



CSW66: Key Issues

Advocating for Global Policy



CSW66: Information on Key Issues

About

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) happens every year in March in New York. Representatives from countries, UN entities, and thousands of NGOs meet to discuss some of the most significant challenges facing women and girls across the world. The sixty-sixth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022. Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, CSW66 will take place in a hybrid format. All side events and parallel events will be fully virtual.

- **Priority theme:** Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes
- **Review theme:** Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session)

UN CSW is the principal intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. UN Women is the secretariat all information regarding CSW can be found on their website unwomen.org

A schedule of official meetings and updates about CSW: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022/official-meetings>. The official sessions are available for viewing on UN Web TV, Facebook and YouTube. A list of side events will also be posted on the UN Women Website. Side events are events sponsored by member states or UN entities. Register for all side events you wish to attend.

Official events and some side events will be recorded and you can watch them on demand at <https://media.un.org/en/webtv>

Prepare yourself for CSW by reviewing the official documents for CSW66. They are found on the UN Women website <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw66-2022/official-documents>. An important report to become familiar with is the Report of the Secretary General, released on 28, January 2022. This report will be the basis for the Zero Draft. The Zero Draft is prepared by UN Women as the Secretariat of CSW. During CSW negotiations continue with member states in the hopes of reaching Agreed Conclusions that advance the status of women and girls.

NGO's including Soroptimist International, will provide suggested additions and changes to the draft documents. These proposed changes are shared with members states. Please contact ida@soroptimistinternational.org if you are on your countries negotiating team or have a link to your country delegation. We can then provide you with the information you need and answer your questions.

The NGO CSW Forum is a forum for NGOs and Civil Society to come together. NGO CSW/New York is the convener. The Forum is a place for Women's Rights Groups and Feminists to come together and collaborate. This year there are 750 events you can attend virtually. Registration is free and all Soroptimists are urged to attend. To learn more about the Forum and Register <https://ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-66/>

Soroptimist International will have an exhibit booth where you can view the latest information about CSW66, participate in unique Soroptimist events and meet Soroptimist leaders. Soroptimist International has 3 scheduled parallel events that will be posted in the exhibit booth. We encourage you to sign up early.

Join the Soroptimist Lab to connect with Soroptimists from around the world and receive the latest CSW information. Learn how <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/introducing-the-soroptimist-lab/>

Don't forget to check the Soroptimist International website and follow us on social media for the most current information.

<https://twitter.com/SoroptiTweet>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SoropHQ/videos>

<https://www.instagram.com/soroptimistglobal/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SoroptimistIntl/>

Soroptimist International Position Papers and the Reading Room

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/members-area/si-statements/>

<https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/members-area/recommended-reading/>

Commission on the Status of Women 66 Statement

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UN->

[DOC/GEN/N21/393/01/PDF/N2139301.pdf?OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UN-DOC/GEN/N21/393/01/PDF/N2139301.pdf?OpenElement)

Commission on Social Development Written Statement

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd60.html>

Commission on Population Development Written Statement will post soon!

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/cpd55-general-information-ngos%C2%A0>

