



18th Nordic Soroptimist Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland
June 7, 2008

Resolution

The topic of the conference, *Transforming Lives – Empowering Women and Girls* deals with issues concerning women in our countries. As members of Soroptimist International (SI) we wish to reiterate some of the statements representing the positions of the membership worldwide on current topics of concern in the SI document *Where We Stand*.

Women as Decision-Makers

Soroptimist International fully supports the development of women as decision-makers and seeks to remove the obstacles that impede the advancement of the status of women. Recognising that equality in decision making is essential to the empowerment of women and to the equitable and sustainable development of global resources, it urges governments, communities and other NGOs to promote the policy of mainstreaming by establishing gender balance in government bodies and committees, in public administration and the judiciary.

Nordic Soroptimists urge governments to:

- set specific targets and timelines and implement measures to increase substantially the number of women in decision-making positions;
- encourage greater involvement of indigenous and ethnic minority women in decision-making at all levels.

Trafficking

Soroptimist International is gravely concerned about the devastating global increase in the trafficking of human beings, especially women and children and condemns this trans-national crime as a gross violation of human rights. Recognising that it has become too wide for single governments to fight, it urges total international co-operation in bringing perpetrators to justice.

Nordic Soroptimists urge governments to:

- inform and create awareness of trafficking at all levels in society;
- support and rehabilitate trafficked victims, by the provision of appropriate housing, medical and psychological counselling and information regarding legal rights;
- provide victims of trafficking with assistance to prosecute their perpetrators;
- penalise severely those who benefit from the trafficking of human beings.

Nordic Soroptimists further urge governments to ratify and implement all instruments, which address trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficking of human beings for slavery. We urge governments to reconsider their legislations and to establish comprehensive policies, educational programmes and other measures.

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Asgerdur Kjartansdottir
President SI/Iceland

Handwritten signature of Thea Dalsgaard in cursive script.

Thea Dalsgaard
President SI/Denmark

Handwritten signature of Annika Sajalinna in cursive script.

Annika Sajalinna
President SI/Finland

Handwritten signature of Solveig Haug Urdal in cursive script.

Solveig Haug Urdal
President SI/ Norway

Handwritten signature of Lis Palm in cursive script.

Lis Palm
President SI/Sweden