

Women and...climate change	2
Women and...food security	3
Women and...gender-based violence	4
Women and...health	5
Women and...human trafficking	6
Women and...peace-building	7
Women and...poverty	8
Women and...safe motherhood	9
Women and...the rights of the girl child	10
Women and...water and sanitation	11
Women as...leaders and decision makers	12
Women as...refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers	13

Women and...climate change

Soroptimist International recognises that climate change can be a natural process for the earth but human interference and excessive pollution, especially from the burning of fossil fuels, have increased the rate of the process alarmingly, putting at risk the survival of humankind and endangering thousands of species, both plant and animal. Soroptimist International recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, particularly in poor and/or rural areas. Women and girls face multiple discriminations which place them at significantly higher risks and increased vulnerabilities. Soroptimist International believes that as humans have increased the rate of change by environmental degradation, so with education, understanding and where necessary, by legislation, humans can slow that rate of change while protecting women and girls from the adverse affects of climate change and related natural disasters.

Soroptimist International urges governments of all countries to:

- ratify and implement the Convention on Climate Change adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, working together internationally to realise their aims;
- safeguard the human rights of women and girls whose lives are most adversely affected by climate change, particularly their rights to food, health, shelter, and paid employment;
- ensure that women are involved in decision-making around climate change and that all policies include a meaningful gendered perspective;
- collect sex-disaggregated data in order to monitor and evaluate the effects of climate change and natural disasters on women and girls;
- maintain support for developing countries and small island developing states in their efforts to implement mitigation measures through financial and technological assistance and to address the effects of climate change; and
- engage with civil society to ensure maximum participation, particularly for women and girls, and support for necessary changes in community behaviour.

Soroptimist International supports:

- the recognition that women and girls are affected by climate change in gender-specific ways;
- increased research and development into the use of alternative and renewable energy deployment, and energy efficiency standards of transportation and land use;
- the concept of sustainable development including the reduction in land clearing; and
- policies which break down the social, economic, and political barriers which limit women's ability to cope with climate change.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by working with other non-governmental and voluntary organisations to monitor the commitment of governments to the mitigation of, and preparation for, increasing climate change effects: using the media and other effective forms of publicity campaigns to increase public awareness, particularly on the effects of climate change on women and girls;
- **advocate** for gender-sensitive and gender-specific policies and programmes to address the disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls, particularly those in poor, rural, and indigenous communities; and
- **act** by providing support for women and girls adversely affected by climate change and related natural disasters, and applying their power as consumers, to influence a change in attitudes and endeavour to integrate sustainability into personal choices in their private and professional lives.

Women and...food security

Soroptimist International is committed to the achievement of world food security and supports interventions which protect and promote the human right of everyone to adequate food, with particular emphasis on women and girls. Women produce a majority of food in developing countries and half of the world's food, yet they have limited access to resources, a lack of recognition of their labours, insufficient purchasing power, and social, economic, and cultural barriers which threaten their food security.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- increase investment in agriculture and incentives to farmers, particularly women farmers in developing countries;
- liberalize trade rules in agriculture and ensure that women farmers receive fair financial compensation for their work;
- ensure the right of women and girls to obtain all forms of education and training, including vocational skills which teach women and girls to farm, fish, and produce food;
- ensure women's rights to own land;
- collect sex-disaggregated data to understand the differences in production, purchasing, and usage in food and cash crops;
- ensure rural women's equal treatment in land reform and access to agricultural extension services, technology, credit schemes and marketing facilities;
- reconsider the use of food-based bio-fuels, aimed at reducing competition between food and fuel for scarce land, water and other resources;
- promote access to healthy, balanced diets, specifically aimed at women and girls and ensuring that women have access to adequate and appropriate nutrition during pregnancy;
- promote the reduction and recycling of agricultural and food waste; and
- support measures which reduce the exposure of people to the effects of climate change, market instability, natural and man-made disasters, other risks and social protection programmes which mitigate hunger and help people cope with unavoidable risks and emergencies.