SI UN Representatives are active in seven UN Centres, New York, Geneva, Vienna, Nairobi, Paris, Rome and Bangkok. SI has held forms of consultative status with the UN since the 1948 and has maintained its General Consultative Status granted in 1984. An essential part of SI UN Representative's roles is to transfer the knowledge gained through SI projects to seek to guide global policy decisions, highlighting that all UN activities mainstream gender. SI UN Representatives do this by participating in UN negotiations, providing input into different UN processes such as human rights instruments, and attending major conferences like CSW. The Major Groups at the UN facilitate NGOs' and civil society organisations' collaboration, so SI is able to work with others to ensure that advocacy efforts have the most impact.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, agreed in 2015, is the first universally applicable development agenda; it is just as relevant to global north countries, as it is to middle income and global south countries. The aim of the 2030 Agenda is to achieve all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. These goals cover a range of issues from poverty, education and health, to justice, livable cities and the environment. Although drafted and agreed by UN member states, the process to develop the 2030 Agenda also had an unprecedented global consultative process that SI and its UN Representatives contribute to. Throughout that process SI joined the call for there to be a standalone goal on gender equality, and for that goal to be crosscutting for all other goals, understanding that no Sustainable Development Goal can be achieved without the inclusion of women and girls – their equal leadership, their equal participation and experiencing equal benefit from the results of development efforts. Achieving global consensus over SDG5 should continue to be celebrated, remembering it is critical in realising the entirety of the 2030 Agenda.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is a foundational document of the 2030 Agenda; its aims and ambitions are considered to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is not replaced by the 2030 Agenda, the two agendas are complementary and mutually reinforcing.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was globally agreed in 1995 and it is still considered to be the most progressive blueprint ever for advancing women's rights. As a defining framework for change, the Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments under 12 Critical Areas of Concern which envisioned a world where women and girls will live free from violence, able to access safe, high-quality education, experienced work-place equality, participated in decision making and experience their full range of human rights. These 12 Critical Areas of Concern addressed all areas of women's and girls' lives; at home, in society, the economy, the environment, and during times of peace and conflict. Over the last 25 years since the agreement of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, governments, civil society and the public have translated the Platform for Action's promises into concrete changes in individual countries. However, no country has yet finished this agenda and progress has been slow. By reviewing progress every five years, it is possible to hold governments to account and to provide guidance on best practice to realise the vision of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. These reviews take place during CSW.

This Global Policy Pack contains some resources you may find helpful, including an outline of SI's position on each of the 12 Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and some of SI's recent statements submitted to the UN. Please do use your own knowledge of SI projects to highlight how these positions are based on SI best practice that can change the lives of women and girls and achieve the vision of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Soroptimist International's Position Outlines on The Beijing Platform for Action's 12 Critical Areas of Concern

Women and Poverty

Women's experiences of poverty are often exacerbated by the everyday discrimination they face in other areas, including healthcare, education and employment. Women also are at greater risk of poverty due to resource distribution and lack of opportunities. This increased risk of poverty, in turn, puts women and girls at an increased risk of exploitation and violence. Therefore, Women and Poverty is a cross-sectional area of concern and directly relates to following critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action: The Education and Training of Women, Violence against Women, Women and the Economy, and Women and Health.

That women are often the primary care providers in families often reduces their ability to access resources and employment opportunities and can also affect their entitlement to social security measures such as pensions. One of the biggest barriers to equal access to resources and employment opportunities is gender stereotypes that prevent women from reaching their fullest potential. The current economic climate only furthers these disadvantages faced by women.

It is essential that actions are taken to:

- a) Ensure women have equal access to suitable work, are guaranteed equal pay for equal work, assets and employment opportunities;
- b) Involve women in the development and implementation of policies that are targeted towards their needs and wants;
- c) Provide women and girls with high-quality, safe, accessible and affordable education and vocational training that facilitates securing a stable livelihood; and to
- d) Guarantee payment, social security and social benefits for women who are at risk of poverty or, who work without such benefits.

It is noted that women who have suitable jobs acquire assets, invest their money in their families and contribute to the development of their communities. By empowering women and girls to identify the resources that enable them, they help perpetuate their own empowerment and the empowerment of other members of their families, communities and society.

Education and Training of Women and Girls

A life-course approach to education must remain as a prominent issue for all countries. Work with local partners to improve facilities so that women and girls are afforded education that is accessible ***This relates to one of Soroptimist International's Key Asks and/or Messages***

Access to education for girls and women of all ages is a fundamental human right, and underpins their empowerment as individuals and as members of their communities. Education is also fundamentally connected to development, economic growth, and poverty reduction.

However, women and girls still face many barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential – educational outcomes for women and girls are often unequal. Discrimination, gender stereotypes, economic and time poverty, and violence at schools, can all contribute to creating educational environments that negatively impact on women and girls.

