

a global voice
for women



2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF SI (SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED





CONTENTS

FOREWORD

Page 3-4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Page 5

ADVOCACY

Pages 6-9

KUALA LUMPUR 21ST SI CONVENTION

Page 10

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

Pages 11-13

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Page 14

ROAD TO EQUALITY

Page 15

CLOSING REMARKS

Page 16

Front Cover 'Women, Water & Leadership Appeal' Mwihoko Women, Kenya

FOREWORD

BY MARIET VERHOEF-COHEN
SI PRESIDENT 2017-2019



In 2020 the world commemorates the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25), and we will ask ourselves: has the situation really progressed for women and girls?

Although we have witnessed some change for women and girls, progress towards parity remains slow. Restrictive labour policies continue to compound inequalities and the pay gap still exists. Structural inequalities lead to barriers to education for women and girls, and gender balance in boardrooms is far from a reality. In 2021, Soroptimist International will celebrate its 100th anniversary, an opportunity for us all to recognise and celebrate the tireless work undertaken by thousands of Soroptimists, to remove inequalities and create opportunities to Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls.

As SI President I joined many of the UN Representatives and SI delegates at international events to increase our visibility; to engage and negotiate, to challenge structural inequalities, and to showcase the grassroots work of Soroptimists. Addressing structural issues and developing progressive legal frameworks that promote equality. The work of our Federations fuels the Advocacy fire - providing the evidence we need to include the needs of women and girls in international development and national programmes.

The SI President's Appeal supports women and girls who face barriers to accessing education and services. My 2017-2019

'Women, Water & Leadership' Appeal responds to one of the top five global risks of the World Economic Forum: Water scarcity. With specific attention to SDG4, Quality Education; SDG5 Gender Equality, and SDG6 Water for all, for all purposes, our projects in Kenya, Bulgaria, Indonesia and Malaysia, overcome long-held stereotypes of women as 'victims' and 'beneficiaries' of the water and climate crisis. We developed programmes that not only support access to water but go further by working with women in their communities, as well as empowering and positioning them as innovators and decision-makers; becoming key-providers and drivers of water, food and economic solutions.

'MY BELIEF IS THAT CLEAR AND TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION IS PARAMOUNT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR ORGANISATION...INTERNALLY AS WELL AS EXTERNALLY'.

Our strength lies in our worldwide volunteer membership: around 72,000 professional women in 121 countries, each with their own expertise, skills, knowledge, experience and network. 2019 saw work get underway on the Soroptimist Lab - my dream for a digitally connected SI membership - a safe energetic space to share expertise, knowledge and ideas. The lab would act as a global communications platform, people-centred, and able to respond to the opportunities created by the digital world.

Continued...

The 21st Soroptimist International Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was a fabulous event. I thank all those involved in the organisation and planning leading up to this day. We delivered an event that recognised the outstanding work of our organisation and inspired direction for those physically present, and all those who would read about or watch the panels and workshops; and feel the excitement through our YouTube videos and report on the SI website. Thank you to the entire 2019 team and staff, for their commitment and cooperation, and for giving me the opportunity to serve this wonderful international Soroptimist organisation. Without the support of so many I would never have been able to achieve the above.



Let us, Soroptimists, continue to create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and where every family has the hope of a strong and sustainable future. That is the work before us as Soroptimists and all those who share our vision for this world - for our children and our grandchildren. We have to continue to work for gender equality and human rights for all. We must move beyond just recognising problems to actually solving problems, and together we can do this.'

