



10 DOWNING STREET
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THE PRIME MINISTER

I am delighted to send my warmest greetings to all Soroptimists on your 84th Federation Conference.

This is an important year for the UK as we celebrate the centenary of the first British women getting the vote in Parliamentary elections. As we mark this anniversary, we remember the heroic campaigners of the past, who fought to establish every woman's right to vote in elections, to stand for office, and to take their full and rightful place in public life.

The Soroptimists have been powerful advocates and campaigners, and have achieved a great deal during their history. We can take pride at the enormous strides which we have taken as a society over the last century. Today, the gender pay gap is at its lowest ever level, the female employment rate is at a record high, and there are more women sitting on the boards of Britain's top businesses than ever before. However, there is much more work to be done to ensure that every woman has the chance to go as far as her talent and hard work will take her.

I trust that your Federation Conference will be a great success and that, inspired by the heroes of the suffrage movement, you will continue to fight for equality for women and girls everywhere.

I wish you all the best for another successful conference.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Theresa May', written in a cursive style.

October 2018