SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

CSW70 | 2026
ADVOCACY RESOURCE PACK

Soroptimist International CSW70 Resource Pack

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1. Welcome from Soroptimist International President

"It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's session of the Commission on the Status of Women, whether you are participating in New York or engaging from elsewhere in the world. Your presence is a clear expression of your commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and the advancement of the rights of all women and girls.

CSW remains a vital space for Soroptimist International to contribute its experience, expertise, and values. Here, we engage with governments, UN bodies, and civil society partners to ensure that the realities faced by women and girls are reflected in policy discussions and outcomes. Careful preparation, shared priorities, and consistent messaging enable us to engage constructively and credibly in this process.

As an organisation with General Consultative Status at the United Nations, Soroptimist International has both an opportunity and a responsibility: to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to advocate for solutions that are inclusive, sustainable, and grounded in lived experience. Progress is achieved step by step, through persistence, collaboration, and well-considered advocacy.

Thank you for the time, energy, and professionalism you bring to this work. I look forward to our exchanges during CSW and to the collective contribution we will make - at this session and in the months ahead - in support of Soroptimist International's mission to educate, empower, and enable all women and girls."

Renata Trottmann Probst, Soroptimist International President 2026-2027

2. UN Commission on the Status of Women

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the UN's largest convening on gender equality, held under the auspices of UN Women. It takes place each year in March, and gathers representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC accredited non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from around the world.

Each year, CSW has a priority theme and a review theme. This year, CSW70 will explore the following themes:

- **Priority Theme:** Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers.
- **Review Theme:** Women's full and effective participation and decision making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls (agreed conclusions of the sixty-fifth session).

During each session of CSW, Member States will negotiate the Agreed Conclusions based on a Zero Draft prepared by the Bureau of the Commission. This Zero Draft serves as the starting point for discussions, outlining proposed commitments, priorities, and actions to advance gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Throughout the two weeks of negotiations, governments engage in detailed consultations to refine the text and reach consensus. At the same time, civil society organisations, such as Soroptimist International, actively advocate with Member States to encourage the inclusion of their recommendations and key priorities. The negotiations build on existing international commitments, including the United Nations Charter and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

However, this year, consultations on the Zero Draft are taking place in advance of the sessions of CSW70, leaving civil society with little margin to actively being engaged. The final Agreed Conclusions are expected to be adopted by acclamation on 9 March 2026, resulting in a consensus document that provides clear policy guidance for accelerating progress toward gender equality worldwide.

In the meantime, the Secretariat of CSW has published its Proposed Organisation of Work for CSW70 – like an agenda. It is important to be familiar with this. You can view this here.

2.1. Side Events

Side events are official events recognised as part of the CSW programme, organised by Member States, UN entities, or intergovernmental organisations, sometimes in partnership with civil society. They must be approved by the CSW Secretariat and are usually held at UN Headquarters or other officially designated CSW venues, such as Permanent Missions. Their purpose is to support the CSW agenda by presenting policies, research, national initiatives and best practices linked to the session's priority theme. The schedule is published here and should be checked regularly.

Attendance primarily includes government delegations, UN officials, experts and accredited civil society representatives. Be aware that some side events require advance registration or are by invitation only. These side events are typically formal and policy-focused and may be broadcast via UN Web TV.

2.2. Register for CSW70

To attend in person as a representative of an ECOSOC accredited organisation you must register via Indico to gain access to the UN Building. Your participation will need to be manually approved by the organisation you apply under.

2.3. Participation

There is no financial cost to participate at the official CSW meetings inside the UN.

2.4. Collection of UN Grounds Pass

Once approved as part of the SI Delegation, you will need to collect your UN grounds pass in New York and you will need to bring:

1. A printed copy of the acceptance letter sent by UN Women.
2. A valid government-issued ID (passport or driver's license).
3. And visit the UN Pass and ID Office.

Address: 320 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017 (Ground Floor)
Hours: Monday to Friday 09:00-16:00 EDT. These hours are extended during CSW, and the office will be open during the first weekend (7 and 8 March 2026).

Important! Passes will not be issued without both the printed acceptance letter and photo ID. Expect long queues up to several hours during peak times. Each representative (delegate) is responsible for collecting their own grounds pass.

2.5. International Women's Day

On **Sunday 8 March 2026 at 11:00 EDT in Times Square**, UN Women invites you to rally with women and girls around the world to demand equal rights – and equal justice to enforce, exercise, and enjoy these rights. Soroptimist International invites you to join and march together as one organisation with one voice.

International Women's Day 2026 focuses on the theme, "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls". The theme aligns closely with the priority theme of CSW, calling for action to dismantle the structural barriers to equal justice. No registration for this event is required.