Key areas of concern to Soroptimists include (but are not limited to):

- a) *Equal access to education: Governments must fulfil existing obligations in international treaties and agreements relating to equal access to education. The sharing of good practice should be strongly encouraged. Girls and women often still face lower educational outcomes than their male counter parts, and this can be especially so in isolated communities. In these cases, solutions should be contextualised, culturally specific, and tailored to each community.*
- b) *Educating to lead: Educational programme outcomes are connected to the ethos of that programme. By 'educating to lead', participants' empowerment will be promoted and encouraged. By encouraging this empowering approach to education, leadership skills and abilities will be promoted, and will in turn help to better the lives of women and girls. This bottom-up approach will contribute to increasing the participation of women and girls in decision making processes as leaders.*
- c) *A Life-course Approach to Education and Training: Many women lack the continuing education and training opportunities that they need to secure safe employment. It is important to recognise that access to education and training is a human right at all ages, and the women and girls have different learning needs at different times in their lives. Therefore, Soroptimist International would encourage governments to introduce policies that are outcome focused, and that are grounded in a human rights-based approach designed to empower women and girls. A life-course approach to education should be seen as a complementary measure to assist with economic development and poverty reduction.*
- d) *Literacy for people of all ages: Women and girls are still found to have lower rates of literacy, compared to their male counter parts. This is especially so for mature and older women. Actions need to be taken to ensure that access to basic literacy skills, and the empowerment that literacy provides women, is not only targeted at the younger generations but at all women and girls. Particular attention should be given to migrant and isolated communities, where access to educational opportunities may be lacking.*
- e) *Health education (including sexual and reproductive health education): Women and girls can only be empowered to make decisions about their bodies if they are educated about those choices. These choices directly affect the day-to-day lives of women. Without proper education women and girls are left vulnerable to exploitation, and are more likely to suffer from poor health.*
- f) *Access to technology and Universal Internet.*

Equal education and training opportunities for women and girls directly contributes to equitable employment and is key to improving the lives of women and e, acceptable, available, and of good quality should be strongly encouraged and supported.

Women and Health

This is a broad area of concern, and Soroptimist International engages in a number of subject areas relating to this issue. The over-arching concern is that many health care policies do not take into account potential gender-based experiences or perspectives. SI is also concerned that in many policies, the needs of women are discussed only in relation to their being mothers or care-givers. This is of course important, but the multifaceted roles and lives of women should be better represented and considered in policy development. Key areas of concern for Soroptimists are:

- a) *Sexual and Reproductive Health: The universal provisioning of “sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes” is essential for stable and sustainable development. Soroptimists support a human rights-based approach to sexual and reproductive health and recognise that universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare is reduces the vulnerability of women and facilitates their right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. Striving to provide universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and education, addresses the rights of women and girls being made a reality and is a key aspect of empowerment. Implemented sexual and reproductive health programmes must be tailored to the needs of specific groups of women including homeless women, women in prisons, teenage mothers, women living with HIV/AIDS and others.*
- b) *Maternal Health: The provisioning of pre-natal and perinatal care is essential to delivering maternal health. Alongside physical healthcare provisioning, mothers and care-givers should be provided access to supportive social assistance and mental health care. Health care systems should be strengthened to be appropriate to changing societies, and should consult with women and care-givers to best provide for and respond to their needs. Maternity services should be free or heavily subsidised – no women should be unable to access appropriate maternal healthcare or trained medical personnel.*
- c) *Drugs and Health: It is increasingly recognised that for cultural, social and historical reasons, women encounter and experience drugs and drug use in a way that is different from men (and children). This means an explicit mandate to engage with the specific needs of women as individuals is required.*
- d) *Mental Health: Mental health is an increasingly prominent issue, and must be included as an area of health care. Services need to respond and cater for the specific needs of women and should be interconnected with areas of physical healthcare, including maternal health.*

Many areas of health care provisioning and health rights exemplify social attitudes to women. It is important to recognise the legal, socio-economic and demographic factors that can render women more vulnerable to poor healthcare provisioning.

Violence Against Women

This relates to one of Soroptimist International's Key Asks and/or Messages

The lack of progress in this area since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action is unacceptable. Although changes to laws have been made, changes to society have not. The underlying factors that allow violence to happen in the first place unfortunately remain. Most approaches to reducing violence committed against women and girls have been top-down, not bottom-up. Soroptimists recognise the value and importance of the individual stories of affected women. Their experiences are nuanced and multifaceted and the stories of women must be collected and taken into account when producing and implementing policies aimed to help them. Only then can solutions be contextualised, culturally specific, and tailored to each community. Some specific areas of violence committed against women and girls that concern Soroptimists are:

- a) Sexual Violence, such as rape and sexual assault;
- b) Trafficking;
- c) Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence;
- d) Female Genital Mutilation and its prevention;
- e) Femicide, including honour killings and;
- f) Sexual Harassment.