Soroptimist International supports:

- UN declarations which recognize the fundamental right of everyone to adequate food, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Article 11;
- the integration of measures against discrimination of particular social or ethnic groups and of women in government's poverty reduction and food security strategies;
- transparent decision-making processes of governments and clear identification of those in charge of resources; and
- policies and programmes which ensure women's access to land, credit, agricultural inputs, education and training, decision-making, appropriate agricultural or fishing technology, and appropriate income.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by supporting the Millennium Development Goals and all United Nations initiatives aimed at achieving world food security, particularly for women and girls, and an equitable distribution and access to food supplies in relation to need and gender, and monitor governments;
- **advocate** for a definition of food security which enables equitable resource distribution, food production and purchasing, for gender mainstreaming in food and food security policies, and to eradicate discrimination at family, community, and societal levels which negatively impacts access to food for women and girls; and
- **act by** supporting practical food and nutrition, education, training and other food security type interventions which empower women to gain control over and access to adequate safe and nutritious food and other resources for their families.

Women and...gender-based violence

Soroptimist International is committed to support all actions to end all forms of violence against women. Violence endangers women and girls physically, mentally, emotionally and economically, perpetuating and reinforcing unjustifiable inequalities in all aspects of women's lives. In addition to the damage to women and girls, violence against women negatively affects families, communities and countries.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- ratify and implement all international conventions and treaties which directly and indirectly address violence against women;
- intensify efforts to prevent violence against women;
- ensure that law enforcement has adequate resources and training to respond quickly to all incidents of violence against women with gender specific compassion, understanding and respect;
- provide timely and effective resources and appropriate support services to victims of violence, including safe shelter, access to legal services and medical and psychological treatment without cost to the woman;
- provide special services to migrant, disabled and indigenous women who have experienced violence;
- ensure that women living as refugees are protected from violence and have access to appropriate support; and
- inform the public at large about the rights of women and sources of assistance for women who have experienced violence.

Soroptimist International supports:

- projects that prevent violence against women and address attitudes that allow the violence to continue;
- initiatives that ensure refuge, protection and rehabilitation for women who have experienced violence; and
- education for young people about human rights and healthy relationships.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** about violence against women in all its forms and its destructive nature on women, families, communities and countries;
- **advocate** for full, meaningful, and sustainable government accountability and responsibility for protecting women and girls from acts of violence and for ensuring adequate and accessible support services, including legal services, safe housing, and mental health care; and
- **act** to implement international, national, and local level projects aimed at ending violence against women and supporting women who have experienced violence.

Women and...health

Soroptimist International is committed to a world where women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential and realise their aspirations. Failures in the health systems, reactive policy making, and deeply rooted gender inequalities at family, community, and national levels combine to have a devastating impact on women's health throughout her life cycle. Soroptimist International is aware that millions of women died each year from preventable illnesses and aim to empower women with the skills and confidence to enable them to participate in decision making;

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- continue to engage in constructive and progressive policy dialogue at national, regional, and international levels;
- emphasise the urgent need for champions of women's health in decision making forums, including women and girls;
- acknowledge that women's health concerns cover a broad range of issues, not just reproduction, over her entire life cycle, including HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, healthy diet and nutrition, mental health, breast, ovarian, and cervical cancers, chronic disease (including cardiovascular disease), violence, and ageing;
- take responsibility for the delivery of accessible, acceptable, available, and good quality health care for women and girls specifically;
- maintain effective inter-governmental partnerships and links with the World Health Organisation and other UN Agencies; provide effective and appropriate education and preventative programmes to maintain good health throughout the life span; and
- provide tools for the promotion of healthy life styles through nutrition, exercise and hygiene and adequate resources for gender based research into disease prevention and treatment of conditions affecting women's health and well-being.

Soroptimist International supports:

- initiatives working to end gender discrimination and inequalities which impact on the social and economic determinants of health for women and girls throughout the entire life cycle;
- health care that is tailored to the specific needs of women and girls;
- the removal of financial barriers to women's health care;
- preventative and primary health care programmes aimed at adolescent girls which will influence and lead to healthy behaviours later in life;
- the promotion of health life styles, exercise and adequate nutrition; and
- the availability of health training and education, especially for women and girls.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** around the specific health care needs of women and girls across the life-course and encourage learning which can positively impact on attitudes and behaviours;
- **advocate** monitoring the actions of governments and engage as representatives of civil society in policy dialogues at local, national, and international levels; and
- **act** to identify and implement simple and effective methods of disease prevention, to design and implement responsive and tailored community based health interventions and the provision of preventative health care and health education for women and girls, and work with women and girls to impart health care skills for personal and professional goals.