Mariet

VISION

Women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide

MISSION

Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities

PRINCIPLES

The advancement of the status of women; High ethical standards; Human rights for all; Equality, development and peace; and, The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL TEAM 2019

SI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Susan Biggs
Beverly Bucur
Carolien Demey
Kirsti Guttormsen
Ann Hodgson
Suman Lal
Dawn Marie Lemonds
Wendy Logan
Susanna Raccis
RoseMary Reid
Mariet Verhoef-Cohen
Anna Wszelaczynska

SI EXECUTIVE TEAM

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen
President 2017-2019
Susanna Raccis
Treasurer 2015-2019
Beverly Bucur
Director of Advocacy 2017-2021
Gerda Huisman
Procedural Consultant 2017-2019
Sharon Fisher
President Elect 2018-2019
Deborah Thomas
Global Executive Director

SI COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ann Hodgson
Finance
RoseMary Reid
Governance
Dawn Marie Lemonds
Communications
Beverly Bucur
Advocacy
Hafdis Karlsdottir
President's Appeal
Siew Yong Gnanalingam
2019 Convention

SI PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Wanda Peters
PR Liaison
Marlène Van Benthem
SI Lab Developer
Gerda Huisman
Procedural Consultant
Linda Witong
Advocacy Advisor
Pat Black
Advocacy Advisor

SI HQ STAFF

Deborah Thomas
Global Executive Director
Sarah Wilkin
International
Communications Manager
Zoe Shepherd
Executive Assistant
Hannah Agius
Advocacy Coordinator

SI ADVOCACY



CLIMATE CHANGE is the biggest challenge we face today. We are in a fight for our survival and there is a need for immediate action. The world participated in marches and strikes to protest the lack of action on the part of governments during *Climate Action Week, 2019*, and on 23 September, the *Climate Action Summit* took place.

Soroptimist International (SI) looks at climate change through a gender lens due to the unique effects on women and girls. In his comments during Climate Week, The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General, António Guterres, called for more women in leadership roles, highlighting their unique ability as “drivers of solutions” when they are empowered. In rural and developing countries, women play a significant role in supporting their households, as care-takers, providers of food, and income generators for the family. Their expertise makes them essential to decision making. The Secretary General also stressed that education is critical in addressing the issue of climate change. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) assigns responsibility to Parties of the Convention to undertake educational and public awareness campaigns on climate change. In order to meet this challenge, governments, industry and Civil Society Organisations, such as SI, must work to accomplish this.

Climate change was also the focus of our work at the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) where the SI team of UN Representatives, including Mary Muia, Betty Olouch and Asha Abdulrahman addressed climate change, disasters and conflict, ecosystem management, effective management of the environment,

and chemicals and waste management. The 4th Session of the UN Environmental Assembly (UNEA-4) took place 11-15 March 2019. With the overall theme of *‘Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production’*, further themes included environmental challenges related to poverty and natural resources management, including sustainable food systems, food security and halting biodiversity loss.

WATER remains a critical global issue. SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, participated in the *International Water Conference* held at UNESCO, Paris, in May 2019. President Mariet delivered the concluding remarks at *‘Thirst for Change: Promoting a Gender-Responsive Approach to Achieve Water Security’*, a panel discussion looking at ways of empowering women through better water management and policy making. President Mariet concluded her speech with the following statement:

“BEING THIRSTY FOR CHANGE IS SIGNIFICANT - AND A GENDER-RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO ACHIEVE WATER SECURITY A NECESSITY. HOWEVER, STEREOTYPES PERSIST, SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA IS LACKING AND FINANCE FOR WOMEN IS SEEMINGLY UNAVAILABLE. NEVERTHELESS, WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS CLEAR AND IT IS WORTHWHILE TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION”.

Climate change and water were also addressed through the work of UN Representative, Dr. Liliana Mosca, at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. In October 2019, President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen spoke regarding the need for more women leaders within FAO.

SI UN REPRESENTATION - IMPACT

- SI has a team of 20 Representatives in 7 UN Centers
- Attended 22 Conferences and Meetings
- 21 side/parallel events
- 16 written, oral statements and interventions at UN meetings



DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT - planning for natural disasters. Communities, particularly those in rural areas in the global south, are less equipped to deal with increasing natural disasters; livelihoods are lost in already fragile economies, forcing people to leave their homes, and at times, sparking conflict over land and food sources. We know that during incidents of natural disasters, women and girls suffer the most. Incidents of trafficking, child marriage, and violence against women and girls increases. It is therefore important that women are included in decision making concerning disaster risk reduction and management. SI United Nations Representatives, Kristin Reynisdottir, Stacy Ciulik and Berthe De Vos attended *The 6th Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)*, held in Geneva, May 2019, focusing on the effective engagement and empowerment of women and girls in DRR.

