

**Representatives to the UN and Other Organisations**

Soroptimist International representatives are appointed by the Soroptimist International President and serve as representatives at the five major UN centres and UN Regional Commissions. These volunteers work on many UN committees which deal with issues important to women and address human rights inequities. Additionally, many Soroptimists have been active participants at United Nations NGO sessions and meetings throughout the world since 1948, serving as delegates as well as organising and presenting panels and workshops on a wide variety of gender issues.

**United Nations—New York**

Anne Yedowitz  
Lois A. Beilin  
Katherine E. Mayer  
Andrea Mills  
Caroline F. Themm  
Linda Stillman

**UNESCO—Paris**

Yseult Kaplan  
Christine Dagain  
Dominique Mertz  
Marie-Christine Gries de la Barbelais

**Economic Commission for Latin America & The Caribbean (ECLAC)**

Pina Pileggi

**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)**

Elizabeth Williamson

**Economic & Social Commission for Asia & The Pacific (ESCAP)**

Lynn Ciurlionis

**United Nations—Geneva**

Inger Sofie Nordback

**Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)**

Nagwa Hassan Mohammed

**United Nations—Vienna**

Roswitha Benesch  
Karin Tripp

**UN Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Rome**

Else Larsen

**United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - Nairobi**

Alice Owuor

For further information please review the website: [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org)

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**International Relations**

Soroptimist International has General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, United Nations (ECOSOC); Operational Relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Special List of the International Labour Organization (ILO); Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), Official Relations with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Consultative Status with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Accredited to the Commonwealth as a Civil Society Organization.

Dawn Marie Lemonds  
SI Programme Director

Margaret Cook  
SI Assistant Programme Director

SIA Programme Director—Lori Blair  
SIE Programme Liaison—Ulrike Neubert  
SIGBI Programme Director-Hilary Ratcliffe  
SISWP Programme Director-Jenny Hughes

Soroptimists promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

**The 53rd Commission on the Status of Women**



Through international partnerships and a global network of members Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls by advocating for equity and equality; creating safe and healthy environments; increasing access to education; developing leadership and practical skills for a sustainable future.



Soroptimist International Workshop Presentation  
Sponsored by the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York

—Dialogue—

Sharing “on the ground” Best Practices for  
HIV/AIDS Issues of Care Giving, Shared Responsibilities,  
Education and Strategies

**I Welcome and Overview of Session—SI President Margaret Lobo**

The intent of the session is to share best practices between the panel and the participants and address prevention strategies. President Margaret will introduce all of the speakers and a selection of SI projects that we have done internationally since 1995.

**II Panel Presentation—**

Presentation of Best Practices in the four Soroptimist Federations  
SI Americas—President Alice Wells  
SI Europe—Ulrike Neubert—SI Programme Liaison  
SI Great Britain and Ireland— President Carwen Wynne-Howells  
SI South West Pacific—Past President Eileen Mitchell

**III Presentation by Young Women Sponsored with World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)—**

Stories of HIV/AIDS from the perspective of their own countries.

**IV Interactive Discussion—led by Dawn Marie Lemonds—SI Programme Director**

What are some of the Best Practices you have done?

**V Prevention Strategies—Patricia D’Souza**

A Researcher on HIV/AIDS prevention with the National Institutes of Health in Washington will give a brief overview of prevention strategies.

**VI Prevention Strategies “on the ground” -**

Interactive discussion about prevention and the power of local and global work.



Soroptimist International Club Projects from around the World

**SI Durban, SI Sutton Coldfield and SI Kyoto** support the EMBO project near Durban, South Africa. This project is supporting grannies who care for children orphaned by AIDS. They are helped to be self sufficient by growing vegetables, cooking together and making goods to sell. £1,200 was sent recently from UK; SI members visit and take goods for the women and children. Funds are also raised in Kyoto, Japan, to further the project.

**SI Hamilton-Burlington (Canada)** has linked up with **The Stephen Lewis Foundation** in Toronto which strives to ease the pain of HIV and AIDS by supporting grassroots projects in Africa. The Soroptimist club has been funding the Umoyo Training Centre in Lusaka, Zambia, which supports orphan girls aged 14 to 18, for three years, at USD \$1000.00 per year. At Umoyo girls learn to deal with the trauma of loss, gain confidence and engage in serious academic studies.