Women and...human trafficking

Soroptimist International is committed to the protection of human rights and the preservation of human dignity, and recognizes that the continuation of various forms of slavery and human trafficking of women and girls, where individuals are treated as commodities, is at odds with this commitment.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- ratify and implement all UN and other international conventions and treatments which address enslavement and/or trafficking of humans, particularly women and girls;
- develop and enforce legislation to outlaw forced and bonded labour, paying particular attention to the enslavement of women and girls in the 'private' sphere;
- establish and monitor effective measures for successful prosecutions of human traffickers and slave owners;
- identify and address the underlying factors which render women and girls more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation including poverty, lack of education, and lack of opportunity;
- take all possible measures to combat sex tourism both in developed and developing countries;
- cooperate with other governments at a trans-national level towards the goal of eliminating slavery and human trafficking;
- adopt a human rights based approach to ensure that anti-trafficking measures do not adversely affect the rights of women and girls who have been trafficked, particularly their rights to freedom of movement and to uphold women's rights to live free from violence; and
- acknowledge that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the human trafficking trade and by modern forms of slavery.

Soroptimist International supports:

- community education programs to raise levels of awareness about slavery and exploitation, particularly with an aim to reducing demand;
- ensuring refuge, asylum, protection, support and rehabilitation for women and girls who have been trafficked or enslaved;
- providing women and girls who have been trafficked or enslaved with assistance to prosecute their perpetrators and to obtain redress and compensation;
- the full implementation of relevant articles of UN Convention for the Elimination of all forms of violence against women;
- the three-fold approach taken by the international community of prevention, protection, and prosecution of traffickers; and
- working alongside men and boys to change attitudes towards women and girls.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by continuing to gather and disseminate evidence-based information related to trafficking and slavery;
- **advocate** for greater national action by governments to eliminate human trafficking and slavery; and
- **act** by preventing human trafficking of women and girls through on the ground projects which empower vulnerable women and girls with skills, opportunities, and stability; and by supporting women and girls who have been trafficked by providing support services.

Women and...peace-building

Soroptimist International is committed to working towards the achievement of sustainable 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 is also committed to the equal inclusion of women in all peacemaking activities and the maintaining of that peace.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- include women in decision making processes concerning conflict resolution, peace mediation and negotiation, and in preventive diplomacy;
- ratify and implement all conventions and treaties relevant to the limitation and reduction of arms;
- actively support UN and other international peace-keeping initiatives;
- take all necessary steps to end sexual violence in conflict and to support women and girls who have experienced sexual violence in conflict situations;
- cooperate internationally to ensure access to education, housing, health care, and employment for women and girls in affected areas, both during and after conflict;
- acknowledge that the limitation of arms and the reduction of the size of armed forces will have positive economic and social consequences for women and girls in many countries;
- work towards the total and permanent elimination of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; and
- secure a worldwide ban on the production and use of cluster munitions and secure the clearance of contaminated territory of unexploded bombs and mines.

Soroptimist International supports:

- gender mainstreaming in all activities relating to peace-building and peacekeeping;
- the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security;
- early education promoting the concept of peace, 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 women and girls in situations of armed conflict;
- interventions which support the specific needs of women and girls during and after conflict situations;
- training programmes which sensitize officials to the particular needs of women and girls during and after armed conflict; and
- the promotion of non-violent forms of conflict resolution and the involvement of women and girls in the development of a culture of peace and non-violence.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by continuing to draw the attention of governments and civil society to the impact of conflict on women and children in particular and demonstrating to all the economic and social benefits of a culture of peace and non-violence;
- **advocate** through its involvement in worldwide international goodwill and understanding programmes support of the Millennium Development Goals and all United Nations initiatives for peace, particularly initiatives which promote the equal inclusion of women and girls in peace-building and maintaining peace; and
- **act** to implement in practical ways its commitment to peace, security and justice for all people with special attention paid to the particular needs of women and girls, and work with other non-governmental organisations and appropriate bodies to monitor the actions of governments in the realisation of a culture of peace and non-violence.