Progressive and safe indicators for measuring the elimination of violence against women and girls must be developed. National and Regional Action Plans are a way of doing this. Soroptimist International supports the development and implementation of National Action Plans, and Regional Action Plans that;

- a) Prioritise and adequately resource policies, programmes, and interventions with education, empowerment, and enabling opportunities at their core, not just for victims/survivors or perpetrators, but for all;
- b) Strengthen legal frameworks and systems of justice to be responsive to the unique needs, experiences and perspectives of women and girls, and, where necessary, enact and enforce new laws to prevent, prosecute and punish all cases of violence committed against women and girls;
- c) Ensure that violence committed against women and girls is not labelled “private”, and therefore out of the reach of the state and/or community; and
- d) Ensures meaningful, respectful, and human rights-based approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls.

Violence committed against women and girls is primary barrier to achieving gender equality and is repeatedly reported to be an issue of most concern to Soroptimists across the ECE region.

Women in Armed Conflict

Soroptimist International is committed to working towards the achievement of sustainable peace and support the promotion of effective methods of conflict resolution and arms limitation. For peace efforts to be most effective, women must be an integral part to negotiations and actions taken to promote peace. Women must therefore be included in decision making processes concerning conflict resolution, peace mediation and negotiations, and preventative diplomacy.

Soroptimist International supports the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and encourages all countries to develop and implement National and Regional Action Plans that increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives into all peace and security efforts. Special measures must be taken to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. International cooperation and support are needed to ensure that during times of conflict all people, including women and girls, have safe access to education, housing and healthcare during and in post-conflict situations. These essential human rights should not be suspended or considered as less important during times of conflict.

More women are joining the army as soldiers, and governments and armed forces must take proper steps to ensure that women who are soldiers are also protected from sexual violence and harassment. Soldiers who are women cannot only be thought of as soldiers – they also require access to gender-appropriate services and it is the duty of the state that employs them to provide those services.

Women and the Economy

Initiatives of governments, CSOs and NGOs to promote women's participation in all economic and decision-making processes. For women to be equal participants in the economy they must have equal access to assets, employment, education, and leadership opportunities.

Integrative policies must take into account women's potential to contribute to macro and micro economic environments. Increasing the economic participation of women will contribute to increase GDP and other economic measures that demonstrate wealth, quality of life and development. Economic policies that aim to improve the participation of women must take into account women's priorities in their communities, especially in regard to the global economic crisis. Soroptimist International has continuously supported the following:

- a) Women's entrepreneurial capabilities should be better facilitated through practical measures like micro-financing and ensuring women's access to assets, property and appropriate social protection measures which provide support for women and their families;
- b) Women should be guaranteed equal work for equal pay;
- c) The creation of policies by national and international bodies that promote women's participation in all levels of economic decision-making;
- d) The development and implementation of family-friendly economic policies that recognise and encourage the sharing of caring responsibilities between women and

men and family members. Equality in traditionally non-economic areas will affect equality in economic areas.

Women's equal involvement and participation in the economy, is an integral part of the Soroptimists 'Educate, Empower, Enable' model. Where possible, please try and related all points back to this model. Economic participation helps empower and enable women, and the more they are empowered and enabled the more they are able to economically participate.

Women in Power and Decision Making

This relates to one of Soroptimist International's Key Asks and/or Messages

Women are still underrepresented in positions of power and influence, at community, national and international levels. The participation of women and girls must be seen as a cross cutting issue – they need to be leaders in the workplace, political leaders and figureheads in their communities. The voices of women and girls must be a part of policy setting at every level on *all* issues, not just those labelled as 'women's issues'. Only then will the voices of women have the place that they deserve and need. By including women as leaders and decision makers, they will become equal participants and contributors to their communities and countries. A sustainably developed world must be just, equitable and inclusive; this is only possible if women are equally empowered as men in all areas of their lives.

