

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS, INC.®

## March 17, 2022 Summary of Board Actions

President Kazuko welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that she called the meeting in response to a request from members and leadership for SIA to make a statement and provide direction for members to follow regarding the current war in Ukraine.

Executive Director/CEO Michelle explained how these requests prompted leadership to take a comprehensive look at our current bylaws, procedures, and processes related to making public statements and/or calls to action in support or against various social, or political current events. She then spoke to SIA's unofficial policy on making public policy statements.

Michelle provided the “unofficial” policy regarding statement and the matrix of questions to help identify when or if SIA should respond. She then showed proposed edits to the policy before it was opened to the Board for discussion and consideration. The Board reviewed and finalized the policy and questions to determine if a statement is necessary.

The Board approved the policy on making public statements and the list of questions to determine if a statement is necessary, as presented.

### **Soroptimist Official Public Statement Policy**

At this time, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. does not develop, release, or endorse public statements related to political or social current affairs. As a global organization, numerous social, economic, and environmental issues face women and girls in the many countries and territories within and outside of our federation. We do not have the resources to explore and address them all. Soroptimist International of the Americas, Inc. focuses on gender equality through education to drive the most significant impact, leading to economic empowerment. As such, if the board of directors determines a public statement is necessary, it will reflect our mission and the purpose of the work we are doing now, in the past, and in the future. We depend on Soroptimist International to give voice to gender equality issues at the United Nations, where we take an active stance on various issues that affect the lives of women and girls. Soroptimist International positions are closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Goals concentrating on Goal 1 - No Poverty, Goal 4 - Education, Goal 5 - Gender Equality, Goal 8 – Decent Work, Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities, and other areas related to women's empowerment.

The Board approved that Board Leadership will work with SIAHQ Global Marketing Staff to craft a statement that includes ways to donate to SI Europe's Relief Fund.