

International Women's Day Message

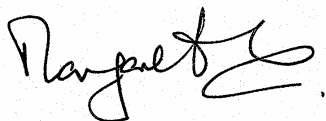
This message is intentionally brief with the hope that you will make time to read and share the few suggestions with your club and others.

Two of the UN's special Observances for 2009 have particular resonance for Soroptimists - **Reconciliation and Human Rights Learning.**

These two issues are not only relevant to our everyday lives and to those within our global community but are significant in transforming the lives of women and girls; hence I would ask you on March 8 (and beyond) to promote Reconciliation and Human Rights Learning.

- Promote Reconciliation in the family and reduce domestic violence and violence against women
- Promote Human Rights Learning and stop the traffickers, so that young girls in particular can say 'NO' with authority and bring to justice those who make them a commodity
- Promote Reconciliation within the community and amongst nations so that we stop the curse of war and stop women and children being killed and traumatised
- Promote Human Rights Learning so that everyone has the RIGHT to live in a safe environment where there are no landmines and cluster bombs.

As Soroptimists we have the passion to ensure women and girls and their families and communities are safe. Use these simple suggestions and share them within your community to make IWD 2009 one of total reconciliation and awareness.



Margaret Lobo
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