

Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
First Minister of Scotland



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29 August 2022

Dear Delegates

**88<sup>th</sup> Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland Federation Conference**

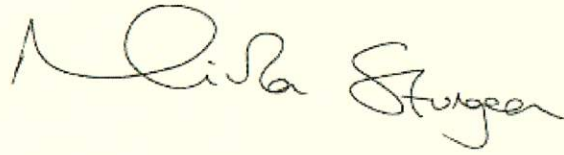
I am very pleased to offer my greetings and best wishes to the delegates of the Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland's 88<sup>th</sup> Conference.

This will be the first in-person conference since before the Coronavirus pandemic and it is great to see such important events being held which continue to foster networks and connections that are essential to us.

The past few years have been extremely difficult for everyone and this year people around the world have been confronted by new pressing challenges, particularly Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine and the growing cost of living and debt crisis. In the midst of these crisis we must remember and act on the climate emergency which remains one of the most significant issues facing our world. The record temperatures experienced in the UK and Europe over the Summer have been a stark reminder that we are all, already being impacted by climate change.

Which is why we need to see action and change, now. As John F. Kennedy said poignantly 'if not us, who? If not now, when?' That is why this year's theme 'Climate for change' for the conference is so timely.

I congratulate all the work done to date by Soroptimists around the world to improve the lives of women and girls, working hard at local, national and international levels to “educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls”. Please accept my very best wishes for another successful conference and I look forward to hearing of the continued efforts of the Soroptimists.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Sturgeon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**NICOLA STURGEON**