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We must build back better within an environmentally sustainable framework. Nicole Schwab of World Economic Forum emphasised the need for dialogue between all stakeholders including policy makers and the private business sector. Youth delegates spoke of the need to actively involve young people in all aspects of climate and environment action, this is their future. We must act to restore nature to achieve the sustainable development goals. UNEA 5 February 2021 and Stockholm+50 are opportunities to help develop a healthy planet for all. Nicole Schwab told us about the Trillion Tree Project which is a plan to grow restore and conserve one trillion trees around the World. Trees are one of the easiest ways to tackle climate change as they remove co2 from the atmosphere. Ireland's carbon emissions are the 3rd highest in Europe and Ireland has one of the lowest forest coverage levels in Europe. It is fitting that part of our Soroptimist International centenary celebrations includes the planting of trees. We look forward to our National Tree Planting ceremony for 21st September in Glencree. It is fitting that our next National Project launching later this year will focus on Climate Protection.

NWCI representatives and I took part in the 3rd Feminist Watch Webinar which focused on violence against women. We heard about the impact of COVID 19 globally on women victims of domestic violence who were trapped in their homes with their abusers. Women's Aid CEO Sarah Benson reported a 39% increase in the number of calls to the helpline seeking assistance.

The services to victims have been under resourced for far too long. Domestic violence must be prioritised in the housing and homeless strategy. The Women's Aid National Domestic Violence Helpline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week 1800341900 www.womensaid.ie.

Details of local refuges & services are available on www.safeireland.ie

I am delighted to confirm that 5 nominations from Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland have been accepted for consideration for SIGBI's "Who is She?" project, part of the centenary celebrations. Nominees will be shortlisted, and 100 Soroptimists will be showcased for their contribution to their communities and to Soroptimism. Members nominated are Tess Hogan, SI Cork, Anne Kavanagh, SI Dublin, Judith Ironside, SI Ennis, Dr Patricia Mc Caul Collins, SI Drogheda, and Mildred O'Brien, SI Bray. We wish every success to all our nominations.

As many clubs now take a break in July and August we look forward to reconnecting with and hopefully meeting soroptimist friends in September.

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