**SI Anglesey and SI Birkenhead in the UK** support **SI Port Elizabeth** in their support of an AIDS orphanage in the town. Clothing and blankets have been made and sent after a Soroptimist fundraising event in Anglesey. Members from SI Birkenhead visit the orphanage and have taken clothes, stationery, toiletries and cash raised.

**SI Oskarshamns, Denmark**, are involved in raising funds and awareness about the East London Children’s Home in South Africa. Here HIV/AIDS affected children, who have been abandoned or orphaned, are cared for in a loving atmosphere. Members have paid school fees and provide the home with whatever is needed. Recently, garden furniture was requested and supplied.

**SI Brisbane North and SI Pine Rivers, Australia**, have been busy knitting baby clothes for babies born with AIDS in Africa. A large amount was sent to Amnesty International for distribution.



## Soroptimist International Quadrennial Project

**Project Sierra** 'A Family And A Future' is a partnership between Soroptimist International and UK based charity, Hope and Homes for Children, working in the field in Sierra Leone helping some of the world's most deprived women and children. By strengthening families at risk of breakdown, helping young children living on the streets return home and empowering vulnerable young mothers, Project Sierra will enable more children to grow up in a caring family environment—giving them the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

## Soroptimist International Club Projects from around the World

**SI Pretoria, South Africa**, have a long term partnership with Tateni Home Care Nursing services which care for chronically and terminally ill patients- mostly with HIV/AIDS. They train home based carers, look after orphans, provide food parcels and 'drop in' centres. Members visit families and answer needs of the service. Members have also provided shelter, food and education for two child headed families as well as supporting two teenage girls through school.



**SI Mariager Fjord, Denmark**, sell bags made by women in Pretoria and Mapula embroideries (an income generating project in Pretoria). The profit from the sales goes to **SI Pretoria** to continue to provide healthy school meals for the children affected by HIV/AIDS.

**SI Joondalup, Australia**, have worked with the Tabitha Foundation in Cambodia to build a house for a woman who fostered a child whose parents had died from HIV/AIDS. More such projects are being planned.



## Soroptimist International Workshop Presentation Sponsored by the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York

**Chair**  
**Margaret Lobo**  
Soroptimist International President 2007 - 2009  
E: [hq@soroptimistinternational.org](mailto:hq@soroptimistinternational.org)

**Dr. Patricia D'Souza**  
E: [PDSOUZA@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:PDSOUZA@niaid.nih.gov)

**"The HIV/AIDS Prevention Tool Box"**

Patricia works at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC, and is doing research into AIDS towards finding a vaccine.

**Young WAGGGS delegates speak at CSW**  
E: [bernadette@wagggsworld.org](mailto:bernadette@wagggsworld.org)

Two young WAGGGS speakers, Misozi from Zambia and Vanessa from Brazil, will talk about their perception of HIV/AIDS issues (care giving, shared responsibilities, education etc) from the perspective of their experiences in their own countries.

Soroptimist International of the Americas

**Alice Wells**— Federation President  
E: [programme.sia@soroptimistinternational.org](mailto:programme.sia@soroptimistinternational.org)

Alice Wells will discuss how the clubs in her federation are focused on raising awareness of the special issues of HIV/AIDS for women and girls. From Japan to Brazil to the United States, Soroptimists are working with other organizations to ensure that women and girls have access to the information that they need to make informed choices about the prevention, testing and treatment of HIV/AIDS. In addition, SI of the Americas will also release a comprehensive white paper on Women and AIDS later this year.

Soroptimist International of Europe

**Ulrike Neubert**— Federation Programme Liaison  
E: [programme.sie@soroptimistinternational.org](mailto:programme.sie@soroptimistinternational.org)

European Soroptimists support their African sisters in urban and rural environments to work for the prevention of HIV/AIDS as well as through provision of financial support to women who look after orphaned children; children who lost their parents to AIDS. Through friendship links and a project exchange pool, European and African Soroptimists reap the benefit by becoming more aware of the different aspects of the pandemic as well as being empowered to deal with its effects.

Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland

**Carwen Wynne-Howells**— Federation President  
E: [hq@soroptimistgbi.prestel.co.uk](mailto:hq@soroptimistgbi.prestel.co.uk)

Carwen will focus on projects that have enabled groups and organisations to care for children and women affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly in African countries. Many partnerships have been established between clubs across the Federation giving resources and expertise so that caring schemes have been put in place.'

Soroptimist International of South West Pacific

**Eileen Mitchell**—Past Federation President  
E: [hq@siswp.org](mailto:hq@siswp.org)

Eileen Mitchell will consider the challenges in implementing programs of prevention education and community care across the diversity of the Federation demonstrated by a geography ranging from Mongolia, in the North through Asia and the Pacific to New Zealand in the south. She will focus on a federation wide project to support a program demonstrating how to bring sufferers back into full participation in their community.



*Statement submitted by Soroptimist International, non-governmental organization*

Soroptimist International is a vibrant, dynamic organisation for today's professional and business women. We are committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

We have over 90,000 members, in 125 countries and territories around the world, who are inspiring action and creating opportunities to transform the life of women and girls through their global network of members and international partnerships. As a non-governmental organisation Soroptimist International is committed to playing its part as a Formal Partner with the World Health Organisation in the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS-UNAIDS.

Soroptimist International recognises that all caring responsibility, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS, should be of equal responsibility between women and men. Millennium Development Goal 3, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women, is a particular focus of our organisation. Our own Programme Focus Objectives include 'Eliminate poverty and gender discrimination through ensuring women's full social and economic rights' and 'Support programmes and policies that eliminate HIV/AIDS'. Through programmes of service Soroptimist International members and clubs advocate, and have developed and supported work, to promote this cause worldwide in activities such as:-

- Project Sierra: A Family and a Future is a partnership between Soroptimist International and Hope and Homes for Children focussing on Sierra Leone. It is designed to support families headed by children, young women and ageing grandparents. The aim is to provide adequate resources, education, training and small business and life skills. This enables caregiving in a post conflict and AIDS affected country.
- Many clubs are working with UNICEF in their 'Born Free' campaign. Members are raising funds in many ways to enable HIV affected women to have babies free from HIV. The funds raised resource care for the women, their babies and their future.
- Clubs, particularly in Africa, are working with communities, schools and orphanages giving support in many ways to promote positive care for vulnerable children- especially those affected by HIV/AIDS. Educational resources, clothes, cooking utensils and play equipment are provided. Members also give their time and expertise to care, train and educate the children and their mothers.

*in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council*

Many clubs have links across the world and resources to fund caregiving in HIV/AIDS projects are supported both by partnering with SI 'friendship clubs' and other Service Organisations.

Soroptimist international recognizes that there are initiatives in which equal sharing of responsibility between women and men especially caregiving in the HIV/AIDS context is integral. We urge governments and members of civil society to join with us and increase our collective efforts to:-

- Ensure equal access to resources which are available to caregivers in all circumstances.
- Provide, and ensure equal access to, adequate resources to support both HIV/AIDS victims and their carers.
- Provide education programmes, especially for teenage boys and girls in schools, highlighting the disease, its consequences and the responsibilities of caregiving within the family.
- Resource major efforts to research, treatment development and caregiving making certain that women are equal partners in all discussions and decisions made.
- Provide care facilities to all HIV/AIDS patients ensuring equal standards and dignity to both men and women.
- Ensure that child, and grandparent headed households, have resources and support available to them to enable children to continue their education.
- To support UNAIDS programmes and projects with financial resources and activities.
- Support work furthering gender equality and equity especially in the field of caregiving.

Our Members network with governments, non-governmental, voluntary and all other appropriate bodies to encourage inter-agency collaboration and cooperation, in recognition that only global programmes will be truly effective in changing attitudes and releasing resources needed to enable equal sharing in responsibility of caregiving to be a reality.