Women and...poverty

Soroptimist International is committed to ending women's poverty by advancing economic security and rights for women. Women suffer disproportionately (by some 70 percent) from the world's poverty because of the discrimination they face in health care, education and employment as well as in access to resources, opportunities and assets. Being poor also means that women are vulnerable to exploitation and violence. Women who have suitable jobs acquire assets, invest their money in their families and contribute to the development of their community.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- ensure that women have equal access to suitable work and equal pay, resources, assets and opportunities;
- guarantee that all girls have access to primary education;
- provide education programmes, employment training, and opportunity to acquire vocational skills to all women and girls to secure sustainable livelihoods;
- collect and use disaggregated data for policy formulation to ensure that macro-economic frameworks correspond with women's priorities in their communities, especially in regard to global economic crises;
- ensure women's rights to property, land and inheritance as well as their access to credits and loans;
- guarantee that women and girls receive appropriate and equal remuneration for work; and
- take the necessary steps to guarantee payment, social security and social benefits for women who work without such benefits.

Soroptimist International supports:

- initiatives of governments, United Nations' bodies, the World Bank and civil society organisations that promote economic opportunities for women;
- all initiatives of governments and civil society organisations to promote women's participation in all economic decision-making processes;
- equal pay for equal work policies and programmes for women; and
- participation of women and girls in identifying the resources that enable them to become full partners in their own destiny.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by disseminating information and ensuring that women are made aware of positive paths to follow and publicly drawing attention to the need of ensuring that women are paid for work;
- **advocate** by continuing to work together with other relevant organisations to lobby for and to monitor and evaluate poverty reduction strategies of governments which target women and girls; and
- **act** by promoting women's leadership in all economic decision-making processes by providing training, skills development, and capacity building and by promoting equal access to education and training for women and girls throughout their lifespan, including literacy and numeracy skills, vocational skills, microfinance projects, and women-led initiatives.

Women and...safe motherhood

Soroptimist International is committed to the realisation of the right to safe motherhood. Ensuring safe motherhood, including pre-natal care, safe delivery, and post-natal care, remains one of the biggest challenges facing governments today. Delivering maternal health care requires functioning health care facilities, skilled birth attendants, and, most importantly, access to both. Maternal death and disability are also deeply rooted in women's low social and economic status, as well as a lack of education for girls, early marriage, lack of access to family planning, and poor nutrition.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- uphold their positive human rights obligation to deliver accessible, acceptable, available, and quality health care, particularly in poor and/or rural areas;
- strengthen health systems and ensure that there are adequate numbers of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care facilities with appropriate levels of staff and supplies, while also providing necessary transportation infrastructure(s);
- train sufficient numbers of skilled birth attendants and continue to involve traditional birth attendants;
- ensure universal access to reproductive health care, including family planning;
- abolish or subsidise user fees for maternity services;
- develop effective monitoring and accountability mechanisms;
- recognise and address the socio-economic and demographic factors which render women more vulnerable to poor maternal and reproductive health outcomes;
- take action to protect the lives of mothers during labour and birth by ensuring access to, at minimum, skilled birth attendants, health facilities, and essential medicines;
- support education programmes for mothers to inform them of proper nutrition and lifestyle choices during and after pregnancy; and
- acknowledge publicly the frequency of prenatal and postpartum depression in mothers and seek to ensure access to mental health care.

Soroptimist International supports:

- a human rights based approach to safe motherhood;
- proven, effective interventions, such as access to family planning, skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care, and free or subsidised maternity services;
- education and awareness raising campaigns for women and men, including community leaders; and
- programmes which are tailored to the needs of specific groups of women, such as women suffering from prenatal and postpartum depression, homeless women, refugees and asylum seekers, teenage mothers, women living with HIV, women who have experienced female genital cutting, and others.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by continuing to promote education programmes aimed at informing individuals about proper health during and after pregnancy;
- **advocate** for a human rights based approach to safe motherhood, including principles of non-discrimination, gender equality, participation, and accountability; and
- **act** by working with partners and organisations supporting the implementation of safe motherhood programmes and access to the highest attainable standard of health, by supporting initiatives for the training of skilled birth attendants in the management of complications and emergencies, and by strengthening referral networks to ensure that women have access to emergency obstetric care facilities.