Soroptimist International invites you all to join UN Women in the rally on Sunday.

Another official event will take place on **Friday 13 March 2026 at 19:30 EDT** to celebrate International Women's Day. The UN Symphony Orchestra, in partnership with United Voices for Peace, will present its "Global Women in Music" initiative featuring works by female composers from around the world, to advance gender equality. Registration for this event is required. **You can register via this link.**

3. NGO CSW Forum

The NGO CSW Forum happens in parallel to the official CSW. The NGO CSW Forum is organised by and for global civil society, NGOs and feminists to connect them with official United Nations CSW processes. The NGO CSW Forum takes place every year and begins with a virtual consultation day by the NGO CSW New York. This year, the virtual consultation day will be held on **Sunday 8 March 2026 at 10:00 EDT** – see additional information here.

Important! The NGO CSW Forum organises the parallel events, which can be attended in person or virtually. Registration via the Whova platform and/or mobile application is required to join in person or online. **To register for NGO CSW Forum, follow this link.** When in person, these meetings are held outside of the UN compound. You do not require a ground pass to attend the NGO CSW Forum and there is no financial cost to participate.

The NGO CSW Forum provides a platform to connect civil society and grassroots efforts to UN CSW proceedings.

3.1. Parallel Events

Parallel events are civil society–led events that take place alongside CSW and are not part of the official UN programme.

These are organised by NGOs, civil society organisations, grassroots groups, networks, and activists, even NGOs without ECOSOC status. These events must comply with CSW NGO Forum guidelines and are approved by the NGO CSW New York.

These events are typically organised by civil society organisations, can be in-person, virtual, or hybrid and are held outside UN premises. The purpose is to amplify diverse voices, share lived experiences, advocate for change, and mobilise movements around women's rights and gender equality. The audience are civil society participants, activists, researchers, and allies. The format is more flexible, interactive, and advocacy-driven; often includes storytelling, workshops, and community-led discussions. It also works to facilitate advocacy at the UN and is an excellent platform for information sharing –with additional civil society briefings, networking sessions, conversation circles, regional caucuses and advocacy training.

Important! *NGO CSW can be attended in person or virtually via the Whova platform and mobile application.*

4. Soroptimist International at CSW70

4.1. SI Delegation

The Soroptimist International delegation will be led by International President Renata Trottmann Probst and Director of Advocacy Berthe De Vos-Neven.

In addition, members of the SI Advocacy Team will be present including:

- Advocacy Advisors: Pat Black (Education), Tania Gómez Herazo (Empowerment), Ulla Madsen (Environment), Linda Witong (Violence)
- Global Policy Advisor: Hana Smith
- Representatives to the United Nations: Marline McLean and Oya Dane (New York) and Pascale Muylaert (Geneva)
- Special Representative – Women for Water Partnership (WfWP): Beverly Bucur

4.2. Official Spokespersons for Soroptimist International

The official spokespersons for Soroptimist International are the SI International President and the SI Director of Advocacy. SI Representatives to the UN and others may make statements that are aligned to our official policy and need **prior** approval from the SI President and the SI Director of Advocacy. All individual Soroptimists who wish to speak during parallel events or side events should identify themselves as a member of their Club and must inform the SI Director of Advocacy.

4.3. Participation

There is no cost to participate at the official programme of CSW70 or at the NGO CSW Forum.

Travel or accommodation costs are at the full discretion of individual delegates.

The same applies to visa requests. Visa applications are the responsibility of individual delegates. If needed, an official letter provided by UN Women can support your visa application.

4.4. Morning Briefings

Each morning (9:00 EDT), all Soroptimists are invited to join a short briefing held in the lobby of the UN Building (ground floor, left after the information desk at the main hall). This will help to inform you of any important updates, plan your day, share key takeaways, meet other Soroptimists, and answer questions.

4.5. Soroptimist International Side Events

All events organised by Soroptimist International link directly to the organisation's Strategic Plan and five pillar approach: Education, Empowerment, Environment, Health, Violence Against Women and Girls.

NB: Not all events in which Soroptimist International is involved in are yet finalised, and the date, time, and location may be subject to change.

An updated list can be found on the SI website here, or by scanning the QR code.

