



The  
**Executive Office**

[www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](http://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

Stormont Castle  
BELFAST  
BT4 3TT

Tel: 028 9037 8158  
Fax: 028 9037-8040  
E-mail: [ps.ministers@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ps.ministers@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk)

Ms Ann Dawson  
Soroptimist International  
Great Britain & Ireland  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Beckwith House  
Wellington Road North  
STOCKPORT  
SK4 1AF

Our Ref: COR/1048/16

14 October 2016

Dear Ms Dawson

Thank you for your letter in relation to the Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland 82<sup>nd</sup> Federation Conference.

We welcome the opportunity to provide a greeting for your conference and would ask that you share the attached words with your delegates.

Yours sincerely

**RT HON ARLENE FOSTER MLA**  
First Minister

**MARTIN McGUINNESS MLA**  
deputy First Minister

It is a pleasure to extend greetings to everyone attending the 82<sup>nd</sup> Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland Federation Conference in Malta.

We are very aware of the tireless work your members carry out to promote human rights and improve the lives of women and girls through many diverse activities in local, national and international communities.

We note with interest the theme of this year's conference "Engineering the Future" which is intended to embrace the broader theme of women in STEM and about the difference you as Soroptimists can 'engineer' through your work in educating, enabling and empowering the lives of women and girls.

We recognise the importance of increasing skills in subject areas such as STEM which are important to our economy and we have measures in place to support this. However, it is also heartening to note that more women and girls, throughout the world, may well be encouraged to take up STEM subjects due to the profile afforded it through your conference.

The Northern Ireland Executive is committed to gender equality. The vision for gender equality in Northern Ireland is "A society in which men and women are equally respected and valued as individuals in all of our multiple identities, sharing equality of opportunity, rights and responsibilities in all aspects of our lives."

Please accept our best wishes for a productive and enjoyable conference.