



From: The SIE Advocacy Team

To: Union and Single Club Presidents

Cc: SIE Enlarged Board
Programme Directors and Assistant PD

Geneva, 22 November 2013

Dear Presidents,

The **25th of November** marks the celebration of The **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**. This is an opportunity for Soroptimist International of Europe to restate its commitment to the vision of a better world for women, a world in which all forms of gender based violence have been eliminated.

An official statement from the SIE Advocacy Team will be released and posted on our website on the day.

To add more impact to the Federation's position expressed in the Statement, the Advocacy Team are launching the idea of a virtual support of this action. What if on Monday, the 25th of November, all Soroptimists across the European Federation launched a message via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or any other social media site, your club's included – the same message translated into your own language:

'25 November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. Violence in all forms is a breach of human rights. Join Soroptimists from Europe in saying NO to violence against Women and Girls! www.soroptimisteurope.org, followed by your own club's website address.'

Our virtual space action can receive a powerful support from pictures and minireports of your club's own projects or events regarding violence against women and girls.

We believe that an action of this kind could contribute to an increased visibility for Soroptimists in their local communities: it will prove that Soroptimists choose to be more than silent witnesses to cruelty and violation of human rights. It would also signal international organisations, civil society and the media, the wonderful work Soroptimists do in prevention, awareness raising and support for victims of violence. As suggested in the November 2013 President Ulla's Letter:

'So, we will take occasion of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25th November to inform members and the public about our efforts, whether in institutions such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the European Women's Lobby or through extremely successful Union and Club projects.'

Do you think you could convey this call to your club members and mobilise their support? Thank you.

Your feedback and comments on how it all went would very much be appreciated.

Your SIE Advocacy Team 2013-2015

Elena Savu, Vice President Advocacy
Françoise Ferey & Bettina Hahne, Representatives to the Council of Europe
Irena Coufalova & Vera Gregor, OSCE Representatives
Renate Smith-Kubat, European Women's Lobby Representative