

The Importance of CSW for Soroptimists

THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW), ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1946, IS THE PRINCIPAL GLOBAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODY EXCLUSIVELY DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN.

With this as its focus, its mandate includes drafting recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights, the monitoring of implementation of measures for the advancement of women and the identification of issues affecting gender equality. Furthermore, CSW takes a leading role in monitoring and reviewing progress and problems in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and in mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN activities.

Meeting annually in New York to discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of key global policy documents, CSW affords a unique opportunity for representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities to promote and document emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.

CSW is the largest single largest forum on gender equality and women's rights for UN Member States, civil society organizations and other international actors. This year more than 5,200 women and men representing civil society, along with at least 1,850 delegates from governments attended CSW63. This year's session of the CSW, focused the access to social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure for women and girls as key to achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG's). It is important for Soroptimist to be present at this event to be the Global Voice for Women and Girls and ensure women and girls are not left behind. To read more about CSW63 please visit: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019>

The Soroptimist delegation included more than 80 members from the four federations, with 7 members serving on their country delegations. Soroptimist International partnered with Romania for a successful side event on Inclusive ***Social Protection for Women and Girls: Best Practices and Equity*** and cosponsored and/or participated in 11 parallel events. Our signature parallel event was ***Lifting Women From Poverty Through Lifelong Learning***, that included best practice projects from the four federations as well as the immediate past and present President's Appeals.

The Soroptimist International research and statement team focused on the Zero Draft document by preparing a complete response that was circulated to member states including the UK and EU negotiating teams. The document focused on Soroptimist key asks including access to free, quality education, equal access to employment opportunities, safe access to water and sanitation, nationally appropriate social protection systems, recognition of the role of civil society, and the collection of disaggregated data. We were pleased to see many of our suggestions and wording incorporated in the final draft. The disappointment this year was the push back and attempt to roll back women's rights that had been previously agreed to by member states, prompting António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations to call on Civil Society to push back on the push back. Read the article: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/post-csw63-the-agreed-conclusions/>

Soroptimist coverage of CSW63 can be found here: <https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/advocacy/commission-on-the-status-of-women/csw63/>

Soroptimist President's Appeal Update

Thank you to the members of Soroptimist International of the Americas for your contributions of 121,546.81 GBP to The Soroptimist International's, President's Appeal, Women, Water and Leadership. Total donations have almost reached 280,000 GBP as of March 31, 2019.

SI Jakarta together with SISWP proposed the fourth project of the President's Appeal. "Indonesia Earthquake Recovery through Water, Shelter and Capacity Building". The main aim of this two-year project will be to improve the lives of the women in Rebuk Satu, Rembitan, central Lombok, by providing them with clean water, WASH facilities, community awareness programs, and access to vocational educational programs on a range of subjects designed to provide them with income generating skills. By the end of the two years, it is envisaged that sustainable practices will already be in place, ensuring a higher standard of living for Rebuk Satu, with women playing leading roles in water management, and income generating activities. The two year project will be taken over by Soroptimist International of Southwest Pacific at the end of the current President's Appeal. To learn more about the President's Appeal projects and find program resources, please visit:

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