistant Bintou Koita and two accomplished Soroptimist photographers and former prizewinners, Roberta Ghidoni (SI Crema of Italy) and Villy Makou (SI Athens of Greece). The jury's decision is final.

The winners will be announced at the 2015 Governors' Meeting in Lisbon in May.

Silvana Arbia Foundation

TOWARDS A CULTURE OF PEACE

When the Single Club of San Marino, which has been twinned with SI Kigali since 1993, heard about the work of Italian judge Silvana Arbia, who sought justice for the victims of genocide in Rwanda, they



With the endowment from the Peace Prize, Silvana Arbia (right) set up her Foundation in San Marino, and Club member Mara Verbena was elected President.

decided to nominate her for the SIE Peace Prize 2013. In the end, she was awarded the Prize at the SIE Congress in Berlin.

Using the €20,000 endowment awarded with the prize as the starting funds, the former clerk of the International Court in The Hague and Head of the International Tribunal for Rwanda set up the Silvana Arbia Foundation in San Marino on 8th November 2014. That same day, she became an Honorary Member of the SC San Marino.

Silvana Arbia chose the Republic of San Marino as the seat of the Foundation because of its reputation for the defence of liberty and peace. The objectives of the Foundation are to:

- **help prevent** and/or reduce the risk to peace implied in the practice of recruiting and conscripting minors under the age of 15 in the region of the Great Lakes in Africa, by removing and/or reducing the obstacles to their access to education and to other forms of protection;
- **campaign to support** the children in this region (Congo, Uganda, Burundi), who, due to environmental conditions, are at risk of not being able to grow up and develop with the benefit of fundamental human rights;
- **provide information** and education to those close to the children, and particularly women and

mothers, with the aim to protect the children from kidnapping, coercion and risks of involvement in military operations.

In order to achieve the aims, the Foundation can:

- **carry out actions** against poverty and promote activities of research and of data collection;

- **promote the elaboration** of an International Convention on standard measures of prevention and protection;

- **build and reinforce the capacity** of mothers and other female figures close to the minors to protect them from the risk of kidnapping or other forms of recruitment or involvement in military operations.

Drenka Drezga, Programme Director of SC San Marino

Dr Suzanne Noël in her own words

TRAILBLAZING THE SOROPTIMIST MOVEMENT

'...Seduced by the principles of Soroptimist, we continued to work hard throughout 1924, developing our statutes and recruiting more members. There was, however, no shortage of difficulties. First of all, in France, the notion of 'club' was not very well known among women; and our husbands didn't look kindly at the weekly lunches we held [...] without them [...]. It was acceptable for them that



Rotarians did it, who were men, but it wasn't acceptable for women. You should keep in mind that in 1924 women still had no political rights, no personal liberty, and those who were pushing for those changes faced public derision and were

called "suffragettes".' Thus wrote Dr Suzanne Noël (1878-1954), the founder of the Soroptimist movement in Europe, in a 1952 text on the creation of Soroptimist Clubs in Western Europe and Asia. She describes the direct role she played not only in the founding of the first European Club in Paris, but also in the creation of the Clubs of The Hague, Amsterdam, Milan, Vienna, Berlin, Anvers, Geneva, Tallinn, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Kyoto, Peking... In total, 11 Clubs in 11 European capitals, and four further Clubs in Asia.

Thanks to its efforts to promote the legacy of Dr Noël through the media and to identify public places that could carry her name, SI France, under the leadership of Immediate Past President Christine Dagain, came across a true treasure. She was contacted by the son of Dr Noël's godson, Mr Denoncin, who donated to the French Union the above book chapter as well as several photos, newspaper clippings, texts written by Dr Noël, and the Legion of Honour she was awarded. A true treasure through which Dr Noël's charisma, clarity of thought, and energy come through unmistakably. The donation was officially made at the chartering of SI Grand Quevilly-Val de Seine.

In the coming issues of *The Link*, we will publish excerpts from Dr Suzanne Noël's writings about her experience in furthering the Soroptimist movement.

Ana Barfield, SIE Programme and Advocacy Officer

SI Wiesbaden

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH FRIENDS

SI Wiesbaden invited its Friendship Links to share an informal get-together with its 38 members on the occasion of the club's 20th anniversary in September 2014. Guests from all four Friendship Link Clubs - Montreux/Switzerland, Tunbridge Wells/UK, Bratislava/Slovakia and Bruxelles Doyen/Belgium - were warmly welcomed to an anniversary celebration in a city of great beauty.

The organising club asked everyone to become involved in finding a joint project, and many good ideas were discussed during the first evening. Each club had therefore prepared project proposals.



Specialties from each club were offered at the Soroptimist stall at the city festival: Swiss chocolate, British toffee, German sparkling wine, Slovak cake as well as Belgian beer and cheese.

On Saturday, we were spoiled with warm weather and sunshine, perfect for the day's a walk through the vineyards along the famous 'Flötenweg', named after the wine bottles which resemble a 'flute'. After a scenic route meandering through vineyards and fields, we reached the winery for a tasting in the very interesting cellars. After having secured enough seats on the scenic terrace with beautiful views over the Rhine valley, nice wine and conversation flowed until the evening.

The following morning everyone got up early to 'man' the Soroptimist stall at the city festival, an annual event showcasing local enterprises and non-profit organisations. The Soroptimist stall had been decorated with posters presenting the local club and its Friendship Links with their history, projects and actions. SI Wiesbaden is and has always been actively engaged in supporting women migrants.

The 15 Soroptimist guests worked side by side with their counterparts from Wiesbaden to promote Soroptimist and share a good laugh and conversation. Prominently displayed piggy banks reminded visitors that the purpose of the event was to raise funds for the project that SI Wiesbaden had selected for the occasion. 'Hearts for Peru' (www.herzenhelfen.de) is a non-profit association with the goal of sustainably improving living conditions for the indigenous population, especially children, of the Peruvian Andes. During the course of the day, we collected almost € 900 towards this project.

The idea of a common, long-term project was taken back to the respective clubs with the promise to continue searching and working in the true spirit of a 'Global voice for women'.

SI Wiesbaden is warmly thanked for its initiative, creativity and warm hospitality.

Renate Smith-Kubat, SI Bruxelles Doyen

SI Nyon

AN UNFORGETTABLE RALLY FOR EVERYONE!

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, SI Nyon organised a Rally on foot. Our goal was to showcase Soroptimists' actions and to mobilise the population of Nyon around the themes of water, food and food waste.

Fun and short – just 1.5 km – the rally was accessible to everyone. It was a one-off, festive occasion to celebrate our capacity to support concrete projects. It also allowed us to talk about the SIE theme for 2013-2015: Let's go green!



The then Club President Danielle Junod-Suchaux and Vice-President Kristin Reynisdottir welcomed rally participants at Stand 4.

In concrete terms, we supported a local project, the *Jardins éducatifs de la Côte*, by presenting its President, Susan Wakeman, with a cheque for SFr 1,000 (€380). The association teaches people how to cultivate fruit and vegetables and to eat locally-grown produce.

The Club also presented President Isabelle Macheret of *Au Coeur de Niger* a donation of SFr 3,000 (€ 2,500). This association focuses on girls' education and independence, providing schooling and accommodation in a centre where they also raise chickens and goats and make soap. Our donation will help buy solar ovens needed to feed the 150 children.

Without the commitment of our partners – Nyon's three museums, the music conserva-

tory and the Bois-Bougy farm, who all opened their doors and actively participated – the Rally would not have had the same appeal or prestige.

Some 200 people took part in the event. Club members manned the seven stands offering quizzes and games, such as carrying a basin of water on one's head, as they do in Niger, tasting spring water, tap water and mineral water, and trying local and imported foods. Club President (2012-2014) Danielle Junod-Suchaux awarded the prizes and gave cheques to the beneficiaries.

With this Rally we wanted to encourage people to grown their own or buy local, in-season fruit and vegetables, and to sort their waste! It was also a great opportunity to defend the rights of women and children.

The Rally Committee of SI Nyon: Laure, Kristin, Nicole & Sabine

SI Vicenza

CYBERBULLYING – FACELESS BULLYING WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

During the communication technology safety week in October 2014, Club President Isabella Cominato and SI Vicenza organised the performance of 'Faceless: the battle against cyberbullying' for students in their final year of the scuola media and in their first years of secondary school. The play was produced with the support of the municipality of Vicenza and the Teatro della Gran Guardia and the cooperation of the three Rotary Clubs and the Lion Club of our city.

Anoun Madré honoured

COMMITTED TO FRENCH-GERMAN COLLABORATION



Anoun Madré of SI Paris-Neuilly received the French title Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in recognition of her extraordinary commitment to the Association of Heidelberg Alumni France (HAFR), of which she is the Founding President. Its objective is to help stu-

dents, professors and scientists work in a network. Anoun Madré has worked her entire life as a translator and interpreter.

François Scheer, former French ambassador to Germany, presented the distinction on the occasion of a scientific colloquium. He and Reinhold Würth, German entrepreneur and an old friend of the Madré family, agreed that 'the exchange between German and French scientists and students has become more important than ever'. Numerous personalities of Heidelberg and French universities also praised Madré's enormous commitment to the French-German scientific collaboration.

Susanne Wasum-Rainer, German Ambassador to France, and many academics from the German Humboldt Society and DAAD (the German Academic Exchange Service) attended the reception at Anoun Madré's apartment in Paris.

Kathy Kaaf, IPP SIE

IPP SIE Kathy Kaaf (right) congratulated Anoun Madré on receiving a French title of honour.

The initiative originated from the awareness of the lack of protection against and the insufficient knowledge of the dangers of a virtual world that is difficult to regulate. The victims are generally young people who regularly use the web for all sorts of things, but ignore its hidden snares. Sadly, their families often offer them little support.

After the performance, the author, the actors and the director of the play joined teachers, professionals and representatives of the police in a lively debate with the students. The aim was to help them understand that cyberbullying is a virtualisation of bullying, but its consequences have a weight and criminal relevance which are not virtual.

A total of some 1800 young people watched the play on four mornings, while 400 adults attended two evening performances.



After the performance of the play on cyberbullying, those involved participated in the lively debate with the young people.

Laura Stiassi, Programme Director, SI Vicenza

Dr Denis Mukwege speaks in Brussels

THE MAN WHO 'RESTORES' WOMEN



SIE Treasurer Anne-Marie Heindrickx, Club President Marie-Jeanne Devriendt and IPP of SI Belgium Gerda Rosiers expressed their respect and appreciation for Dr Denis Mukwege's work in the DRC.

Through the fistula restoration projects during her Presidency of SI Belgium, Marie-Jeanne Devriendt, now President of SI Bruxelles Doyen, was able to establish important contacts, among them Dr Denis Mukwege, founder and medical director of Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It was founded in 1998, at the time of the war in eastern DRC, and specialises in treating victims of violence, mainly sexual. Two years ago, he survived an assassination attempt after condemning the continued use of sexual violence in DRC by forces fighting to control the country's vast mineral wealth. This sexual vio-

lence was the subject of his speech at SI Bruxelles Doyen in October.

Sexual violence is an especially devastating issue across the country. Between 1.69 and 1.80 million women are raped in their lifetime. This widespread sexual violence contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS, as well as sowing terror and disintegration of communities.

Dr. Mukwege gave a passionate account of how he helps the injured and so-called 'dishonoured' women. Expressing his outrage about attitudes, he explained, 'Here it is not rape because you have desire for a woman, here it is rape because you want to destroy that person through her private parts'.

The Panzi Hospital takes a holistic approach, by helping to restore victims both physically and mentally and aiding the re-integration process into their communities. Another important task is the distribution of antiretroviral kits to avoid further spreading of the HIV virus. Since the hospital suffers from chronic underfunding, Dr Mukwege gratefully accepted a donation from our club.

Dr. Mukwege is the recipient of the UN 2008 Human Rights Award. One week after the presentation to SI Bruxelles Doyen, he was awarded the 2014 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament. He has also been nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Renate Smith-Kubat, SI Bruxelles Doyen

SI Norway

SUPPORT FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Once again SI Norway is pleased to invite SIE clubs in developing countries to submit applications for professional training support in developing countries for the academic year 2015/2016.

The Education Foundation was established in 1985 to support the professional training of women in developing countries. Application for support must be recommended by a Soroptimist Union or club. The first grants were offered in 1990. The primary goal of this foundation is to promote the education and training of women who otherwise would not have the financial resources needed to continue their education. Preference will be given to applications from non-

Soroptimist candidates for basic professional training, at secondary school level, in their home country. Advanced courses and study abroad will be given lower priority. The deadline for applications is 1st March 2015

For details of the Education Foundation of SI Norway, please see www.soroptimistnorway.no

Kristin Ruder, E-mail: ruder@online.no



During their visit to Lisboa, the Italian Soroptimists from seven clubs visited the renowned Gulbenkian Museum.