THE DECLARATION OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE was approved by world leaders during the General Assembly on 23 September 2019. It is the most comprehensive agreement reached on human health, reaffirming the rights of every human being, without distinction, to have access to the highest standard of mental and physical health services. SI UN Representative, Maria-Laura Fornella was present at the General Assembly to witness this moment.

THE ILO CONVENTION ON VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

On 26 September, representatives of governments, workers, employers, foundations, civil society, and other stakeholders gathered together at the UN General Assembly at a high-level breakfast meeting, to urge Member States to ratify the *ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work* (No. 190).

The ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace was adopted during the annual International Labor Conference held in Geneva, June 2019. SI UN Representative Berthe Neven De Vos, from Geneva, represented SI at the Conference. This is the first legal instrument to tackle violence and harassment in the world of work.

Major points of the Convention state:

- The future of work should be free from violence and harassment;
- Gender violence, harassment, and discrimination against women will not be tolerated;
- A multifaceted approach to violence and harassment in the workplace must be adopted, and laws changed.



SI ADVOCACY

2019 was also the year of increased push back on women's rights. The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* enshrined women's equality, and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), was adopted 40 years ago, yet no country has eliminated discrimination, or achieved full equality.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

At the opening session of the *Commission on the Status of Women 63*, Secretary-General of the UN, António Guterres, warned of a "deep, pervasive and relentless" push back on women's rights. Guterres pointed to increased violence against women, defenders of human rights, and women running for political office, and the trend for governments to roll back hard fought women's rights. Guterres urged all to 'push back' against the push back, and not to give up any ground.

Soroptimists from around the world assembled in New York to participate in CSW63. To start off the busy two weeks Soroptimists and invited guests met on Sunday, 6 March at the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Organization for an orientation presented by the SI UN Representatives from New York.

Soroptimists and invited guests enjoyed an evening of networking and friendship.

SI organised and provided speakers for 12 side and parallel events. Highlighted events included a side event organised by SI and the Mission of Romania, '*Inclusive Social Protection for Women and Girls: Best Practices and Equity*' and the SI parallel event, '*Lifting Women from Poverty Through Lifelong Learning*', held on 14 March. This event focused on quality education for women and girls throughout their lifespan, as a necessary foundation for the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

SI AT CSW63

- 86 delegates in attendance
- Organised and participated in 12 Side and Parallel events
- Soroptimists attended 633 Side and Parallel events
- 32 members reported visiting their country mission in New York

SI ADVOCACY



WOMEN DELIVER CONFERENCE

POWER. PROGRESS. CHANGE

8,008 activists from 169 countries, and more than 200,000 others joining remotely, came together to discuss how each one of us might use our power to create change and drive progress on Gender Equality. Women Deliver advocates for greater investment in health for girls and women, and for inclusion and gender equality for women and girls. The Conference brought together world leaders, NGOs, the private sector and youth leaders, focusing on how to make change through the lens of power.

SI and SIA Western Canada Region shared a booth where there was opportunity to meet Soroptimists from around the world, former SI project partners, and to share with others the work of SI in local communities and countries worldwide.

68TH UNITED NATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE:

BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

16 members from SI and SI of the Americas, attended the The 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, held in Salt Lake City, 26 - 28 August 2019. The three-day conference was co-hosted by the UN Department of Global Communications, Salt Lake City, and the NGO Executive Committee, focusing on issues such as building inclusive and sustainable communities, community action for climate change, building inclusive communities through education, peaceful communities, and emerging technologies and innovation.

