

SI intervention for Panel V

Thank you Mr Chair for giving us the floor

Soroptimist International is the Largest Classified community service organization in the world active in 123 countries with approximately 90000 members.

Since 1921 Soroptimist International has been committed to improve the lives of women and girls through awareness, advocacy and action - a mission which is as relevant today as it was 90 years ago. (We are happy to recognize the emphasis the Secretary General on the fight against violence against women)

Soroptimists reaffirm that violence of any kind is intolerable and in particular condemns the use of all violence against women and girls. Acts of violence endanger women physically, mentally, emotionally and economically, perpetuating inequalities in all aspects of lives of women and girls.

(In 2009 had more than 1500 projects which reached 4.7 Mill women and girls)

Soroptimist International is gravely concerned about the devastating global increase in the trafficking of human beings especially of women and girls and condemns this transnational and domestic crime as a gross violation of human rights.

Soroptimists recognise that it has become too wide for single governments to fight Soroptimist International and urge **international cooperation in bringing perpetrators to justice**. (Trafficking has become internationally organized crime, which is big business for perpetrators)

We call on all governments to enact comprehensive policies that seek to eliminate the root causes of trafficking and to address the needs of victims.

Soroptimist International especially urges Governments to:

- a) Ratify and implement all UN and other international conventions which address trafficking and violence against women
- b) Implement appropriate legislation for the prosecution of traffickers
- c) Ensure women's participation in peace building and peace keeping initiatives especially in conflict and post conflict areas, which are high risk for trafficking
- d) provide sufficient resources for preventative measures and protection of victims of violence

Questions :

- 1) How can we close legal and cultural loopholes that grant perpetrators of violence – including states – impunity?
- 2) How can we reach the goal to have equal participation of women on all committees dealing with gender based violence?