Women and...the rights of the girl child

Soroptimist International recognises that, while all children are vulnerable, the girl child experiences heightened vulnerabilities due to deeply rooted gender inequalities and cultural beliefs which often place girls in subordinated positions within the family, community, and society. Soroptimists are concerned that girls, in many parts of the world, frequently lack equal access to nutrition, education and health care and enjoy fewer rights and benefits than boys.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- elevate the status of the girl child in families and in society to be equal to that of boys;
- provide the girl child equal access to health care, nutrition, housing, and clean water;
- ensure that education for girls is accessible, acceptable, available, and of good quality, particularly for girls living in rural or remote areas; that female teachers are employed where possible and that learning outcomes, in addition to school attendance, are monitored
- raise awareness about and eradicate all harmful cultural practices affecting girls, including female infanticide, early marriage with consequent childbirth;
- ensure adolescent girls' access to reproductive health care and sexual education;
- uphold government obligations to prevent, protect from and prosecute the traffickers of girls; and
- prevent and protect girls from exploitation through child labour.

Soroptimist International supports:

- the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 1990 Declaration of the World Summit for Children which gave priority to the girl child's survival, development and protection as well as all other international instruments which serve to protect the girl child and promote her well-being;
- programmes and policies which recognise the particular vulnerabilities of the girl child and address the underlying social, economic, and cultural factors which create these vulnerabilities; and
- special protection of girl children during and after conflict situations and natural disasters

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by working in partnership with other non-governmental and voluntary organisations and related UN agencies, locally and internationally, to realise the rights of the girl child;
- **advocate** by calling upon governments to uphold their obligations to protect the girl child and to ensure equal access to education, health care, nutrition, housing, and the realisation of other social and economic rights; ask governments to recognise the complementary and mutually reinforcing nature of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and
- **act** by working for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against the girl-child, including harmful attitudes and traditional practices, and sexual exploitation and abuse, implementing on the ground projects which work towards changing cultural and societal beliefs which subordinate girl children, and offering girls the skills, confidence, protection, and opportunities they need to achieve their full potential.

Women and...water and sanitation

Soroptimist International is committed to the principle that all people have the right to clean, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Millions of women and girls each year suffer from a lack of access to clean water, water-related diseases, and the social and economic burdens related to shortages in water. In many societies women and girls are the primary “users” of water because they perform the domestic work, carry out subsistence agriculture and promote good health and sanitation. Therefore, a lack of access to water and sanitation directly affects the health, education, income and empowerment of women and their families.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- mainstream gender perspectives in national and global water and sanitation planning and monitoring processes to ensure that the needs of women and girls are better understood and taken into account;
- recognise that women play a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of water supplies and sources;
- collect disaggregated data on the gender division of labour, showing the true situation regarding the water and sanitation sectors with a particular emphasis on countries in Africa and Asia;
- pay greater attention to excreta collection and disposal in the sanitation sector and provide qualitative assessments on the state of maintenance and the hygienic standards of facilities;
- take all necessary steps to ensure the personal safety of women and girls in connection with accessing water supplies and sanitation facilities;
- appreciate and understand that women generally carry the burden of gathering water and looking after family members who fall ill to water-related diseases and poor sanitation; and
- ensure that women participate at all stages of the planning and implementation of water management and governance.

Soroptimist International supports:

- initiatives of governments, United Nations’ bodies, national human rights institutions, civil society organisations and academic institutions to identify, promote and exchange views on best practices related to access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation;
- community based approaches to improving access to water which are inclusive of women at all stages;
- the treatment of water as an economic, social and environmental resource;
- water policies which focus on the management of water, not just the provision of water, and take a women-centred approach;
- a focus on women in the management and governance of water within the overall context of poverty alleviation; and
- the adoption of pro-poor and gender mainstreaming in water policies.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by drawing public attention to the impact of lack of access to clean, safe water and sanitation on women and girls;
- **advocate by** working in cooperation with other relevant organisations and academic institutions to monitor how governments are implementing appropriate measures to ensure access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for women and girls and by lobbying for more women driven projects for water management and governance; and
- **act by** implementing projects on access to water, water purification, fair distribution and management of water, sanitation with a gender balanced approach, hygiene and health care, and building gender appropriate sanitation facilities (especially in schools), and by building local capacity in women in regard to water and sanitation initiatives.

