



23 December 2020

To: Clubs  
Copy: Regions/National Associations/Networks  
Federation Management Board  
Federation Consultative Council  
Federation Programme Action Committee

Dear all,

### **Applications to attend the Commission on the Status of Women 65 (CSW 65)**

Dates are scheduled for 15-26 March 2021 in New York

Main theme: ***'Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls'***.

Review theme is ***'Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session)'***.

As you know last year's CSW 64 was cancelled in the light of concerns regarding the COVID 19 pandemic. As the pandemic continues across the world CSW 65 is scheduled to take place for the first time on a virtual platform. This will include the general discussion, ministerial round tables, interactive events and all side and parallel events. The exception will be two in-person meetings (opening and closing sessions) which will take place with the participation of New York-based delegates. All registered representatives will be able to follow the proceedings via live webcast which will provide interpretation in official UN languages. **We await final advice from UN Women.**

As SIGBI has Special Consultative Status at ECOSOC we have 20 places allocated to us for CSW. We pool these places with SI Europe, SI South West Pacific and Soroptimist International, making a total of 80, which we divide up amongst all four Federations and Soroptimist International. This leaves a maximum of 16 places for SIGBI, which we are now offering to SIGBI members to attend.

Registration opens from 28 December 2020 until 22 February 2021. Registration for CSW 65 is completed on the UN Indico platform which will enable participants to receive information about preparation activities as well as information about virtual formal and informal meetings and opportunities for interaction, including social media mobilisation directly to your registered email address. **PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM SIGBI TO DO SO.**

The closing date for applications is Friday, 12 February 2021. Please send your completed applications to Gina Coad at [hq@sigbi.org](mailto:hq@sigbi.org) or Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI) Limited, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Beckwith House, 1 Wellington Road North, Stockport, SK4 1AF, UK as soon as possible. Your application should be no longer than 2 sides of A4, stating your name, club, email address, mobile number, your experience as a Soroptimist and how your attendance at CSW 65 will impact your knowledge and expertise.

In addition members can register as 'advocates' for the parallel session organised by the NGO CSW NY – <https://ngocsw.org>. The cost for this is \$25 (US dollars). There will be free access to these parallel sessions (outside the UN). Registration is separate to the one requiring an application form above. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me: [programmedirector@sigbi.org](mailto:programmedirector@sigbi.org)

In friendship,

*Kay Richmond*

SIGBI Programme Director