The following actions should be encouraged in order for women to have increased roles in decision making processes and as leaders:

- a) Women and girls should be 'educated to lead';
- b) Governments should adopt, support and encourage equitable policies that increase the involvement of women in decision-making at all levels. These opportunities should be genuine, and not just a gesture to inclusion;
- c) Policies and practices that discriminate against women must be abolished. Women must have equal access to positions of power and influence at all levels of society;
- d) It must be recognised that education and the economic development of women and girls is an important aspect of leadership, and leadership skills and abilities should be introduced at an early stage, including in education, to best empower girls as well as women.

It must be emphasised that the inclusion of women's voices and a gendered perspective not only improves their status, but works to improve society as a whole.

Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

This relates to one of Soroptimist International's Key Asks and/or Messages

This Critical Area of Concern relates to several key areas that are critical to the empowerment of women. Three of those key areas are:

- a) Organisational Practice
- b) Legislation and Legal Practice
- c) Data Collection and Analysis

Institutional mechanisms must be improved in order to close the gaps between ratification and implementation. International agreement cannot only be in words – it must be enacted. To do this proper monitoring and accountability mechanisms must be introduced, and all collected data must be disaggregated by sex. This would ensure that progress and current challenges in achieving gender equality can be properly exposed and better solutions can be provided. Adequate funding and financing has been consistently under provisioned, and previous accountability mechanisms have been weak.

Specifically, Soroptimist International and Soroptimists have consistently called for the following:

- a) For all practices and policies that are discriminatory against women and girls to be abolished. This should include (but is not limited to), employment practices, discriminatory legislation, education policies, practices that exclude women from positions of power and decision-making processes at all levels, healthcare provisioning, and social security measures. In some cases, women and girls are indirectly discriminated against by a policy or practice. These cases exemplify the importance of having a gendered perspective, as that will contribute to being able to avoid such policies and practices.
- b) For the full adoption, ratification and implementation of the UN Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, ILO 190, The Convention on the Rights of the Child and other pieces of legislation that directly improve the situation and status of women and girls. National and regional legislation is also welcomed and supported, for example the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention (Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence).
- c) Data must be collected on all indicators, and that data must be disaggregated by sex. Only by doing this can gender-sensitive approaches be properly integrated and can progress be properly monitored and assessed. This measure will also assist with ensuring that gender is seen as a truly cross-cutting issue.

The Human Rights of Women

It is true that Human Rights are Women's Rights. However, we must be mindful that due to multiple points of discrimination, the way that women and girls in all their diversity, access and experience their human rights can be very different. The increased vulnerabilities of women and girls must also be taken into account. When implementing policies and practices designed and targeted to help women and girls access their human rights, it is vital to include a gender-sensitive perspective. Soroptimists support a human rights-based approach to all the Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, and this is exemplified through Soroptimist projects. Furthermore, Soroptimists repeatedly call for, and support, legislation that strengthen the human rights of women and improves the ability of women and girls to access their rights. The Human Rights of Women is a cross-cutting theme, and so can be interlinked with other themes, especially those of Education and Training of Women, Violence Against Women, and Institutional Mechanism for the Advancement of Women.

Women and the Media

There is currently no agreed SI position on women and the media, although a Where We Stand Statement on Cyber Bullying is available on the Soroptimist International website. However, it is worth considering the positive and negative impacts that the media can have upon the empowerment of women.

- a) Positive: *The media is an invaluable tool that can be used to promote awareness of issue that face women. The successful campaigns on raising awareness about violence committed against women and girls, breast cancer, bullying, and other campaigns exemplify this. The media can also be used to promote women as leaders, and demonstrate their crucial involvement in public life. If portrayed constructively, the media is able to present women as equal participants and stimulate debate around issues that directly affect women and girls.*
- b) Negative: *The media can exacerbate the presence of gender stereotyping through its presentation of women. It is possible for the media to downplay the role of women as leaders, represent them unfairly and unequally to men, and objectify women and girls. It is also possible for the media to introduce ideals of “what a woman should be” that affects the views of young people. The responsibility that members of the media have in shaping social norms is often downplayed or ignored.*

Women and the Environment

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, particularly in poor and rural areas where services are harder to access and there may be a lack of funding. The increased vulnerabilities that women and girls face of violence, economic disenfranchisement, underrepresentation in decision making processes and other forms of discrimination are all exacerbated by climate change and in times of natural disaster. Climate change is a global issue, and countries must consider that while developing policies to combat environmental degradation and its effects on all people, especially women and girls.

