

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR ADVOCACY AT CSW61

The objectives outlined below are designed to support the members of the Soroptimist International Delegation achieve the most possible at CSW61. Each Soroptimist Federation may have additional objectives.

Objectives for CSW61 SI delegates

During CSW, raising Soroptimist International's profile is mainly done through contributing to the NGO CSW Forum, participating in events, and other activities including providing reports. Other ways to raise SI's profile include:

- a) Networking with other organisations, government representatives and other relevant parties;
- b) Providing information on Soroptimist International through distributing materials where appropriate, and;
- c) Providing information on SI's key asks and messages, project work and UN involvement.

Overall Objectives

1 To make SI delegation presence across CSW known (includes showcasing via events)

Many events will have an interactive element, and may have rapporteurs reporting on what happens at the meeting. If possible you can make an intervention explaining the Soroptimist position on the topic, and possibly giving examples of projects from your Federation.

2 To make our SI focus for CSW61 known as widely as possible and to as many people/organisations as possible

CSW provides a wonderful opportunity for you to share the Soroptimist position with whoever you meet and wherever you go. These are some of the main advocacy points of SI on the main theme review theme and emerging issue for CSW61.

Main theme: Women's Economic Empowerment in the World of Work

Key Asks: See details in SI Advocacy Resource Pack

- Women and girls should be seen as major agents of change
- Gender equality reaches across all SDG's
- Implementation must include access to resources
- Accountability and monitoring can only be achieved with relevant data and appropriate processes
- Civil Society Organisations and NGOs must be included at all times, as providers and monitors

Review Theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls (agreed conclusions of the 58th session)

Emerging Issue/Focus area: The empowerment of indigenous women

3 To obtain new contacts and extend networks

Government delegates will be at CSW, and what you say could influence what their government does to help women through international development in the future. Other NGOs will also be present for the duration of CSW61, and so CSW is an important networking opportunity for Soroptimist International, building alliances and sharing information.

4. To enthuse and inspire Soroptimists for SI advocacy work.

Advocacy is one of the main 'Pillars of Action' for Soroptimist International. Please share your experience and knowledge of CSW with others, both while you are in New York but also when you are in your own club, region or country. It is a marvellous opportunity which Soroptimists have in being personally involved on the world stage at the United Nations supported by so many other like-minded women. This is your chance to inspire others!

Objectives for Delegates who have been to CSW before:

More experienced delegates may wish to expand and develop their CSW experience, by doing the following. If you have any questions about these objectives please contact your Federation Delegation Leader or a member of the Core Delegation.

1 to develop stronger relationships with country missions and regional networks

Country delegations will have representatives who contribute to negotiations at CSW. Getting to know who your country delegation is can be a key bit of advocacy work. Sometimes country delegations include NGO representatives. These delegation members are often sympathetic to the work of NGOs, so you could try to make contact with them and present the Soroptimist message. If you already know your country representative, then please continue to build your relationship and advocate on SI's key messages. Events can provide key opportunities for you to show SI's presence and for you to speak to country delegation members.

2 to improve contact with country missions in New York

Every Member State of the UN has a permanent mission in New York. If you can make contact with them or extend your existing contact then this can assist the work of the SI UN representatives as well as offering the opportunity for you to get the Soroptimist message to that Mission.

3 to strengthen relationships with compatible NGOs

Look out for other NGOs who support our Vision and Mission. It may be possible to develop a relationship within your own country with these NGOs. CSW is a wonderful opportunity to improve your network of international organisations so that when you are lobbying on an issue you can seek their support.

Objectives for delegates who are Attending CSW for the First Time:

For delegates attending CSW for the first time the amount of activity happening at CSW can make it difficult to identify what you can focus your time on. These objectives may help you chose what you would like to do and how you can contribute to SI's advocacy work at the

United Nations that helps empower women and girls worldwide. If you have any questions about these objectives please contact your Federation Delegation Leader or a member of the Core Delegation.

1 to increase/ improve knowledge of CSW and UN Women

Sometimes the intricacies of the work of the UN including CSW can be bewildering the first time you attend. Please ask any of the members of the Soroptimist delegation if there is anything more you need to know. The more you can learn the more effective you will be both at CSW and afterwards with your advocacy work.

2 To make contact with other NGOs working within your own country

Working in partnership with NGOs which share the Soroptimist Vision and Mission can lead to a stronger voice in your own country. You can take your business cards and make contacts with others so that you can continue to develop relationships with other NGOs and representatives during and after CSW.

3 To extend networks with other women's organisations working in the same field of interest eg trafficking, land rights, health rights

Reaching out to specialist organisations can provide Soroptimists with detailed information on issues which members are working on to increase the Human Rights of women and girls. Advocating for the post 2015 agenda and the implementation of the SDGs will be enhanced by deeper knowledge of the issues.

The objectives outlined above are specifically for the purposes of the CSW61, and work within the objectives of the SI Strategic Plan.

Strategic priority: Global Advocacy:

SI advocates for human rights and gender equality through education and empowerment.