



Friendship Links

Christine Peer, Friendship Link Coordinator

Dear Union Presidents, Dear Single club Presidents,

Friendship Links¹ offer Soroptimists the possibility to connect with other Clubs worldwide, sharing projects and offering support and friendship. Members of Soroptimist Clubs enjoy learning about the country and culture of their Friendship Link. This mutually supportive relationship between two Clubs from within our European Federation – or any other Federation – gives members the opportunity to exchange hospitality, visit other Soroptimists and attend their special events.

In order for a Friendship Link to be set up, Clubs must make a formal request to the Club of their choice. If the invitation is accepted, a form is completed and returned to SIEHQ. Once the link has been formalised, SIEHQ shall send back a letter confirming the official registration of the new Friendship Link.

Please download the application form available in the “Member Area” of the SI/E website under “Downloads”.

By establishing a Friendship Link with an existing club, newly chartered Clubs can benefit from their experience and will receive support and guidance.

We encourage you to create new Friendship Links (FL), especially with Clubs in Africa and Central and Eastern Europe. Friendship Links are positive additions to a Club, which enable women from different cultures come together, work on projects at a high level and foster close relationships with one another. Being involved in local and global issues enriches the lives of all members.

I am very excited to be responsible for the Friendship Links in the Federation and would like to offer you some new ideas and opportunities.

But first, please have a look at your existing Friendship Links and ask yourself when the last personal contact was made or what you really know about each other. Do you just send greeting cards or do you regularly plan activities? Sometimes it may be better to close a stagnating Friendship Link.

Next, let us create a platform for Friendship Links on the website.

In the near future, the website will serve as a meeting point where Clubs can both offer and find new Friendship Links, as well as seek help and advice.

- You will soon be able to use the website to share your special stories, memories and reflections, especially the LINK celebration, which could be a wonderful starting point for the new friendship.*

¹ ***Friendship Link or twinning?*** A Friendship Link connects Clubs, whereas twinning creates a connection between two Unions.



- *As mentioned above, you will also have the opportunity to use the Friendship Links for the programme focus and to share projects together, creating stronger and closer connections. This also supports the idea of Project Matching and the work of our programme team.*
- *I Invite you to make the idea of Friendship Links more visible and am looking forward to working on this issue with you.*

Soroptimists work together in the spirit of awareness, advocacy and action to make the world a better place for women and girls: Let us utilize the global friendship network as well.

Thank you in advance for sending this letter to all Club presidents.

In Soroptimist friendship,

*Yours,
Christine Peer*

*1st Vice President
Federation Friendship Link Coordinator*

Also responsible for the Unions of: Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, and Single Clubs in: Albania, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Georgia, Hungary, Liechtenstein, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

*Email addresses: christine.peer@aon.at
 siehq@soroptimisteurope.org*

Mobile phone number: +43/664/5046049

*Have a particular look at: www.soroptimisteurope.org/Programmes
Open heart – Open door; Friendship Links; Friendship Grants; PEP; Soroptimist Project Matching;*