

SI Where We Stand Statement Human Trafficking

Soroptimist International recognizes that human trafficking and modern day slavery violates and impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity. Human trafficking is defined by the UN as "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation." Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, and complex circumstances also mean that a disproportionate number of perpetrators are women.

Soroptimist International urges governments to:

- Take immediate action to ratify and effectively implement the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as any regional agreements on trafficking or enslavement;
- Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation, by consolidating existing mechanisms and developing new initiatives;
- Ensure that trafficking in all its forms, including but not limited to any attempts, participation or acts involving the organization of such an entity, are criminalized in line with internationally agreed standards and model laws;
- Establish, enforce, strengthen and monitor effective measures for the successful prosecutions of human traffickers and slave owners;
- Identify and strengthen measures to alleviate the factors which render women and girls more vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation including poverty, lack of education, and lack of opportunity;
- Adopt a human rights based approach to ensure that anti-trafficking measures do not adversely affect the rights of women and girls who have been trafficked, particularly their rights to freedom of movement and to uphold women's rights to live free from violence;
- Seek to implement proactive systematic victim identification strategies designed to fit a wide range of settings and circumstances;
- Provide formal anti-trafficking training for law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary, first responders, and other government officials;

Soroptimist International will continue to:

- Endorse the three-fold approach taken by the international community: prevention of trafficking in persons, protection of victim/survivors of trafficking, and prosecution of trafficking offenders;
- Support the provision of physical, psychological, economic and social assistance to such victim/survivors;
- Assist the review and revision of domestic legislation concerning the assistance and protection of such victim/survivors;
- Advocate for the participation of victim/survivors of human trafficking in devising, enforcing or strengthening measures and specific policies or programs to prevent, combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons.

Soroptimist International:

- **Educates** women and girls about human trafficking to assist in prevention efforts;
- **Empowers** victim/survivors to rebuild their lives, and, where possible, to become advocates working to end all forms of modern day slavery;
- **Enables** increased victim identification in both visible and hidden settings through widespread community awareness campaigns.

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