

Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International advocates for human rights and gender equality through education, enablement and empowerment.

The principles of Soroptimism are to strive for:

- The advancement of the Status of Women
- High ethical standards
- Human rights for all
- Equality, development and peace
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace

United Nations

Charter signed 26 June 1948

1945 Developed Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Eleanor Roosevelt was appointed by President Harry Truman to be a representative at the first session of the United Nations in London in 1946

1946 CSW was set up with a mandate to prepare recommendations on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields

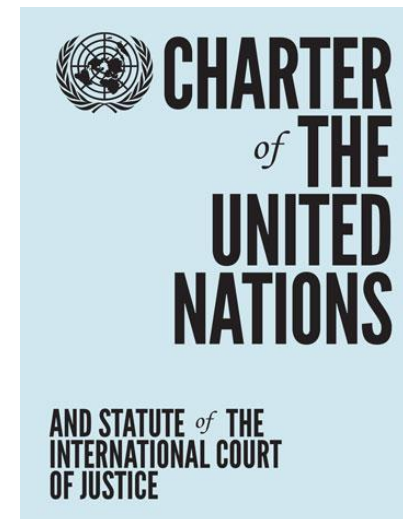
1995 Beijing Platform for the SDG blueprint for gender equality

Eleanor Roosevelt:

"I believed the United Nations to be the one hope for a peaceful world. I knew that my husband had placed great importance on the establishment of this world organization. So I felt a great sense of responsibility."

Her quote relating to women:

"Women are like teabags, you never know how strong they are until you put them into hot water."



SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

Soroptimist International works towards these goals in club project work, all of which is reported back to the United Nations SI Great Britain and Ireland

Soroptimist International has representatives in all 7 of the UN offices around the world, namely: Geneva, Paris, Nairobi, New York, Bangkok, Vienna and Rome



Goal 16:

Promote just, peaceful and strong institutions

The United Nations has stated that conflict, insecurity, weak institutions and limited access to justice remain a great threat to sustainable development.

Soroptimist International at the United Nations

The two UN Commissions to which SI makes significant contributions:

Commission on the Status of Women – CSW

Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women – CEDAW

Soroptimist International also supports UN Women

Members and clubs are involved in

- Supporting UN Campaigns and UN Agencies work
- Signing relevant petitions
- Lobbying decision makers and Governments
- Raising awareness in as many places as possible
- Sharing relevant programmes & club projects that are examples of 'Good Practice'

United Nations International Day of Peace – 21 September

Peace building is about prevention, addressing the root causes of conflict such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

Issues where Soroptimists assist globally at ground level, leaving no-one behind:

- Property inheritance issues and widowhood
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Enforced marriage
- Girls education - Women in the media and roles such as teacher and doctor – traditions
- Sex trafficking, Modern slavery, Refugees, women in Migration
- Gender equality

Soroptimist International Winchester

Recent issues and actions

- Support the Womens Refuge in Winchester, including a family picnic, and St James hostel in Southampton
- Members of the Domestic Abuse Forum with Winchester City Council and Trinity Womens Services
- Promote awareness of the annual STOP Domestic Abuse campaign
- Assist and report in a national survey of domestic abuse court processes
- Lobby local MPs regarding action on cervical screening programme
- Lobby MPs on the Domestic Abuse Bill
- Support girls rugby at Winchester
- Carry out and report back on rail station safety for women
- Fund a young girl through education in Cambodia
- Fundraise and support Solar Aid to provide lights for homes and villages, enabling clinics and study to improve education and economy in Malawi/Rwanda and Ethiopia

Sensory Garden

Formerly called the Garden for the Blind, the Sensory Garden in Abbey Gardens was funded by SI Winchester in 1975. Then in 1999/2000 the club gave a large contribution to the garden's renaming and replanting.

Members of SI Winchester buried a time Capsule in the Garden of the Senses, Abbey Gardens in 2001. The capsule contains information about the history of the club and its current projects.

For the Millenium a large sculpted water feature was added. This was unveiled by Peter White, the BBC disability broadcaster. The women's wing of Winchester Prison produced Braille guides for the garden.

The final stage of the project was a joint venture with HCC and Winchester CC. Sculptor David Furber was commissioned to produce a 'time and water' feature for the central area of the garden to mark the new millennium. A large monolith of Portland stone with a sundial face and water exiting its gnomon has been installed.



Sensory Garden

This time last year we spoke with Rotary about installing their Peace Pole in the garden, which was supported by past Mayors. Since then it has been put to WCC for consideration. We would also like to refurbish our plaque and form a working party to help with the garden.

At the Hat Fair this year Rotary and Soroptimists took the liberty of placing the Peace Pole temporarily for visitors to see and it gained much attention.

By way of other well placed items we received an image from Soroptimists in Hiroshima–Chuo where they donated benches in front of Hiroshima Castle, rebuilt in 1958 after it was destroyed by the bomb.

We are convinced the Peace Pole would make an ideal addition to the garden, as well as supporting Mayors for Peace and the City of Sanctuary initiatives.



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STANDING UP
for Women and Girls