1. **Environment/Health**
   - ***Title:*** *Climate Justice And Gender Equality: Addressing The Impact Of Climate Change On Indigenous Women And Girls*
   - **Hosted by:** Mission of Denmark to the UN
   - **Co-organised by:** International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
   - **Date:** Tuesday 10 March 2026
   - **Time:** 11:30 EDT
   - **Location:** Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations, Chrysler East Building, 666 Third Avenue, 11th Floor, New York.
   - **NB: This event is by invitation only.**

2. **Education**
   - ***Title:*** *Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls*
   - **Hosted by:** Irish Mission to the UN
   - **Co-organised by:** Missions of Mongolia and Sierra Leone to the UN, Credit Access India, UNESCO, UN Digital Library, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Graduate Women International (GWI)
   - **Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2026
   - **Time:** 13:15 EDT
   - **Location:** Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations, 885 2nd Ave, Floor 21, New York, NY 10017.

3. **Empowerment**
   - ***Title:*** *EQUALS 2.0 at CSW70: Women's Participation in Digital Public Life: from Commitments to Systems that Deliver*
   - **Hosted by:** International Telecommunications Union (ITU)
   - **Co-organised by:** Equals, UN Women, Microsoft
   - **Date:** Friday 13 March 2026
   - **Time:** 15:00 EDT
   - **Location:** Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters

4. **Violence**
    - ***Title:*** *Breaking the Code: AI, Cultural Norms, and Ending Cyber Violence Against Women*
    - **Hosted by:** Joint Office for Commonwealth Missions to the United Nations
    - **Co-organised by:** Mission of Romania to the UN (TBC) and Commonwealth Business Women's Network (CBWN)
    - **Date:** Friday 13 March
    - **Time:** 11:00 EDT
    - **Location:** The Commonwealth Secretariat, 695 Third Ave., 11th floor, NY, NY 10017.

5. **Environment**
    - ***Title:*** *Water, Our Most Essential Resource: What Governments and Civil Society Do to Manage It*
    - **Hosted by:** Joint Office for Commonwealth Missions to the United Nations
    - **Co-organised by:** Commonwealth Business Women's Network (CBWN)
    - **Date:** Wednesday 11 March
    - **Time:** 16:00 EDT
    - **Location:** The Commonwealth Secretariat, 695 Third Ave., 11th floor, NY, NY 10017.

4.6. Soroptimist International Parallel Events

*All Parallel Events will take place **outside** of the UN building, at the Church Centre or the Salvation Army.*

1. **Environment**
    - ***Title:*** *Women-led Water Leadership from Grassroots to Global Water Governance: A Special Event Bridging the 70th Commission on the Status of Women and World Water Day 2026*
    - **Co-organiser:** Women for Water Partnership (WfWP)
    - **Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2026
    - **Time:** 08:30 EDT
    - **Location:** 10th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)

2. **Education**
    - ***Title:*** *Access to Education in the Digital Era: Lifelong Learning for All Women and Girls' Equality*
    - **Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2026
    - **Time:** 12:30 EDT
    - **Location:** 10th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)

3. **Violence**
    - ***Title:*** *Turning Silence into Justice: Best Practices in GBV Judicial Advocacy*
    - **Co-organiser:** Taiwan Coalition Against Violence (TCAV)
    - **Date:** Thursday 12 March 2026
    - **Time:** 10:30 EDT
    - **Location:** 8th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)

4. **Empowerment**
    - ***Title:*** *Below the Surface of Work Flexibility: Empowering the Next Generation with Financial Health*
    - **Co-organiser:** Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) and Global Thinking Foundation
    - **Date:** Thursday 12 March 2026
    - **Time:** 14:30 EDT
    - **Location:** 10th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)

5. **Health**
    - ***Title:*** *Invisible No More: Women's Voices on Perinatal Depression, Policy, and Power*
    - **Co-organiser:** Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI), Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) and American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
    - **Date:** Friday 13 March 2026
    - **Time:** 14:30 EDT
    - **Location:** 10th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)

4.7. Joint Events

Soroptimist International is co-sponsoring several other events during CSW by providing speakers:

1. ***Side event: Access to Justice for Survivors of Sexual Violence using Digital Technology***
    - **Organised by:** Missions of Greece and Sierra Leone to the UN
    - **Date:** Monday 9 March 2026
    - **Time:** 11:30 EDT
    - **Location:** Conference Room E, UN Headquarters
    - **Speaker:** Linda Witong, SI Advocacy Advisor on Violence Against Women

2. ***Side event: No Peace without Women***
    - **Organised by:** Missions of Costa Rica and Montenegro to the UN, UN Women, NGO CSW Geneva, New York and Vienna and G100

- **Date:** Monday 9 March 2026
- **Time:** 13:15 EDT
- **Location:** Conference Room E, UN Headquarters
- **Speaker:** Berthe De Vos-Neven, SI Director of Advocacy