A highlight was a workshop on the SIA *Dream It Be It Program*®, featuring members of SIA Rocky Mountain Region, and former participants of Dream It Be It, who explained the benefit of career mentoring for girls.

Beverly Bucur
Director of Advocacy

IT'S UP TO US

'Soroptimist International works in the United Nations to be the Global Voice for Women, but the rest is up to us. Real change takes place in our local communities where Soroptimists do their work. The Conventions signed at the United Nations are the first step, but to make them a reality it's up to us to advocate for change at the national and local levels.'

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL 21ST CONVENTION, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

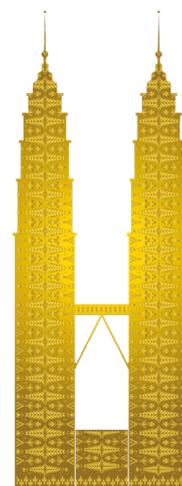


Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific (SISWP) hosted the 21st Soroptimist International (SI) Convention in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-21 July 2019. A three-day SI Board meeting and Annual General Meeting, were followed by a 'Plant a Tree, Grow a Forest Ceremony' at a city rainforest reforestation project, hosted by SI President, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, SI Immediate Past President, Yvonne Simpson and SI President Elect, Sharon Fisher.

The Convention welcomed Her Majesty, Queen of Malaysia to the Plenary Hall at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, part of a glittering opening, with flag ceremony, and the traditional roll call of SI Countries & Territories.

An opening speech was delivered by Convention Chair, Puan Sri Siew Yong Gnanalingam, and an address by SI President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen welcomed 924 delegates from around the world. SISWP President Dato Anusha Santhirasthipam introduced Christina Lamb OBE, the first of many acclaimed speakers to grace the stage throughout the mesmerising event.

Sessions and workshops covered topics relevant to women and girls including Gender Equality for Water & Food Security; Financial Security for Women; Human Trafficking; Women in STEM; and Healthcare.



**SOROPTIMIST
INTERNATIONAL**
KUALA LUMPUR
21st International Convention
18-21 July 2019
Malaysia Truly Asia

WOMEN, WATER & LEADERSHIP SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2017-2019



LOCATIONS:

Bulgaria, Kenya,
Malaysia, Indonesia
Total donations at
the close of 2019:

£411,000

'Women, Water & Leadership (WWL), the SI President's Appeal 2017-2019, Educates, Empowers, and creates Enabling opportunities for women and girls. Uniting Soroptimists from around the world, activities sought to increase awareness of the need for the full and equal participation of women and girls, by promoting the inclusion of women as partners and agents of change, from initial concept and decision-making, through to project design and delivery.

Indonesia, Southeast Asia is made up of more than 17,000 islands and over 267 million people, the 4th most populous country in the world. 'Earthquake Recovery through Water, Shelter and Capacity Building' is a project established in 2019, which joins three previous and ongoing WWL projects, established throughout 2018.

Contributing to SDG4 (*Quality Education*), SDG5 (*Gender Equality*) and SDG6 (*Clean Water & Sanitation*), activities centred around improving access to clean water and sanitation, whilst increasing capacity, experience, vocational training, and education for women and girls, to manage water resources, and gain careers in the water sector.

The projects educated local women and girls on the construction of dams, and rainwater harvesting systems, building toilets, and irrigation systems. Women were shown how to lay pipelines, and to train others in the importance of hygiene. Women and girls received vocational training in sustainability and agricultural best practice, including the use of seeds and vegetation for their specific soil, in order to increase yield and efficiency. Standard of living was improved, with women earning money for their families, increasing their economic independence, and respect within the community; their knowledge and experience now valued. As with all 'Women, Water & Leadership' projects, activities are managed, or monitored by local Soroptimists - educated and empowered through the own project experiences.

