

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 2005 Club Name **ANTWERPEN** Union/Region **BELGIUM**

Club contact Name: Bea Rabe Email **bea.rabe@belgacom.net**

Project Title: **YWCA/IVCA– Intercultural Women Centre in Antwerp**

Project Partnerships: _____

Target Group: **enabling women of all nationalities, ages, convictions and cultures to participate in the activities of society.**

Part II:

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

X 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) IVCA, Intercultural Women Centre Antwerp, is a centre from and for women of all nationalities, ages, convictions and cultures. The work of exchange - the world in one house - means our wealth. IVCA is the house of YWCA-Antwerpen vzw. The organization is situated in the heart of Antwerp since 1919. It is a part of the World YWCA, an international women organization, which is active in more than 100 countries. IVCA/YWCA is aiming to work at a pluralistic society where women and men are having the same chances and where their basic rights are fulfilled for a long lasting time. IVCA wants to reach this pluralistic living through giving more strength to women and so to enable them to participate in the activities of the society.

Inside IVCA we see three important working sections:

The **local work for women newcomers** involves Dutch and textile lessons, job finding educational methods and developments.

The idea for **socio-cultural activities for women** came from women newcomers who wanted to create activities, meetings, parties, friendship links for other women. These activities consist of lectures, trips, museum visits and end of year festivities.

The **international partnership** "Gender & Migration" enhances the women organizations in Burundi and Rwanda. These local partnership organisations help women to create and to develop socio-economic activities, which contributes to have a lasting impact on the elimination of poverty in their community.

IVCA/YWCA tries to involve Belgian migrants into these overseas projects.

(2)) For the celebration of the 75th anniversary of SI Club Antwerpen we wanted to make a special effort to support effectively different organizations (9 in total) which are committed to the softening of the life of needy people in society, in Antwerpen and abroad.

Projects were chosen that would not only help financially but also in a more practical way as help with education, finding a job, etc..

(3) Several activities to collect funds were organised (theatre, concerts, selling of products, auction of peace dolls made by artists, etc.)

(4) A contribution of **1.500 €** was made for the installation of an audio and childcare equipment in the IVCA centre.

Project Costs: Estimated number of Hours Spent: the club members organised a number of activities (theatre, concert, selling chocolates, lanyards, decorated notebooks, auction of peace dolls made by artists, etc); in two years time, nearly 26.000 € were available for the 9 chosen projects.