3. ***Parallel event: Voices Across Borders: Women's Solidarity Networks Advancing Access to Justice***
   - **Organised by:** Servas International
   - **Date:** Monday 9 March 2026
   - **Time:** 12:30 EDT
   - **Location:** 8th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)
   - **Speaker:** Lindsay Green, SIGBI Programme Director

4. ***Parallel event: Advancing Women's Justice Through Global Digital Communities***
   - **Organised by:** Taiwan Coalition Against Violence
   - **Date:** Wednesday 11 March 2026
   - **Time:** 18:30 EDT
   - **Location:** 10th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)
   - **Speaker:** Sharon Fisher, SI Past President

5. ***Parallel event: From Local Practice, Global Commitment: Taiwan's Pathways to Accessible Justice***
   - **Organised by:** Taiwan Coalition Against Violence
   - **Date:** Thursday 12 March 2026
   - **Time:** 10:30 EDT
   - **Location:** Salvation Army
   - **Speaker:** Beverly Bucur, SI Representative to Women for Water Partnership.

6. ***Parallel event: From Law to Life: How Women's Organisations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability Mechanisms***
   - **Organised by:** BPW International
   - **Date:** Thursday 12 March 2026
   - **Time:** 14:30 EDT
   - **Location:** Salvation Army
   - **Speaker:** Renata Trottmann Probst, SI President

7. ***Parallel event: AI Raising a Lantern to Expose Shadows Facing Women and Girls***
   - **Organised by:** Women in Leadership Organisation (WILO)
   - **Date:** Thursday 19 March 2026
   - **Time:** 08:30 EDT
   - **Location:** Salvation Army

- **Speaker:** Berthe De Vos-Neven, SI Director of Advocacy

8. ***Parallel event: The Good News of Collaboration: A Practical Workshop on Maximising Efforts***
   - **Organised by:** Latter Day Saints Charities and Women's Federation World Peace International (WFWPI)
   - **Date:** Thursday 19 March 2026
   - **Time:** 14:30 EDT
   - **Location:** 10th Floor, Church Centre (CCUN)
   - **Speaker:** Berthe De Vos-Neven, SI Director of Advocacy

4.8. Soroptimist Reception

A reception will be held in the evening on Tuesday 10 March (17:00 – 21:00 EDT) for all Soroptimists, at Aragvi (230 E 44th Street, New York 10017). Register for your spot via the link here or by scanning the QR code below. The reception costs USD 65 per person.

Scan to pay

5. Advocacy Objectives

5.1. Speak Up

Many events will have an interactive element. If possible, make an intervention explaining Soroptimist International's position on the topic, and giving examples of projects from your Federation if relevant. Please familiarise yourself with SI position papers and the SI statements (see below - 6). Be aware that your conversations can have long-term impact, whether that be through content or potential alliances. For this reason, our messages need to be clear and unified: one organisation, one voice!

If you are unsure about a post or comment you want to make, contact the SI President (renata.trottmann@soroptimistinternational.org) or the SI Director of Advocacy (berthe.devos@soroptimistinternational.org).

5.2. Network

Before seeking opportunities to network with other organisations, government representatives and other stakeholders to share Soroptimist International's work and mission, please contact the SI President or the SI Director of Advocacy.

5.3. Report

During CSW70, raising Soroptimist International's profile is mainly done through

contributing to the NGO CSW Forum, participating in side events and other activities including providing blogs (reporting).

5.4. Share

Share your knowledge and learning with other Soroptimists. Initiate interesting conversations and ask questions.

6. Advocacy Resources

To prepare for CSW, familiarise yourself with:

- Soroptimist International CSW70 Written Statement
- Soroptimist International Recommendations to the CSW70 Zero Draft
- SI Position Papers: Access to Justice - see more below – 6.2.
- NGO CSW New York Written Statement
- NGO CSW New York Recommendations to the CSW70 Zero Draft
- Secretary-General's Report (January 2026) **:**this is the basis for the Zero Draft of CSW70, prepared by UN Women. Soroptimist International and other NGOs have suggested additions and changes to the draft documents. These proposed changes are shared with Member States.
- Gender Snapshot Report 2025

6.1. Soroptimist International Written Statement

In advance of the Commission each year, Soroptimist International does important preparatory work, including by submitting a written statement to the Commission. The purpose of this written statement is to publicly share Soroptimist International's priority areas and recommendations to Member States. As a Soroptimist, you should be familiar with the key messages within this statement and asks to Member States.

These priorities include:

- Understanding Access to Justice
- Education Justice
- Climate Justice
- Social Justice, including addressing violence against women and girls
- Cultural Justice
- Urgency to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Urgency to achieve gender equality

Read Soroptimist International's full written statement here.