**"A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE IS VISIBLE;
WOMEN UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE RIGHTS
TO WATER, AND HAVE LEARNED HOW
TO CLAIM THESE RIGHTS; BECOMING
VOICES WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY.
SOME OF THE WOMEN HAVE ALSO GAINED
PLUMBING SKILLS, AND SET UP THEIR OWN
BUSINESSES"**

MARIET VERHOEF-COHEN



Women, Water & Leadership
SI President's Appeal 2017-2019



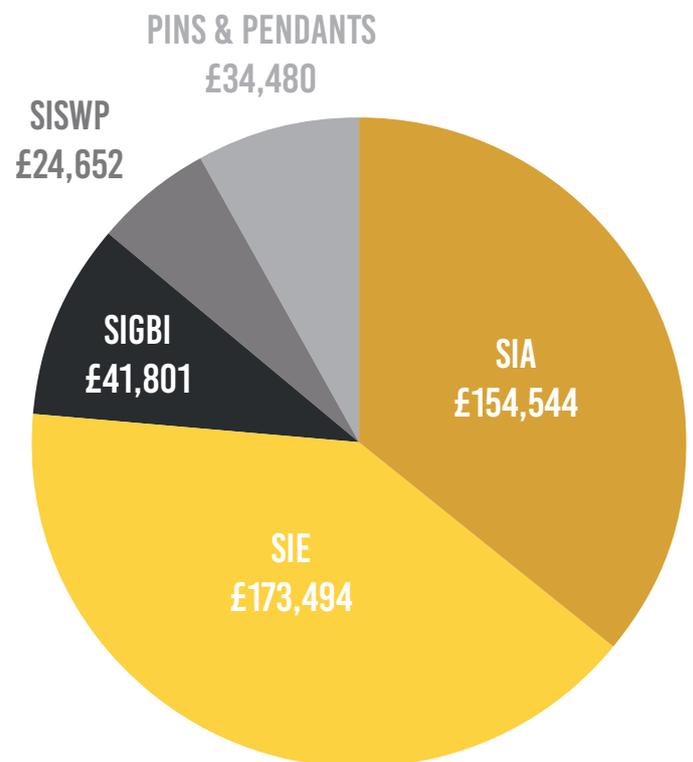
Healthy Food & Nutrition - Indonesia

'Women Empowerment through Water, Sanitation and Health' (WeWash), Bulgaria, was established to empower, build capacity and increase the leadership skills of women and girls living in rural communities. Addressing current water and sanitation issues, the project would support the enforcement of European Union wastewater treatment legislation in households and communities. The project completed in October 2019, with ongoing upgrades, and planning began for SI Club Ancient Plovdiv to commence a similar project in the Plovdiv area, and for Bulgarian Clubs to begin a mix of affiliated projects. Already 987 participants were engaged and 350 women and girls participated directly in 'WeWash' activities.

'Clean Water for Rural Communities', organised and managed by SI Region of Malaysia, is bringing clean water to two rural communities, improving the health and well-being of villagers, and assisting in generating income through the cultivation of lands, preservation of biodiversity, and sustainable organic farming. In the two villages 3,300 men, women and children now benefit from clean and safe water, and have a nutritious source of fresh vegetables.

'Water, Clean Energy, Agriculture and Food Security', is increasing access to farming and agricultural information, providing clean energy, education and water for women farmers in Kenya, Africa. Through the project, managed by the SI Union of Kenya, and the Mwhoko Women Group, women have

gained better access to water and sanitation, knowledge, tools and farm inputs, learning new farming practices - empowered to move from subsistence farming to more economically viable and environmentally sustainable solutions. In 2019, yields increased, improving food security in participating households, and harvests were able to be sold in neighbouring markets, increasing income for women, and establishing economic independence. 4,226 people were empowered, 448 of whom were women, who actively participated by attending vocational training sessions.

