



SOROPTIMIST
Best for Women

*Improving the lives of women and girls through
programs leading to social and economic
empowerment.*

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE AMERICAS

Soroptimists STOP Trafficking – Club Instructions

Trafficking, Slavery and Women

Millions of women and girls worldwide are currently living as slaves. Most often forced into sex work, these women are terrorized and tortured by their captors until they lose all will to resist. Women living in sex slavery are the victims of both domestic and international trafficking. Victims of international trafficking face additional obstacles of language barriers, foreign criminal justice systems and threats to their family by international criminal organizations. Despite the obvious damage slavery inflicts upon its victims, the demand for slaves—particularly female sex slaves—continues to thrive. Human slavery remains one of the top three revenue earners for international crime. Traffickers frequently face few (if any) penalties for their crimes.

Because slavery and trafficking happens in every country in the world, every Soroptimist club has an obligation to raise awareness of modern-day slavery, rescue slaves, and join in the fight to increase the prosecution of traffickers and slave-owners. Consider the following statistics:

- Human rights groups estimate that anywhere from 12.3 to 27 million people are currently living as slaves.
- The UN estimates the total market value of exploitation of humans to be \$32 billion, and about \$10 billion from the initial sale of individuals.
- 66 percent of trafficking victims are women and 13 percent are girls.
- 79 percent of trafficking victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 12 to 14 years old.

Clubs can learn more about trafficking and sex slavery by reading the resources available on the Soroptimist website.

Soroptimists STOP Trafficking

The goal of the Soroptimists STOP Trafficking project is to raise awareness in the general population about trafficking and sex slavery. An awareness-raising project was selected because a necessary first step in ending the problem is making sure that everyone knows it exists. Once enough people are aware of the problem, they can work together to make sure it ends. The more the public insists that governments take action to end this international crime, the more progress will be made.

To that end, Soroptimist has developed a printed card that provides information to the public at large about the sex trafficking of women and girls. The information is provided in a simple and powerful way that will encourage readers to get involved to end the sex trafficking of women.

This project can be conducted at any time of the year. In the first year, a launch event was held on December 2 the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (non-US) and January 11 the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness (US). The December 2 and January 11 days will continue to provide a good media hook for the distribution of the cards. However, the Soroptimist Stop Trafficking cards are designed to be used whenever it is convenient for the club.

Steps to Participating in the Project

This project is a simple way for clubs to not only raise awareness about trafficking and sex slavery but also to raise awareness of Soroptimist as an international organization addressing this important topic. In just three steps, clubs can make a difference in the lives of women and girls living in sex slavery. Step four is for those clubs interested in taking their club project a step further and designing a more in-depth project to address the issue.

Step One: Download the card from the Soroptimist website and print. All of the cards are available as PDF files in the program section of the members' area of the website, along with instructions on having the cards printed. Clubs can print as many copies as needed.

[Soroptimists STOP Trafficking Card](#)

Step Two: Distribute the cards in a variety of locations in the community. Ideal spots include any place where people might be sitting and waiting. The goal is to get the cards into the hands of people who have a moment to read and reflect on the content. For example:

- Social Service agencies
- Doctor's offices
- Hospitals
- Workplaces
- Businesses
- Libraries
- Universities
- Transportation centers
- Police stations
- Domestic violence shelters

Step Three: Plan a public awareness event around the distribution of the cards. It is best to tie the distribution of the cards to something happening in the media like the December 2 and January 11 days. However, there are other events that could help gain publicity for the club and project such as the release of a large scale study about trafficking or a well-publicized arrest of traffickers. When the club decides to distribute the cards, also send news releases and editorials to local newspapers to further raise awareness of the issue.

Step Four: Many clubs have held awareness events and are now looking for additional ideas to end the enslavement of women and girls. There are several other things Soroptimist clubs can do. In order to end sex slavery and ensure that women and girls can live their dreams, a multi-pronged approach is needed. A good first step is raising awareness through Soroptimist STOP Trafficking. Additional approaches include victim services, advocating for change and preventing slavery.

Support Soroptimist projects that empower women and help them to live their dreams. Soroptimist projects providing women with access to education and job training ensures that they have a choice about their futures. These project can be used as victim services—reaching out to women and girls that have been rescued from sex slavery. By providing a woman with a Live Your Dream: Education and Training Award for Women, for instance, the club is giving her the chance to make a better life for her and her family. Apply for Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls to teach women job skills and provide the help they need to live a life free from poverty

and violence. Grants can also be used to educate young people about healthy relationships—a key component to ending violence against women.

The Trafficking: Assisting Victims and Advocating for Change model program kit, available from the SIA website, defines trafficking and explains how and why women are trafficked; presents information about trafficking in each SIA country; supplies information about national and international laws that pertain to the trafficking of women; provides information on launching national and international advocacy campaigns; explains how to set up and maintain a network of experts to assist women who have been trafficked; and contains an extensive international resource list.

[Soroptimists STOP Trafficking Model Program Kit](#)

Work with other organizations in the area that focus on trafficking. In many communities, governmental and non-governmental organizations are working to address the issue of trafficking. Form partnerships to further raise awareness and to take concrete steps to stop slavery, assist victims and punish perpetrators.