6.2. Position Papers

To better understand the priority theme, familiarise yourself with Soroptimist International's related position papers:

- Access to Justice. (a summary can be found here.).
- Criminal Justice Systems. (a summary can be found here.).
- All other Position Papers are available here.

7. Communications

7.1. SI CSW70 Webpage

You can visit the dedicated CSW70 webpage on the Soroptimist International website here. This page will be updated on a regular basis as information becomes available. The page includes details on events that SI has organised or is participating in, and more.

7.2. Social Media

Make sure you follow us on social media to stay up to date:

- LinkedIn: Soroptimist International HQ
- Facebook: Soroptimist International Global
- Instagram: @soroptimistglobal
- X: @SoroptiTweet
- YouTube: @SoroptimistGlobal

When sharing on your own social media, be mindful that you are representing both yourself and Soroptimist International. To add the most value to your posts, you can:

- Share your experiences
- Provide interesting information and perspectives
- Use relevant quotes where possible.

Please remember that what you say, and your tone can be easily misinterpreted. It is important to understand that Soroptimists will be advocating together, as a united delegation at CSW70 and beyond. If you are unsure about a post or comment you want to make, contact the SI Director of Advocacy (berthe.devos@soroptimistinternational.org), a member of the SI Advocacy Team or email communications@soroptimistinternational.org.

Hashtags

SI will use the following hashtags. Use them in your social media posts to increase visibility:

- #AccesstoJustice
- #SIAdvocates
- #CSW70

Trello

We have prepared a Trello board containing campaign materials to support the promotion of SI's engagement at CSW70. It brings together links to the CSW70 webpage, SI's official statement, and ready-to-use social media graphics for SI's side and parallel events. Access the Trello board here.

7.3. Blogs

As we are a large delegation, it is essential that we share daily key takeaways. We welcome short, clear blog contributions up to 500 words on events/meetings you have participated in that can be shared online, and you will be duly credited.

We value the author's own voice, judgement, and first-hand insights. Text that relies too heavily on generative artificial intelligence (AI) can feel generic or repetitive and may dilute impact. Should you use AI to enhance your work, please review and refine blogs before submission to ensure they clearly reflect your personal observations and key takeaways.

We will also be looking out for powerful quotes, statements, and statistics that can be used to support more impactful social media posts and wider advocacy messaging.

To ensure timeliness of the information, we ask that you submit blogs within 1-2 days of the event.

We look forward to receiving your short blogs to communications@soroptimistinternational.org.

7.4. Photographs

When sharing photographs for communications purposes, make sure they are clear, high-resolution, focused and well lit. Send photos (jpg or png files), along with a short caption to communications@soroptimistinternational.org.

Please ensure you have obtained permission from individuals featured in photos before sharing them with SI or elsewhere.

7.5. WhatsApp Group

SI will create a CSW70 WhatsApp group for communications of events. If you don't want to be added to this list, please contact Caroline Badcock (admin@soroptimistinternational.org).

8. Medical Emergencies

In case of a medical emergency, **call 911.**

If you require medical care while visiting the United States, you can visit an urgent care centre, walk-in clinic, or hospital emergency room for immediate medical care. Be aware of costs involved and ask upon arrival at the hospital or clinic.

Disclaimer: All participants attending the Commission on the Status of Women do so at their own risk. SI (Soroptimist International) Limited and its Federations are not responsible for any personal injury, illness, loss, damage, or expenses incurred before, during or after the event, including but not limited to travel disruptions, accommodation issues, or unforeseen circumstances.

Participants are strongly encouraged to arrange appropriate travel insurance and take necessary precautions for their safety and well-being.

9. A Final Word from SI Director of Advocacy

"Welcome to CSW70.

As we come together in New York and online for the CSW70, we do so as one of the largest NGO delegations participating in this UN forum. Your presence reflects a shared commitment to advancing gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls.

Our engagement focuses on "Access to Justice" beyond legal access alone, recognising that equitable, inclusive, and effective justice systems are essential for women and girls to fully exercise their rights and participate equally in society. As an organisation with General Consultative Status at the United Nations, SI has both the opportunity and responsibility to support the SDGs through inclusive, sustainable, and experience-based advocacy.

This resource pack is designed to support your advocacy throughout CSW70, a critical opportunity to engage with decision-makers and promote ambitious, rights-based outcomes. By working together with shared priorities and consistent messaging, we can help ensure meaningful progress.

Thank you for your commitment, professionalism, and dedication to advancing the rights of all women and girls.

I look forward to our collaboration during CSW70 and beyond in support of Soroptimist International's mission to educate, empower, and enable."

Berthe De Vos-Neven
SI Director of Advocacy 2026-2027