

Soroptimist International &
International Association of Applied Psychology
Workshop

— September 10, 2009, 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM, Secretary of Foreign Affairs (Room 2)—

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ABOLISHING TOOLS OF WAR AND CREATING PROJECTS FOR PEACE:
MODELS OF CITIZEN ACTIVISM FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH OF
COMMUNITIES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE
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Moderators: Dr Judy Kuriansky (International Association of Applied Psychology)
Dawn Marie Lemonds (Soroptimist International)

Speakers: Marina Walker (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts)
Maty Filena (Journeys for Peace Mexico)
Fernando Atristain (United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic)
Ian Hodgkinson (Guardian Angels Mexico)
Kate Moore (Soroptimist International and Land Mine Action United Kingdom)

Co-sponsored by:

The NGO Committee on Mental Health/American Psychological Association/United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic/
Landmine Action United Kingdom/World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

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

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Photograph: Barbara Walton/EPA

The 62nd Annual DPI/NGO Conference
“For Peace and Development: Disarm now!”
Mexico City, September 9-11, 2009

Soroptimists promote peaceful conflict resolution,
inter-cultural and inter-racial tolerance
and condemn genocide and terrorism



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

www.soroptimistinternational.org

Soroptimist International is committed to the achievement of world peace and supports the promotion of effective methods of conflict resolution and arms limitation. Global peace is integral with a sustainable environment, the just sharing of natural resources, fair social and economic development and the promotion of human rights.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:-

- ratify and implement all conventions and treaties relevant to the limitation and reduction of arms
- actively support UN and other international peace-keeping initiatives
- include women in decision making processes concerning conflict resolution, peace mediation and negotiation and in preventive diplomacy
- work towards the total and permanent elimination of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons
- acknowledge that the limitation of arms and the reduction of the size of armed forces will have economic and social consequences for people of many countries
- cooperate internationally to establish new avenues of employment utilising the technical skills of people affected
- lobby and support all relevant bodies to secure a world wide ban on the production and use of cluster bombs; lobby for and secure the clearance of contaminated territory of unexploded bombs and mines.

Soroptimist International supports:-

- early education promoting the concept of peace within oneself, leading to a genuine awareness of justice, freedom, dignity and equality for all people
- partnerships with other organisations which encourage the exchange of ideas between communities and individuals from differing countries and cultures;
- the promotion of human rights for all people; the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security.

Soroptimist International will:-

- continue to work with other non-governmental organisations and appropriate bodies to monitor the actions of governments in the realisation of world peace through its involvement in worldwide international goodwill and understanding programmes support the Millennium Development Goals and all United Nations initiatives for peace.
- seek to implement in practical ways its commitment to peace, security and justice for all people.

Over the last 10 years **Soroptimist International** has worked, through their international projects, to promote peace and development in post conflict situations. Raising awareness of the importance of peace between peoples is integral to our work.

Soroptimists meet the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts and disasters

'Limbs for Life' was a partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide prostheses for land mine victims in Afghanistan, Angola and Georgia. Our aim was to integrate the victims into society again.

With the help of Soroptimist International 24,500 prostheses were supplied to mine victims.

'Project Independence –Women Survivors of War' a partnership with Women for Women International- aided women and girls in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Rwanda to regain their self respect following the conflicts. The goals were to help each woman stand on her own two feet, learn new skills to become self-sufficient, and ultimately realise her worth and her strength.

Over \$2,000,000 was raised and nearly 2,000 women were sponsored.

Soroptimists promote peaceful conflict resolution, inter-cultural and inter-racial tolerance and condemn genocide and terrorism

'Project SIerra-A Family and A Future' is a partnership with Hope and Homes for Children. We aim to transform the lives of some of the most deprived women and children in a post conflict society-Sierra Leone. This project focuses on fragile families, children living on the streets as well as young mother support.

So far over 250 families have been helped and 129 young mothers are now independent having completed their training.

Soroptimist clubs around the world have promoted peace through involving schools and community.

- Art and poetry competitions for schools have been held.
- Church services have taken place where the local community has been involved.
- The raising of a peace pole was witness to Soroptimist emphasis on peace.
- Peace was the theme for clubs in Europe for 4 years. During this time the Peace Marathon in Rwanda was established and the awarding of a Peace prize to a woman working for peace was begun.
- Soroptimists have raised awareness in the community and lobbied their governments for many years about cluster bombs, landmines and remnants of war. They have also supported demining projects, rehabilitation of victims and development programmes.
- In Finland a peace poster exhibition was held for one month which highlighted the need for peaceful coexistence and development- this was widely viewed by local residents.
- SI Malaysia has begun a campaign 'No War- Only Peace' by declaring a stand for peace in a pamphlet and joining with others in activating peace.