Women as...leaders and decision makers

Soroptimist International is committed to the empowerment of women as leaders and decision makers. Women's participation in decision-making, at local, national, and international levels is a fundamental prerequisite for the realisation of women's rights and gender equality. Not only does the inclusion of women's voices and a gendered perspective improve their status, but works to improve society as a whole.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- adopt and support equitable policies to increase the involvement of women in decision-making at all levels;
- provide educational and leadership opportunities to women and girls to ensure that there is equal access to positions of power and influence;
- promote women's economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment, and educational attainment to stimulate development and democracy;
- implement efficient methods to augment gender equality in leadership positions
- abolish discriminative practices against women; and
- implement legislation and policies which promote gender equality.

Soroptimist International supports:

- the empowerment of women as leaders and decision makers to improve the status of women and girls, to improve their quality of life in their community and to bring about their personal development;
- initiatives which ensure that decision making processes are participatory, responsive, equitable, and inclusive;
- the augmentation of women's capacity to participate in leadership and decision-making in all areas of life and society;
- education and economic development of women and girls as an important aspect of leadership, incorporating genuine opportunities for decision making, leadership and empowerment to prepare them to be leaders of the future; and
- the creation of opportunities to empower women economically such as microfinance initiatives.

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by publicly drawing attention to women's rights and working towards diminishing barriers while progressing women's advancement;
- **advocate** for increasing women's role as decision makers and leaders and women's access to justice; and
- **act by** providing opportunities where women and girls are empowered to be strong, independent, self-confident leaders and working with partners and other institutions to bring more women into decision making roles; and training women as leaders and enhancing women's skills to actively participate in political life.

Women as...refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers

Soroptimist International recognises that women and girl refugees, internally displaced persons ('IDPs'), and asylum seekers experience multiple layers of discrimination, vulnerability, and risk factors. These categories of women and girls are often faced with maternal and reproductive health problems, gender discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking, as well as barriers in access to resources, education and health care, and lack of participation in decision making processes. Pregnant and lactating women, older women, female heads of households, women living with HIV, and girl children are of extreme concern.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- sign, ratify and implement those international treaties that have a bearing on and recognize the rights of refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers;
- ensure access to health care (particularly maternal and reproductive health care), psychosocial services, education, and skills training for women and girl refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers;
- provide adequate security, protection, and safe environments for women and girl refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers;
- allow refugee aid agencies unconditional access to refugee camps and centres;
- provide alternative fuel and adequate water sources to reduce risks to refugee women and girls when out collecting firewood and water; and
- promote the support and involvement of men and boys in protecting women and girls.

Soroptimist International supports:

- equality and basic human rights for all women and girl refugees, IDPs, and female asylum seekers;
- the guarantee of safe, healthy, and equitable environments for refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers;
- all initiatives to combat and prevent sexual and gender-based violence in refugee situations;
- programmes which ensure equal participation by women and girls, with men and boys, in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating programmes, which ensure co-ordinated, multi-sectoral action by all actors; and
- programmes striving to integrate and mainstream gender which ensure accountability at all levels

Soroptimist International will:

- **raise awareness** by working with international non-governmental organisations, UN bodies, and other like-minded organisations to increase awareness and understanding of the specific barriers and issues faced by women and girl refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers;
- **advocate** for the realisation, protection, and fulfillment of the rights of women and girl refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers, and call upon governments to uphold their international obligations; and
- **act** by implementing programmes which protect women and girl refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers, by providing gender-sensitive support services and access to essential services such as health care, education, nutrition, housing, and legal, and ensure non-discrimination, and working in communities to transform socio-cultural norms which condone gender-based discrimination against women and girl refugees, IDPs, and asylum seekers.