SI Italy is twinned with SI Portugal

GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING

Some years ago SI Italy, established in 1950, was linked with the younger Union of Portugal. This twinning commitment is still alive today and bearing fruit. Meeting each other is the most important aspect; getting to know each other's programmes and projects is the basis to build a real and concrete cooperation. When the President of SI Portugal, Maria Teresa Carrilho, came to Italy in May for our annual Meeting of the Delegates, I was there and I promised to return the visit.

Last September a group of Italian Soroptimists from seven clubs (Alessandria, Forlì, Grottaglie, Noto, Padova, Palermo, Rimini) travelled to Portugal for a week to see the country and visit the clubs in Lisbon. Seven Italian and four Portuguese clubs spent an afternoon of friendship together in the wonderful Gulbenkian Museum. Many treasures are collected there, including very rare and precious artwork of René Lalique: an interesting discovery for us thanks to the Soroptimists! Sitting in the cafeteria we spoke about our clubs, our projects, to find the best way to collaborate and work together. Old links were strengthened, such as SI Forlì and SI Lisboa Sete Colinas; new links were discussed and planned. We learned that our problems are their problems, that the needs of Italian women are their needs. We realised that by uniting our efforts, we could be more effective. We promised to return to Portugal for the chartering of the new club in the Algarve.

Experiencing the Soroptimist world first hand and getting to know the members of our organisation are the best way to understand where we are going, who we are, what we are doing for women and how we can collaborate for a better society. See you soon in Tavira!

Wilma Malucelli, PP of SI Italy

85 years of SI Antwerp

JOIN THE WEEKEND CELEBRATION!

SI Antwerp invites Soroptimists to join members for the celebration of their 85th anniversary on the weekend of 25th-26th April 2015.

The programme officially begins with a 'Unique Dressing' workshop offering personal advice on colours and style at the Maison Anna Heylen. At the same time there is a separate programme for spouses. In the afternoon, participants will enjoy an exclusive tour of the Headquarters Katoen Natie for a view of 3500 years of art. The official celebration ceremony and reception will be followed by the gala dinner.

On Sunday guests will be able to visit either the Red Star Line Museum or the Eugène Van Mieghem Museum. The programme ends with lunch at the restaurant 'De Kaai'.

Please see www.soroptimist.be/ events to register and for details of the fees. Registration closes on 11th April 2015. The contact at SI Antwerp is Mireille Van Den Bossche, mireille.vdb@skynet.be.



SI Antwerp will celebrate its 85th anniversary in style!

Please submit your contributions to the next issue by 16th February 2015!

NEW SIE CLUBS TO BE CHARTERED

18th April 2015

Isselburg-Anhalt (Germany)
Charter to be presented by
(To be announced)
Club President
Veronika von Kampshoff
Josef-Fehler-Straße 51
46397 Bocholt
Phone: +49 2871 31529
E-mail: naturheilpraxis-
v.kampshoff@t-online.de

24th April 2015

Gulf (Dubai)
Charter to be presented by
Ulla Madsen, SIE President
Club President
Sareh Ameri
Arenco compound, Al Safouh 2,
Villa A22, Dubai PO Box 9168
Dubai
Phone: +971 502476164
E-mail: ameri.sareh@gmail.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR SIE

6th January 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Taibe (Israel)

12th January 2015

85th Anniversary
SI Berlin (Germany)

13th January 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Lisbonne II (Portugal)

16th January 2015

50th Anniversary
SI Brøndbyerne (Denmark)

17th January 2015

50th Anniversary
SI Malmö-Limhamn (Sweden)

17th March 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Bogense/Nordfyn (Denmark)

17th March 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Marche-en-Famenne (Belgium)

22nd March 2015

85th Anniversary
SI Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

31st March 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Borge (Norway)

31st March 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Odsherred (Denmark)

31st March 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Mjölby (Sweden)

21st April 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Lidingö (Sweden)

23rd April 2015

50th Anniversary
SI Eskischir (Turkey)

28th April 2015

25th Anniversary
SI Thetis (Greece)

30th-31st May 2015

Governors' Meeting
Lisbon (Portugal)

9th-12th July 2015

20th SI Convention
Istanbul (Turkey)

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAYS AND EVENTS

8th March

International Women's Day

22nd March

World Water Day



The Link

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