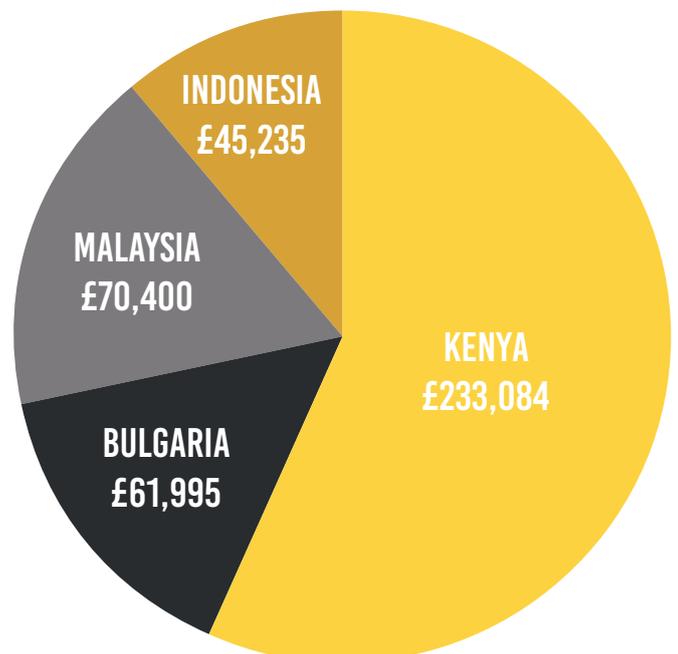


Figures based on total donations received (June 2020)



'THANKS TO SOROPTIMISTS WE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL AND BY THE CLOSE OF 2019 HAD RAISED £411,000, MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO FINISH EACH OF THE PROJECTS AND ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR WOMEN, GIRLS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.'

'Earthquake Recovery through Water, Shelter and Capacity Building in Indonesia' was implemented by SI Club Jakarta, Indonesia, in Rebuk Satu village in Rembitan, Central Lombok – home to 31 families, approximately 124 people, of which 60 are women. Recent earthquakes had taken a toll, with lives lost, homes, water pipes, toilets and bathing facilities destroyed, and crafts, businesses, clothing and food materials damaged. The project set out to improve the standard of living for the people of Rebuk Satu, and women were trained to take leading roles in WASH management, educated in literacy and weaving, and taught how to establish and run their own businesses. Today, there is access to clean and safe water all year round, with 25 toilets, including bathing facilities for the 124 villagers. All villagers are now aware of the importance of clean water and hygiene in the fight against disease.



Hafdis Karlsdottir
Chair of the President's Appeal

Total funding per project



GOVERNANCE

The SI Board of Directors recognises the importance of adhering to corporate governance practices. Governing policies, procedures, Bye-Laws and Articles of Association are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that good governance practices are followed.

The Board of Directors participated in director responsibility training to foster excellence and strengthen the governance and performance of Soroptimist International.

A comprehensive annual board assessment was conducted which considered the board's governance practices, operational effectiveness and overall performance, not only as a Board but as individual directors.

The Governance Committee ensures SI is in compliance with UK legislation and board policies and procedures. In 2019, all governing documents were reviewed and updated, where necessary. Preliminary work on updating the Convention Manual was undertaken and a draft revised manual will be brought forward to the Board in 2020.

The Board continually monitors risks in pursuing its strategic plan and ongoing operations of a company limited by guarantee. The Board's role is to fully understand the risk exposure and to ensure processes and controls are in place to minimize risk to the organization.

Thanks to the Governance Committee members, Susan Biggs, Kirsti Guttormsen, Wendy Logan, Gerda Huisman, and ex officio member President Mariet Verhoef-Cohen for all their work in 2019.

RoseMary Reid, Chair of Governance

FINANCE

The financial statements of SI (Soroptimist International) Ltd were produced in line with the relevant UK accounting principles.

The financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2019 show that the year was once again challenging but successful, characterised by:

- An increase in income for the year amounting to £287,966; which is due to the change in dues from £3 to £5 for the last 6 months of 2019.

Please note that we will not see the full impact of the dues increase until 2020, because Federations make payments to SI 6 months in arrears and 6 months in advance.

- An improvement in our investment portfolio performance, with the end of year valuation substantially higher than 2018.

