



International Women's Day 2025

*Statement Prepared by Soroptimist International and the
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship
with the United Nations (CoNGO)*

This year, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the widely recognized 'blueprint' for the rights of all women and girls.

While some improvements have been made, the stark reality persists three decades later. Violence against women and girls remains a global emergency, with one in three women worldwide experiencing some form of physical, psychological, emotional, economic, or sexual violence in their lifetime. Tackling this epidemic requires confronting systemic violence and dismantling harmful, entrenched gender norms in both public and private life, online and offline.

In today's digital age, the misuse of technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), exacerbates the dangers that all women and girls face daily. Whether AI affects their equal access to employment, credit, or other services, its increasing presence in educational settings and online platforms like social media presents serious risks. Furthermore, AI systems can reinforce harmful stereotypes and endanger user safety.

AI is increasingly used to gaslight women and girls by amplifying harmful behaviours and subtly manipulating reality, instilling self-doubt within them. This form of psychological abuse is perpetrated through biased and often male-centred algorithms that prioritize non-female perspectives on digital platforms, frequently dismissing women's lived experiences. Gaslighting can lead to victim-blaming and, in extreme cases, suicide.

The future of information and communication technology (ICT), including digital and AI systems, must prioritize inclusivity, ethical considerations, and the diverse needs of all women, girls, and marginalized groups. Designing and implementing these systems to ensure equal representation of women and girls in technological development will lead to ICT and AI systems that more justly and equitably reflect our global society and encompass a wide range of cultures, experiences, and values. It is also essential to educate all users of online platforms about emerging forms of online and offline violence to help prevent harm and protect themselves from becoming victims. This focus is particularly

vital for all marginalized groups who are the most vulnerable to online abuse, including women and girls, youth, and indigenous peoples.

We welcome the recent adoption of the United Nations Convention on Cybercrime (<https://bit.ly/3CQ7S3E>) and urge Member States to ratify it without delay. Swift implementation of this new Convention into national legislation is crucial for “strengthening international cooperation for combating certain crimes committed by means of information and communications technology systems and for the sharing of evidence in electronic form of serious crimes.” During the ratification process, and as “each State Party...adopt(s) such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law”, we hope that Article 14 of the Convention includes protections for all women and girls.

On this International Women’s Day, we call upon all governments to:

- Ensure immediate legal action to protect all women and girls from the risks presented by AI and all other forms of technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV);
- Raise awareness, including through public education, about the prevalence of gaslighting against all women and girls to encourage preventive and mitigating actions instead of reactive responses to online violence;
- Implement strong safeguarding protections on all online platforms.
- Establish robust accountability measures to ensure that all technology and social media giants, including both private and public platforms, are held accountable and responsible for incidents of violence, harassment, and discrimination occurring on their sites;
- Ensure that all survivors of online violence receive adequate psychological support services and uphold their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health services for all women and girls throughout their lifespan, without discrimination of any kind (Para 11(i)). Additionally, ensure access to justice and the provision of support services, including legal, health, and social resources, to all women who are victims of violence (Para 11(g)), as outlined in the CSW 64 Political Declaration on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, March 9-20, 2020. (<https://bit.ly/4jW0mTJ>)
- Respect the rights of survivors of online violence to access appropriate legal support and adequate compensation. States must hold perpetrators responsible and accountable for their actions. This plays a crucial role in rehabilitating the victims and conveys a strong message to society that any act of technology-facilitated violence against women (TFVAW) will be punished.

These actions ensure that all women and girls can thrive in an increasingly technological and digitized world where artificial intelligence is becoming more dominant and a catalyst for lasting change.

If you have any questions regarding this statement, please email Liberato Bautista (president of CoNGO) at president@ngocongo.org or Leigh Ellwood-Brown (Soroptimist International Director of Advocacy) at leigh.ellwoodbrown@soroptimistinternational.org.

As of March 6, 2025, 5:30 PM EST

PROPONENT ORGANIZATIONS	ACRONYM	STATUS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
1. Soroptimist International	SI	ECOSOC
2. Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations	CoNGO	ECOSOC
ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS		
3. International Association of Applied Psychology	IAAP	ECOSOC
4. International Presentation Association	IPA	ECOSOC
5. Precious Gems	PG	ECOSOC
6. Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association	PPSEAWA	ECOSOC
7. Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate	IBVM	ECOSOC
8. International Health Awareness Network	IHAN	ECOSOC
9. Soroptimist International Great Britain and Ireland	SIGBI	ECOSOC
10. Soroptimist International Europe	SIE	ECOSOC
11. The Global Foundation for Democracy and Development	GFDD	ECOSOC
12. Women's International Zionist Organization	WIZO	ECOSOC
13. Sisters of Charity Federation	SCF	ECOSOC
14. United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society	UMC-GBCS	ECOSOC
15. International Council of Women	ICW-CIF	ECOSOC
16. Unanima International	UI	ECOSOC
17. MARTA Centre		ECOSOC
18. Women's Federation for World Peace International	WFWP	ECOSOC
19. International Alliance of Women	IAW	ECOSOC
20. Make Mothers Matter	MMM	ECOSOC
21. Zonta International	ZI	ECOSOC
22. International Federation on Ageing	IFA	ECOSOC
23. Verein zur Förderung der Völkerverständigung	VFV	ECOSOC
24. International Cancer Expert Corps	ICEC	ECOSOC
25. Servas International	SI	ECOSOC
26. End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, Inc.	ECPAT-USA	ECOSOC
27. Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer	FEIM	ECOSOC

28. Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL)	TYCL	ECOSOC
29. CAP Liberté de Conscience		ECOSOC
30. World Organization for Early Childhood Education	OMEP	ECOSOC
31. Somali HelpAge Association		ECOSOC
32. World Circle of the Consensus: Self-sustaining People, Organizations and Communities	SPOC	ECOSOC
33. Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights	FEEDAR & HR	ECOSOC
34. Halley Movement Coalition	HMC	ECOSOC
35. STUF United Fund	STUF	ECOSOC
36. Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication	BNNRC	ECOSOC
37. Fundacion AbbaCol		ECOSOC
38. DoTheDream Youth Development Initiative	DoTheDream YDI	ECOSOC
39. Transdiaspora Network, Inc.		ECOSOC
40. ChildFund Alliance		ECOSOC
41. Africa Faith and Justice Network	AFJN	ECOSOC
42. Commission africaine des promoteurs de la sante et des droits de l'homme	CAPSDH	ECOSOC
43. Education for All Coalition		DGC
44. Jewish Women International	JWI	DGC
45. African Action on Aids	AAA	ECOSOC
46. International-Lawyers.Org	INTLawyers	ECOSOC
47. Association for Promotion of Sustainable Development		ECOSOC
48. National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal		ECOSOC
49. Christian Conference of Asia	CCA	ECOSOC
50. International Council of Jewish Women	ICJW	ECOSOC
51. International Centre for Environmental Education and Community Development	ICENECDEV	ECOSOC
52. World Council for Psychotherapy	WCP	ECOSOC
53. World Academy of Art and Science	WAAS	ECOSOC
54. Organization for Defending Victims of Violence	ODVV	ECOSOC
55. Italian Diplomatic Academy	IDA	DGC
56. European Federation of Older Persons	EURAG	ECOSOC
57. Sulabh International Social Service Organization	SISSO	ECOSOC
58. Amman Center for Human Rights Studies	ACHRS	ECOSOC
59. International Nightlife Association	INA	Observer
60. Lucis Trust		ECOSOC
61. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs-World Council of Churches	CCIIA-WCC	ECOSOC
62. International Inner Wheel	IIW	ECOSOC
63. All Pakistan Women's Association	APWA	ECOSOC
64. Association Camerounaise pour la Prise en charge des Personnes Agées	ACAMAGE	ECOSOC
65. Daughters of Charity		ECOSOC
66. African Youth Movement	AYM	DGC
67. The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church	WMS-AMEC	ECOSOC
68. Pax Romana	ICMICA	ECOSOC

69. Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific	SISEAP	ECOSOC
70. All India Women's Conference	AIWC	ECOSOC
71. Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore	SSH	ECOSOC
72. Centre for Social Research	CSR	ECOSOC
73. International Association for Religious Freedom	IARF	ECOSOC
74. Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate	OMI	DGC
75. Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.		ECOSOC
76. Society of the Sacred Heart	SSH	DGC
77. International Public Relations Association	IPRA	ECOSOC
78. International Federation of Settlements & Neighborhood Centres	IFS	ECOSOC
79. International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	EAFORD	ECOSOC
80. International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics	IAAG	ECOSOC
81. International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse	INPEA	ECOSOC
82. International Longevity Center Argentina	ILC Argentina	ECOSOC
83. Association for Promotion Sustainable Development	APSD	ECOSOC
84. WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE	WEA	ECOSOC
85. World Federations of Ukrainian Women's Organizations	WFUWO	ECOSOC
86. Won Buddhism International	WBI	DGC
87. Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry	CACCI	ECOSOC
88. International Longevity Centre Global Alliance	ILC-GA	ECOSOC
89. International Association of Charities	AIC	ECOSOC
90. International Union of Psychological Science	IUPsyS	ECOSOC
91. Universal Peace Federation	UPF	ECOSOC
92. Women for Water Partnership		ECOSOC
93. The International Council of Management Consulting Institutes	ICMCI	ECOSOC
94. International Longevity Centre Canada	ILC Canada	ECOSOC
95. Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary	AWCDH	ECOSOC
96. Congressional Black Caucus Political Educational and Leadership Institute	CBCI	ECOSOC
97. International Association for Counselling	IAC	ECOSOC
ENDORISING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER CAPACITIES		
98. Terra Marine Research Institute	TMRI	
99. Zonta Club of Joliet Area		
100. Mishkan Holdings LLC		
101. NGO Committee on Mental Health		
102. Olympes de la Parole Canada Voices of Olympia Canada	OPC VOC	
103. Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse	CNPEA	
104. School of Farmers		
105. NGO Committee on Ageing (Geneva)		

106.	CAFSO-WRAG for Development	CAFSO	
107.	Armenian Artsakh Indigenous Survival		
108.	Gerontological Society of Serbia		
109.	International Longevity Center DR	ILC-DR	
110.	Mariama Children's Museum & Teen Turf		
111.	Dyname, Aspis Against Violence		
112.	MY World Mexico: Hub of Action for Sustainable Development	MWM	
113.	Seniors First BC		
114.	Fundación Mudecu, Mujer, Derechos y Cuidados	MUDECU	
115.	Funcasol USA Foundation		
116.	Settlement Services International	SSI	
117.	African Women Leaders Network	AWLN	