



In every corner of the world, women and girls face barriers that impede their progress and limit their potential. From systemic discrimination to gender-based violence, the challenges they encounter are immense. However, in the face of adversity, there is hope. It lies in our collective commitment as Soroptimists to stand up for the rights and dignity of women and girls everywhere.

Standing up for women and girls involves recognising their inherent worth and humanity and taking action to ensure they have equal rights, opportunities, and freedoms as their male counterparts. That is also our Soroptimist Objective.

Let us continue to :

1. Advocate for Gender Equality by promoting equal opportunities, treatment, and rights for women and girls in all spheres of society, including education, employment, politics, and the legal system.
2. End Gender-Based Violence by standing up against all forms of violence and discrimination directed at women and girls, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and harmful cultural practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation.
3. Empower Women and Girls by supporting initiatives and policies that empower women and girls economically, socially, and politically. This includes ensuring access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and leadership positions.
4. Challenge Gender Stereotypes by speaking out against harmful gender stereotypes and biases that limit the potential and opportunities of women and girls. Encouraging diverse representations and breaking down barriers to gender expression and identity.
5. Listen and Amplify Our Voice by actively listening to the experiences and voices of women and girls, especially those from marginalized communities, and amplifying their perspectives to bring about meaningful change and inclusion.

I believe that prioritising the empowerment and rights of women and girls is not only a matter of justice and human rights but also essential for achieving sustainable development, promoting social inclusion, and building a more equitable world for all.

**JOANNE YEOH**

**PRESIDENT**

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC**