

December 10 is Human Right's Day! It is also Soroptimist Day. This is no coincidence as Soroptimist International has always defended the rights of women and girls.

Since the foundation of SI in 1921 and the first Soroptimist Day celebration in 1982, progress has been made but there are still so many women and girls whose rights are not being respected. Our Mission is to empower and support women and girls and December 10 is an occasion to reflect on our mission and to advance women's rights.

Our 10 Programme Focus Objectives demonstrate the areas where our intervention can make a difference for women and girls. Realizing women's rights is a basic element for improved health outcomes for women. Promoting women's empowerment and rights, including their participation as agents of change, is essential for the development of responsive health policies and services.

Traditionally, December 10 is SI President's Appeal where every Soroptimist is invited to work on a project presented by the International President. Hanne Jensbo has asked our contribution for **Hopes and Dreams for Everyone** - a project to protect young women from trafficking by providing life-skill education.

Trafficking human beings and holding them in slavery is the worst attempt to their dignity and rights. Thus it is crucial that on December 10, 2009 Human Rights Day, you provide your support for this project.



Dr. Eliane Lagasse

SI/E President