The Finance Committee meets monthly to review financial performance and discuss matters of policy and process. It also meets quarterly with our Investment Manager to discuss the performance of our investment portfolio. The Board continues to receive quarterly management accounts and updates on our investments, which allows us to manage costs effectively.

Thanks to the Finance Committee members Susanna Raccis (SI Treasurer), Kathy King (SI Treasurer Elect), Deborah Thomas (GED) and Suman Lal for their work in 2019. At the end of 2019, we said a fond farewell to Susanna Raccis as SI Treasurer and thank her for all her work over the last 4 years.

Ann Hodgson, Chair of Finance



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

In 2019, The Road to Equality, SI President's Appeal 2019-2021, launched its first project on the theme of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), in collaboration with Global Media Campaign to End FGM and the 'Soroptimist Six'.

The Global Media Campaign (GMC) is a web of 375 media activists across nine countries in Africa, broadcasting directly to communities where girls are forced to undergo genital mutilation. This new generation of grassroots, digitally literate young campaigners, are best-placed to end FGM in their communities, and bring about significant change.

GMC trains activists, religious leaders and journalists, teaching them to use the media effectively, providing support and education, to empower them to broadcast directly to their own communities, in their own language, using their own words. GMC brings the most influential religious and political leaders to radio, television, and social media, calling for an end to the culture of cutting girls.

By directly funding the 'Soroptimist Six', this ongoing project aims to progress SI's contribution towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and to reaffirm our commitment to ending the harmful practice of FGM.



'INITIALLY, A GRANT OF £15,000 IS ALLOCATED TO THE 'SOROPTIMIST SIX', TO SUPPORT WORK WITHIN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, TO END FGM.'

CLOSING REMARKS

2019 witnessed many accomplishments for Soroptimist International (SI) from multiple representations at United Nations events to our global Convention in Kuala Lumpur. With strong and effective working relationships led by SI President 2017 – 2019, Mariet Verhoef-Cohen, between the SI Board, Committees and employees at SIHQ, SI demonstrated that the restructure implemented in 2017 optimised key working relationships. The administration of our international operation continued to provide excellent organisation of meetings and statutory requirements, with robust governance and training for directors. My thanks go to all staff at SIHQ for their professionalism and dedication to their work which included support to our SI Future Africa Federation Taskforce, who continue to work tirelessly.

‘A FIFTH SOROPTIMIST FEDERATION, SI OF AFRICA. THIS WILL BECOME A REALITY IN 2020, MARKING A TRUE STEP FORWARD FOR OUR ORGANISATION.’

In July, the Soroptimist International quadrennial Convention was held in Malaysia to celebrate our collective global impact with one thousand global delegates, engaging keynote speakers and inspiring panellists taking part in plenary sessions. Workshops were at full capacity with delegates reporting meaningful opportunities to participate and thought-provoking take-aways. The SI LAB continued its development in pursuit of a global communications channel for Soroptimists, continuing the work started by SI President Mariet, into the next biennium, 2020 - 2021.

‘SI PRESIDENT APPEAL, WOMEN, WATER & LEADERSHIP SHOWCASES SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL PROJECT WORK AT ITS BEST.’

Uniting Soroptimists worldwide in support of projects in Kenya, Malaysia, Bulgaria and Indonesia, delivering real and lasting impact for the women and girls and their communities supported by this appeal. The work, delivered jointly by the SI President Appeal team and Soroptimist members on the ground, also delivered outcomes for the strategic SI advocacy goal of implementing Sustainable Development Goals: SDG4, Quality Education; SDG5 Gender Equality, and SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitation for all.

As we conclude the end of this transformative and high achieving biennium, we now look forward to not only a new biennium with SI President Elect Sharon Fisher at the helm, but also the year when Soroptimist International celebrates its' 100th anniversary in 2021.

Deborah Thomas
Global Executive Director





EDUCATE **EMPOWER** **ENABLE**

