



November 2016

On behalf of the Labour Party, I am delighted to pass on our best wishes to all those gathered at Soroptimist International's 2016 Conference.

Labour has a proud history of fighting for women's equality and empowering women and girls the world over. We are an internationalist party, and believe that true liberation for women can only be achieved when every girl and woman, regardless of where they were born and where they reside, are free to determine their own lives.

Your key areas of work – on advocacy, economic empowerment, education, environmental sustainability, food security and health care, and violence and conflict resolution – paint the picture of a world in which every girl and woman can thrive.

We know this cannot be achieved by governments alone. The role of the women's movement and organisations like your own, that harness the power and imagination of women the world over, are fundamental in the battle for women's equality.

The Labour Party believes in collectivism; *that by the strength of our common endeavour we achieve more than we achieve alone*. Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland epitomise the power of collectivism and collective action. Your ability to bring women together across the globe to learn from one another and to understand the true experiences of women will bring a better world now and in the future.

Thank you for all that you do. Your dedication is a reminder to us all that there is a long way to go to achieve true equality, but with the help of your work, we know we can achieve it.

I hope you have a successful and meaningful Conference and I look forward to working with you on our common aims.

Best wishes,

Sarah Champion MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities

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