It is also important to acknowledge that urban environments must also be considered as an environment. Urban development and change should be sustainable, and cater for the needs of inhabitants. Spaces must be made safe for women and girls, to help combat risks of violence. Sustainable urban design and development is able to break down social, economic and political barriers, which all disproportionately affect women.

In order for the gender-specific needs of women and girls to be best provided for, women should be included in all levels of decision-making.

The Girl Child

Whilst all children are vulnerable, girls experience heightened vulnerabilities due to deeply rooted gender inequalities and cultural beliefs which still often place girls in subordinated positions within the family, in communities and in society – they are not seen as a priority. The increased risks and vulnerabilities faced by girls need to be acknowledged in the development of policies designed to protect children, and facilitate their ability to access their rights.

Actions need to be taken to ensure that all people that work with girls are aware of and sensitive to their needs. Special awareness needs to be raised around harmful practices that contribute to the disempowerment of girls. Therefore, the following steps should be implemented to ensure the safety and equality of girls:

- a) Ensure that education for girls is accessible, safe, available, and of good quality, particularly for girls living in rural or remote areas. Teachers and school staff must be trained on the specific needs of girls, and how best to interact with them to aid learning outcomes;
- b) Raise awareness and eradicate harmful and criminal practices affecting girls, especially as those practices may occur across borders. Training should be given to those working with girls to make them aware of risks, and protective measures must be available to girls at risk;
- c) The Convention on the rights of the Child should be supported and implemented by governments to protect girls and promote their wellbeing.

The empowerment of girls directly relates to the empowerment of women in the future. The girl child is a cross-sector issue.

MARCH 3/22/22 8:00AM EST

EVENT ID #: 12768 Organized by Soroptimist International and the Federations

“OPENING DOORS to a BRIGHT FUTURE: EDUCATING, EMPOWERING, and ENABLING WOMEN”

Participants will hear of women who have overcome obstacles to enable empowerment & leadership in the world of work. Learn how we can develop the next generation of leaders through best practice grassroots programs that provide women and girls the confidence and a sense of empowerment to achieve their fullest potential throughout their lifespan. Discussion of grassroots programs designed to change the ability and social structures in the larger community that act as barriers to gender equality with the benefits of Sustainable Development.

Focusing on SDGs 4 and 5, Soroptimist International’s 70,000 members in 121 countries advocate for gender equality, develop and implement grassroots projects to Educate, Empower and Enable Women and Girls to reach their economic potential and become innovative leaders in their chosen careers, communities and beyond. Examples from the 5 Federations will be highlighted.

3/22/22 4:00 PM EST

Event ID #: 12918 Organized by Soroptimist International and Women for Water Partnership

WOMEN, WATER, CLIMATE CHANGE “ROLES AND RISKS” TACKLING THE CHALLENGES

This session will highlight the importance of Enabling and Empowering Women to contribute to effective Climate Action under different circumstances. Furthermore, the importance

to integrate Gender-Responsive approaches to Climate Change – Environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction – Policies and Programmes will be part of this discussion.

Participants will hear about:

- How to Enable Women to be Climate Adaptation Leaders
- The Catalytic role of Women in Water Management which led to substantial improvements in their lives and that of their communities.
- Call for Action from UNESCO WWAP – to facilitate a coordinated call for Action to Accelerate the Achievement of Gender Equality in the Water Domain
- 42% of the world population has no access to ICT tools and /or understandable information in their own language or the jargon used.
- Climate change and environmental degradation – consequences for women's health

3/24/22 2:00 PM EST

Event ID # 12938 Organized by Soroptimist International & Global Alliance for the Rights of Older Persons

OLDER WOMEN'S UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO ECONOMIC SECURITY

Older women face disproportionate economic empowerment challenges. Ageism, barriers to re-skilling, unpaid caregiving are some key challenges. This session will make real the implication of these challenges in lives of older women, discuss the benefits of a human rights-based approach in developing programs and policies for economic empowerment of older women and make the connection on why recognition of older women as rights holders are critical to economic empowerment, dignity and well-being of older women worldwide.