

NEW PROJECT/PROGRAMME  X  
 CONTINUING PROJECT/PROGRAMME  
 FUNDRAISING

The core purpose of Soroptimist International is to advance human rights and the status of women. In order to do this, clubs undertake service projects in their communities that improve the lives of women and girls. In order to track the success in achieving the core purpose, SI clubs are asked to submit programme focus reports on their successful club projects. Once completed, forward to:

Union and/or Federation Coordinator **Human Rights Coordinator SI Belgium and SI/E**

### Part I. Identification

Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Club Name **ANTWERPEN** Union/Region BELGIUM

Club contact Name Bea RABE Email [bea.rabe@belgacom.net](mailto:bea.rabe@belgacom.net)

Project Title: **CONGRESS ON THE POSITION OF WOMEN TODAY**  
**Congress on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SI Club Antwerpen**

Project Partnerships: \_\_\_\_\_

Target Group: **Soroptimists and members of other women organisations**

### Part II:

Programme of Service Area\* (Check the box/boxes that best describes your project): \*Details overleaf.

**Human Rights/Status of Women:**      **Education:**      **Economic and Social Development:**  
 **Health:**       **Environment:**       **International Goodwill and Understanding:**

### Describe your project

(1) **What you did**, (2) **Why you did it**, (3) **How you did it**, (4) **Results and recommendations**

(1) Club Antwerpen organised a congress about "the actual position of women in our society". SI/E President Heidrun Konrad graced the congress with her presence. Three themes were developed:

- Traffic of women with guestspeakers with experience in the field, as i.e. Patsy Sørensen, ex-European parliament member and founder of Payoke, a welcome centre for victims, Afsana Kadyrova of the Angels' Coalition Moscow and Wim Bontinck, Federal Police; presided by Anne-Marie Gepts and coordinated by Rita Jurth, both members of SI Antwerpen
- Outstanding women highlighted the actual position of women in our society, with i.e. Inge Vervotte, Minister of Wellbeing, Francy Van der Wildt, President Vrouwenraad (Council of Women), Kathy Kaaf, SI/E Representative to the Council of Europe, Fiona Murphy, Principal, SI Glasgow Central, Greet Op de Beeck, Moderator and journalist at the Radio Newsservice; coordinator to the panel was Kati Destrijcker from SI Antwerpen
- Women in the "House of Women" in Istalif, Afghanistan, highlighted by Jennie Vanlerberghe, journalist and initiator of the "House of Women", Anita Purnal, Vrouwenraad (Council of Women) and Coordinator in Istalif of the "House of Women", Maggy Poppe, Vrouwenraad (Council of Women) and Coordinator in Belgium of the "House of Women" and Shakera Kairkwah, Architect and refugee from Afghanistan; presided by Bea Rabe of SI Antwerpen..

(2) On the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Soroptimist Club Antwerpen, and in memory of the pioneer women who started Soroptimist in Belgium, it felt good to reflect on the actual position of women in society.

Where do we stand? Are we satisfied with our actual position? Are we happy in the nowadays society?

Are we pleased with the decisions taken by national, European and international instances regarding the status of women in the fields of work opportunity, family, healthcare, peace, development.....?

(3) Members contacted the speakers who all came to share graciously the course of their ideas and feelings. Our special thanks go also to the interpreters (graciously organised by a member of SI Brussel IRIS) who made the exchange of ideas and views accessible to all of the participants from Belgium and abroad.

(4) 200 participants of which 60 from abroad (Austria, Bulgaria, England, France and French Guyana, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Scotland, Switzerland, ...)

Project Costs: break even Estimated number of Hours Spent 40 days by club members and organisation committee.