

Soroptimist International- "STOP TRAFFICKING"- Global Action



**Soroptimist 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.

**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.

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

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The 54<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women  
"Beijing+15!"  
New York, March 1 -12, 2010

Soroptimists meet the needs of women and girls with projects relating to the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000)



Soroptimists inspire action and create opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls through a global network of members and international partnerships.

**Soroptimist International** is committed to the protection of human rights and the preservation of human dignity. Trafficking of women and girls for labour and sex where they are treated as commodities, is contrary to this commitment and is directly opposed to the Beijing Platform for Action. Despite its intention much change must still be made to enable women to enjoy those human rights.

**Soroptimist International** urges governments to: -

- ratify and implement all United Nations and other international conventions which address trafficking
- develop and enforce legislation to stop bonded labour
- establish and monitor measures for prosecutions of those involved in the trafficking of persons
- put programmes in place to address the underlying causes of trafficking and exploitation- such as poverty and lack of education
- take measures to combat sex tourism
- acknowledge that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the trafficking trade
- adopt measures and monitoring to stop violence against women in all its forms

**Soroptimist International** supports: -

- education programmes which raise levels of awareness in the community about trafficking and exploitation
- projects which ensure refuge, protection and rehabilitation for victims of trafficking
- full implementation of the UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of violence and Discrimination Against Women
- women and girls in microcredit schemes, literacy projects and holistic health programmes

**Soroptimist International** will: -

- continue to raise awareness about the extent of human trafficking
- work alongside other NGOs committed to eliminating trafficking and slavery
- advocate for greater action by governments to eliminate human trafficking
- initiate and collaborate with projects and programmes designed to inform, educate and enable women and girls to lead dignified lives within their communities

During the 15 years following the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action **Soroptimist International** has placed its own objectives and actions within that framework. Members have advocated and acted -on behalf of women and girls- for equity and equality, safe and healthy environments, access to education and leadership and practical skills for a sustainable future.

**Soroptimists work to end human trafficking and all forms of violence against women**

**'Hopes and Dreams for Everyone'** aims to give knowledge about the dangers of trafficking to vulnerable groups of girls in Moldova. The provision of education, a place to live and work and finance which enables them sustain a dignified life is the purpose of this project. Partnering with the International Organisation for Migration and The Child Rights Information Centre in Moldova - Soroptimists worldwide are continuing a successful 4 year project started by SI clubs in Norway and Moldova.

**'Project Sierra-A Family and A Future'** aims to transform the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in post-conflict Sierra Leone. Working with Hope and Homes for Children the focus is on fragile families, young mother support and children living on the streets. So far, 129 young mothers are now living independently having completed training and 250 families have been assisted with the help of USD \$687,576.00 raised to date.

**Soroptimist International** is once again a launch partner and supports fully the second UNIFEM campaign *'Say NO-UNITE to End Violence Against Women'* continuing our commitment to improve the lives of women and girls.

**Soroptimist International** is a member organization of 'STOP THE TRAFFIK' Global Coalition. This enables us to work with organizations around the world raising awareness and implementing projects to cease this violent trade.

**Soroptimist clubs** around the world have been very active enabling women and girls to be free from violence and avoid being trafficked. Members have:-

- Initiated purple ribbon and teardrop campaigns to raise awareness.
- Held many events of different kinds designed to raise awareness of trafficking in communities.
- Designed and distributed bookmarks-aimed at girls- highlighting the indicators of good and bad relationships.
- Packed bags with basic needs to give to victims of violence and trafficking.
- Lobbied many governments about putting in place legislation or implementing legislation already in place which punishes those involved in the trafficking trade.
- Acted on the same day to bring trafficking into the public domain throughout the American Federation - through many varied projects.
- Launched 'Project StopTrafficking' in Denmark—promoting available information and raising money for a trafficking centre where victims can get help. USD \$42,000 has been collected to date.
- Shown the film 'The Jammed' in many venues in Australia and the issues were raised with the government.