

A Global Voice for Women

***Do you
want
to make a
difference?***

The Soroptimist name

The first question we are often asked about Soroptimists is: “but what does it mean?”

The name Soroptimist was coined from the Latin *soror* meaning ‘sister’ and *optima* meaning ‘best’.

From the founding of the first Soroptimist club in Oakland, California, in 1921, through to the present day where over 3,000 clubs are flourishing throughout the world, Soroptimists have continued to strive to achieve ‘the best for women’ in every sphere of their lives.

Soroptimist International is a worldwide service organisation with more than 100,000 members in 124 countries. Soroptimist International is now the world’s largest service organisation for women, with each Club representing a wide range of occupations, talents and interests.

Soroptimists work to advance human rights and the status of women. We come from a wide diversity of cultures and circumstances and we are dedicated to the following ideals:

- The advancement of the status of women
- High ethical standards
- Human rights for all
- Equality, development and peace



**Please feel welcome to phone for
more information :**

Cheryl
Membership Officer
(0191) 567 1514

www.soroptimistinternational-sunderland.org.uk

Can you help?



Who we are

Soroptimist International is a world-wide organisation for women who want to make a difference and 'give something back' to the community. We work together to make life better for women and girls around the world, meeting regularly at local, regional, national and international events.

What we do



We help to save the lives of local children at our Wear Surma clinic at Baroudha in Bangladesh.

How to join us

If you care about helping your local community, have a few hours to spare and want to meet other women making a difference, you'll find friendship, fun and a real sense of achievement and satisfaction as you join us to help make the world a better place.

Through **Awareness, Advocacy** and **Action**, we use our expertise and skills to advance the status of women, both at home and abroad, supporting national and international campaigns (for example, abolishing land mines and ending human trafficking) through our 'Programme Action' activities.



We also lobby at government level and have representation at the United Nations.

www.soroptimistinternational.org

We get involved with many charities and projects and these are just some of the campaigns we support:-

SI Sunderland: Streetcare soup kitchen; Hope4Kidz, Salvation Army safe refuge house for victims of human trafficking; Mines Advisory Group; women's centres; Sangini; Christmas shopping for the elderly and disabled; carol singing; recycling.

International: Fairtrade; Violence against Women; education; water and sanitation; Shared Interest; healthcare; ending poverty.

Social and fund-raising: car boot sales; Race for Life; raffles; Christmas gifts for children and the homeless; party nights.

S.I. Sunderland meets at 7.15pm on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month (for our business meeting and our supper evening with guest speaker). We also organise lots of social activities to have fun throughout the year too!

We're a vibrant, growing club with members of all ages and skills. We are always delighted to talk about what we do, so please do come along and meet us.

You can contact us by emailing enquiries@soroptimistinternational.org.uk

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL gives you a chance to broaden your circle of friends and become better informed (and really make a difference) on important issues. Use your enthusiasm and skills to get involved in making things happen to support girls and women. Get involved in local and international charity fund-raising projects, meet new people and last, but certainly not least, have fun with like-minded women who feel exactly the same way you do!



SI Sunderland

"Joining Soroptimist International Sunderland gives you the chance to get involved in helping others. I volunteer at Streetcare's soup kitchen to provide meals for homeless people in Sunderland and feel that our Club's support really does make a difference".
Tania Le Marinel, Member

- Volunteering
- Fund-raising
- Guest speakers
- Social activities
- Taking action
- Helping charities
- Fun and friendship
- Enjoying ourselves!

Giving out information to promote and support Fairtrade Fortnight at the Central Library in Fawcett Street, Sunderland

