

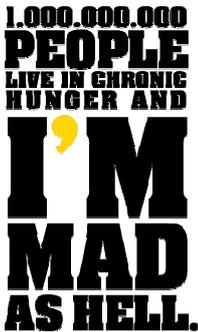
PROGRAMME NEWS

No. 11, September 2010

Dear Soroptimists,

It's time for another delightful read: The Programme News! Please share this issue with your fellow Soroptimists, friends, and colleagues!

SIGN the PETITION to END HUNGER!!!



<http://www.1billionhungry.org/>
 "We who support this petition find it unacceptable that close to one billion people are chronically hungry. Through the United Nations, we call upon governments to make the elimination of hunger their top priority until that goal is reached."

Announcement: Project of the Month

As of October, we will be officially selecting a "Project of the Month." The Project of the Month will be selected each month from the projects submitted into the PFR database in the previous month. Then, the project will be featured as part of the Programme News. For example, the projects selected this upcoming October will have had to be submitted online in the database during the month of September. The projects will be selected based on the quality of the project and the quality of the report. We have been impressed this year by the excellent use of the online database. However, we are sure there are still projects that are going unreported. The PFR database is a useful tool to share experiences and best practices with other Soroptimists. We can all share and gain knowledge from reading about each other's projects. The "Project of the Month" hopefully can also offer incentive to continue writing quality reports on your projects!

Resolutions 1888 and 1325

September and October mark two important resolutions from the United Nations Security Council: 1888 and 1325. Supported by more than 60 states, **Resolution 1888**, adopted on 30 September 2009, calls for the UN to strengthen efforts to end sexual violence in armed conflict. Rape has been used as a tool of war in a wide number of conflicts such as in Bosnia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Chad and Burundi to name a few. According to UNIFEM, women have often been neglected as

official representatives or third-party negotiators during peace-processes, but have often been leaders as victims in grassroots peace movements. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has pledged more follow-up from the UN recalling the role that the new entity UN Women will have for the empowerment of women.

Resolution 1325 is marking its 10th anniversary in October 2010. It recognizes the importance of having a gender perspective in decision-making and the importance of gender mainstreaming. Gender mainstreaming includes having gender advisors or the experience of women or women's organizations who can consider the needs of women and girls during policy making. UNIFEM chose a theme for 2010: 'Women Count For Peace' channeling the idea that we should count the number of women in decision-making posts and leadership positions compared to the number who are victims of violence or who live in poverty. As an organization committed to the empowerment of women, Soroptimists can easily feel connected to this mission and work towards

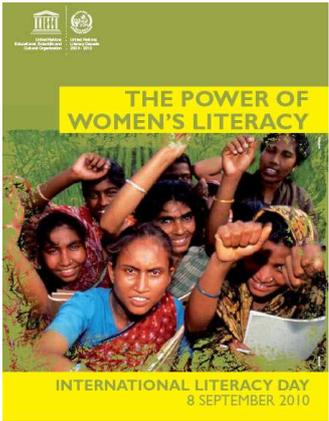


bringing the goals of Resolutions 1888 and 1325 to fruition.

International Literacy Day

International Literacy Day, supported by UNESCO, is celebrated each year on the **8th of September**.

Nearly 4 billion of the world's population is literate. However, around 780 million adults lack the ability to read and write, which means 1 in 5 adults are illiterate. Nearly two thirds of those people are women and between 94 and 115 million children lack access to



education. Recognizing the relationship between literacy and socio-economic well-being, personal freedom and development, Soroptimists can support the International Literacy Day through their commitment to education and women's empowerment.

Women and Food Security

Women contribute significantly to the world's food production. Between 60 and 80% of the food in developing countries and half of the world's food is produced by women. However, women have more difficulty obtaining land and credits for resources. Where women are not producers, they are also providers of food for the family, so they are in need of having purchasing power, which many lack. Because of their lower socio-economic and legal-political status women have been disproportionately affected especially in developing countries.

Due to environmental problems, such as the recent fires in Russia or flooding in Canada during June, there has been a negative effect on the amount of food exports. The price thus rises affecting the most vulnerable countries. The Food Security Index of 2010 ranks countries according to their food security risk. The most vulnerable is Afghanistan, followed by Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Eritrea, Sudan, Ethiopia, Angola, Liberia, Chad, and Zimbabwe. African nations make up 36 of the 50 states most at risk in terms of food security. Sub-Saharan Africa is extremely vulnerable due to extreme weather patterns and bad infrastructure making production difficult. States with recurring violence also are typically vulnerable as it is difficult to produce under such circumstances.

Featured Websites:

<http://www.gaatw.org/>: **Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women** is a coalition of more than 90 non-governmental organizations worldwide.



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

<http://www.heifer.org/>:

Heifer International is an organization whose mission is to help alleviate world hunger in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. With donations, Heifer



International gives gifts of livestock and training to families in need to improve their nutrition and generate income in a sustainable way. Families then agree to "pass it on" giving a gift of one of their animal's offspring to another family in need. See the website above to get involved!

<http://www.siyanda.org/>: **Siyanda** is an online database for gender and development materials.

<http://www.endfistula.org/>:

Campaign to End Fistula launched by UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) seeking to make fistula as rare in developing countries as it is in developed countries.



<http://www.familycareintl.org/>: **Family Care International** is committed to making pregnancy and childbirth safer around the world.

<http://www.menengage.org/>:



boys and men for gender equality

MenEngage is a global alliance of non-governmental organizations that intend to engage men and boys to reduce gender inequalities and promote health of women, men and children.

<http://www.endvawnow.org/?men-boys>:

Virtual Knowledge Centre to end Violence Against Women and Girls provides resources to engage men and boys in the prevention of violence against women and girls.

<http://endabuse.org/>: **Family Violence Prevention Fund** works to prevent domestic violence and helps victims of violence.

<http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>: The **White Ribbon Campaign** is the largest campaign of men working to end violence against women. Started in Canada, there are now movements in over 55 countries aiming to educate men and boys.



Please send your comments directly to Suba Parthiban at suba@soroptimisteurope.org