

You are Invited! Soroptimist Road Trip



October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2021

Since not everyone has received my invitation offered in KL, it is my pleasure to invite you on our Soroptimist Road Trip. Our Soroptimist journey over the last 98 years has taken us into 122 countries to transform the lives of women and girls. This road trip is going to take us further if we all get on board the bus and travel together to our 100th Anniversary. As we travel there are many more friends to make as we advance the human rights and Equality of women and girls through empowerment and education. I am asking all Soroptimists to please join me on this 2 year journey as we travel The Road to Equality.

What to Bring for the Road Trip!



**Hearts
Minds
Voices
Passions
Money**

Bring your open minds and be prepared to understand & talk about adversity, resilience and progress.

Bring your hearts to show how much Soroptimists care.

Bring your voices to turn up the volume on our Global Voice.

Bring your passion since stories are best shared with energy & enthusiasm.

And of course bring your purses as spending money to keep the bus running will surely make our trip a success as we come to places on the road where women and girls who are the furthest behind will have a chance to catch the bus.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



To quote UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres “Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the “unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world”.

Next year will mark 75 years since the founding of the United Nations. From the Declaration of Human Rights saying all persons are equal to CEDAW considered the Bill of Rights for Women, to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, considered the most progressive blueprint for advancing women; to the 2030 Agenda; a shared global vision for sustainable development; women and girls are still denied their human rights, often simply because of their gender. Member States pledged that no one will be left behind and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first and while some progress has been made, there are still so many disparities.



The Road to Equality

SI PRESIDENT'S APPEAL 2019 - 2021

Women and girls represent half the world's population and therefore, half of its potential. We have many miles to travel on this long road to achieve full equality of rights and opportunities. Therefore it is of paramount importance to end the multiple forms of gender violence and secure equal access to quality education and health, economic resources and participation in leadership, decision making and political life. So please join me and bring your friends on this road trip as we travel: "The Road to Equality" the focus of the Presidents Appeal for the next 2 years.

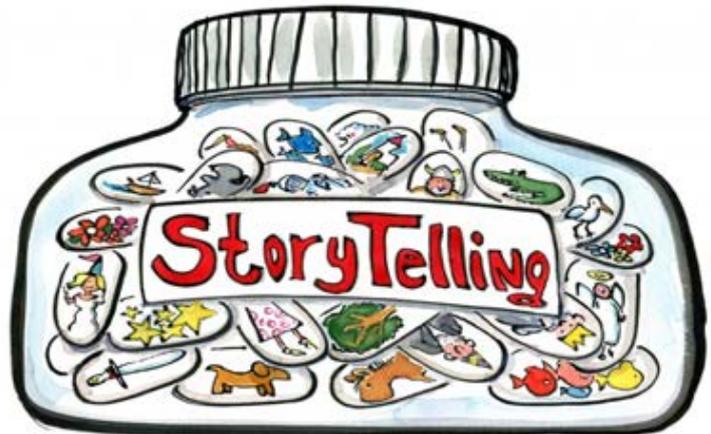
On this Road to Equality we want to use seminars, webinars, networking partnerships, our networks of neighbours, friends and family and our lived experiences to turn up the volume on the Rights of Women and Girls.

To ensure the sustainability of our organization we need to come together globally and locally to work on the complex problems that are creating turmoil in our world. We need to work with others. We need to fight the pushback. We need to celebrate the perseverance of those who have overcome adversity for they are the ones that can rise up and tell their stories. Let's change the narrative to show the benefits of equality and not spend time debating which issue is the most important. Gender Equality is a cross cutting issue and women and girls are at the centre.



PRESIDENTS APPEAL 2019-2021

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



We will target some of the worst causes of inequality and learn the root causes, hear stories from those who are in the “fight” for change and develop our voices to become advocates. Change comes when enough people are talking and if you know the topic and you tell one person and they tell one person and they tell one person until so many are talking about something it cannot be ignored. We have eager Soroptimist members who want to tell you their stories after being impacted by the issues we will bring to the appeal. We have global friends we work with, we have UN Reps who follow these issues and we have Position papers called Where We Stand that align with each chosen topic and most importantly we have you and all your friends to talk the talk.

With your generosity the appeal will support issues and bring you the stories that will supplement our Soroptimist advocacy initiatives.

Topics may include FGM, Child and Forced Marriage, the Rights of Older Women, Domestic Violence, Modern Day Slavery and Migration.

The chosen topics will first become the subject of a project that will give us the stories we need, the advocacy support we know is vital and the resulting impact that is mandatory.

Secondly, we will encourage seminars, webinars and forums in your local areas to share the stories and find your own local hero's to collaborate with and thirdly we will collaborate globally with other organizations thereby increasing our profile.



6 FEBRUARY
International Day of
**ZERO
TOLERANCE**
for
**FEMALE
GENITAL
MUTILATION**

#EndFGM

FGM/C



On the Road to Equality I want us to learn why Female Genital Mutilation has no place in 2019. On the road to equality an adolescent girl should not need to have her genitals cut with a razor blade whether it is a prick, a snip or a full cutting where she risks bleeding to death or suffering from lifelong trauma from the experience. How can she be a successful student and achieve her potential after such a ritual. Why is it necessary? Is it simply because that is the way it has always been. Of course once a girl is cut they are ready for marriage and this while they are often still children thus entering a world of hard work and thus denied an education. They no longer bind a girl's feet in China to prepare them for marriage all because someone challenged it until it stopped. Meet the Global Media Campaign our new friends who are getting results never before seen in getting mothers to stop cutting their daughters.



You are going to become friends with 6 amazing women from Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia and Somalia who use media to break the silence on this practice.

Child marriage is no happily-ever-after



1 in 3 GIRLS in developing countries **ARE MARRIED** by the age of 18



1 in 9 ARE MARRIED before the age of 15

Our bus is going to follow their journey helping where we can and bring back their stories from remote villages and big cities throughout the country. These are the people who will end FGM and make Child Marriage unacceptable.



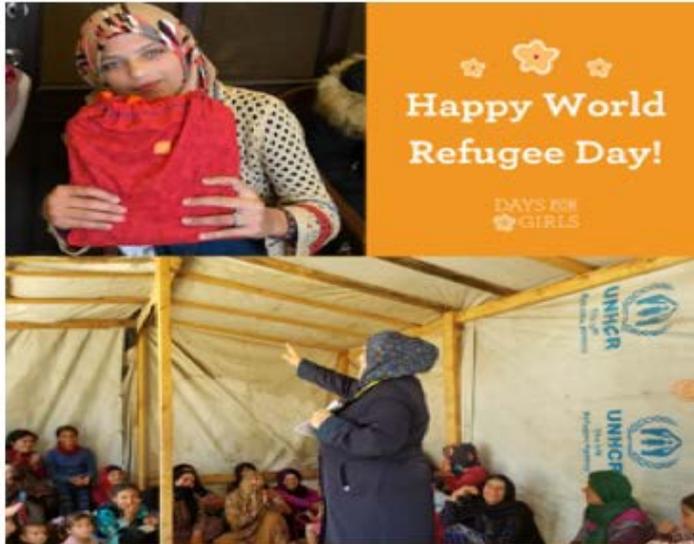
The Rights of Older Women



↑
Frances, UN Rep NY
Expert Speaker

On the Road to Equality I want us to learn about the Rights of Older Women, invisible women with no voice, often isolated and with no social protection and need our help to secure their rights. Only recently are these women even being counted in statistics. Women over 50 are just as relevant as women under 50. Look around this room and try and tell me we are not relevant!

Migration



Sanitation in Refugee Camps



On the Road to Equality I want us to lend a voice for women and girls who have been forced to migrate and find they are experiencing new and harsh realities on their journey to an unknown future.



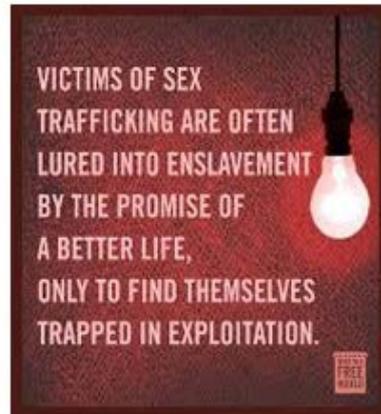
Domestic Violence



On the Road to Equality the impact of Gender Based Violence including Modern Day Slavery & Domestic Violence must be in the conversation.



Modern Day Slavery



And on the Road to Equality I want us to honor and check in on the work we have done in past appeals because in those places along the road we already have many friends.

Many projects undertaken by our clubs around the world have supported women and girls in overcoming tremendous adversity. This is the life blood of the Soroptimist organization. However, just as important is creating conversations with neighbours, friends and families that allow women and girls to tell their stories as they become respected advocates and find their way into leadership and decision making circles. Soroptimist International is committed to advocacy and being a Global Voice for Women and to be effective advocates for those who are being left behind we need to learn why they are there in the first place.



The Team Leaders

- Ayushi Kundu, SIGBI
- Human Rights Lawyer



- Olga Sidenko, SIE
- Masters in Accountancy & Audit
- International Trade Experience
- Migration, Refugee Consultant



Our PA committee has someone from every Federation and is led by your own, Ayushi Kundu from India and her fellow coordinator Olga Sidenko from Switzerland via the Ukraine. Now let me tell you a bit about them. You wanted to have younger members! They will bring this trip to life through stories and pictures while managing the appeal. Ayushi holds a law degree where she has worked on human rights cases. Olga has an accounting degree but now works with migrants and asylum seekers and speaks 4 languages. Your Federation rep to the committee is Yvonne Gibbon. Yvonne and I are getting used to being on video for our committee calls. Okay not so much but we are not going to appear uncomfortable, since communications are about to take on new meaning with these young social media savvy coordinators. There is no way we are being left behind!!

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However, the most important people on this trip is all of you. Together it can be an amazing journey.

Please don't make us beg too hard for your support! Make our new leaders proud and show them your support.

Follow updates at www.soroptimistinternational.org. Materials will be available for downloading from the website.



Thank you for all you do!!!

Thank you for your support!!!

NOW.....

LET'S PARTY LIKE WE ARE 100!!!!



And wherever you will be in October, 2021 just imagine the celebration we can have!