





Regional President Melanie and National Association President Mary warmly invite you to join them at their Joint North South Conference (virtually) on Saturday 22 May 2021 at 10.00am.

<i>Regional President Melanie</i>	<i>National Association President Mary</i>
 <p>“Courage for Change” encompasses the challenges we have all faced in the light of the pandemic. Courage to change our ways of doing things, courage to embrace new technology and courage to tackle some of the issues arising from such a difficult period in time. Women have been disproportionately affected by COVID and we, as an organisation who protect, promote and uphold the rights of women and girls, have been working tirelessly through projects and service to improve their lives.</p>	 <p>‘Stay Connected’ is the theme for my Presidency as I believe my most important objective is to encourage clubs to continue to function, club members to look out and care for one another and keep our focus on programme action. The virtual format has enabled a connection with Soroptimists worldwide and enhanced the local and regional connections.</p>

Using both of their themes for the 2020-2021 year, “Courage for Change” and “Stay Connected”, delegates will hear from two inspiring speakers

	<p>Jennifer Smyth, a 24 year old graduate from Birmingham University in Product Design. Jennifer exhibited her work in London Business Design Centre and produced devices aimed to help people with disabilities. Jennifer was a keen and successful gymnast but sustained a life changing neck injury during a training session. Jennifer decided that she wanted to walk again and inspires countless people with her Facebook group Jennifer’s Journey.</p>
	<p>"Alison O'Connor is a journalist, broadcaster and author. She writes a weekly column for The Irish Examiner, and as a current affairs commentator appears regularly on radio and television, including on RTE's Claire Byrne Live, and Virgin Media's The Tonight Show. Her most recent book "It's a Yes", co written with the directors of the It's a Yes campaign, examines the hugely successful, female-led, Repeal the 8th campaign."</p>

Listen to International President Elect Maureen Maguire and Federation President Johanna Raffan who will also bring messages to the event and the Winners of the 2020 Youth Award Competitions both in Northern Ireland (Anna Woodside) and the Republic of Ireland (Isobel Tiernan) will be presenting their chosen topics.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAkduqvqDwsGNxXBtNNpFV9DNGa7uGa58zA>