



**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
SWITZERLAND**

SI-CH | News from Ukraine No. 1

WE STAND UP!



Good day, Grüezi, Bon jour, Buon giorno, Доброго дня!

Solidarity is not an empty word for us Soroptimists! We immediately responded to the calls for help from Ukraine, collected donations and set up an ad hoc organization. This allows us to quickly and easily provide help to our club sisters from Ukraine and in the border countries. A big thank you to you, who together with us provide great support. I wish the people of Ukraine a lot of strength and courage!

Brigitte Mantilleri, *president 2020-22 of Soroptimist International Union Switzerland*

Background

Shortly after the beginning of the war and the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, we received a call for help from the club manager S.I. Soroptimists from Lviv/ Lviv. **They ask us for help.**

The Swiss Union of S.I. Soroptimist International expresses its solidarity with the Soroptimists in Ukraine and with the Ukrainian civilian population. We collect donations for the benefit of those affected by war, especially women and children. Medical supplies, financial support, etc. for the purchase of everyday necessities are currently needed.

How do we help?

Thanks to the connection with Polish and Ukrainian clubs, our emergency aid is provided directly on site. In addition, we benefit from the partnership (twinning) of the clubs Rapperswil, Kreuzlingen and Chur with Ukrainian clubs, which has existed for over 20 years. Katharina Streuli and other Soroptimists from Switzerland deepened their contacts over the years. Close

relationships have developed, which have always included a self-evident and pronounced willingness to help.

Sina Stiffler, Past President of club Chur and Ukraine representative of the Union, is **responsible** for maintaining contacts.

Emergency aid is needed

Lviv/Lviv is flooded with refugees arriving day and night. On site, many have neither clothes nor money. The refugees are first cared for and receive clothing and food. Accommodation is also organized. Through contacts with hospitals and voluntary organizations, our reliable guarantors at Club Lviv also receive all the information regarding the most urgent needs of the population. They buy relief goods and food locally and in Poland near the border, bring them across the border and distribute them to those in need. We have now also contacted Soroptimist clubs in Moldova. Moldova, which borders Ukraine, is itself one of the poorest countries in Europe, and yet the people of that country are unprecedentedly helping the thousands of fugitives from the Ukraine.

We have decided ad hoc to support these clubs with monetary donations.

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Since the beginning of March 2022, emergency financial aid and the transfer of medical goods via Poland to Ukraine and to Poland have been running on a weekly basis. Responsible is an ad hoc commission of the S.I. Union Switzerland under the leadership of the Union President Brigitte Mantilleri and the President of the Finance Commission of the Union, Claudia Meister Iff.

As of 20 March 2022, 60,000 Swiss Francs has already been transferred for the above-mentioned purpose.

www.swiss-soroptimist.ch/solidaritaet-ukraine



Picture 1: Transport to Ukraine before departure from right Jolanta Jozefowski, chauffeur Monica, donor Danilo Cau and Paolo Porcu



Picture 2: Chauffeur Monica in front of the truck, Picture 3: Pallet with medical Relief supplies for Lviv

Thanks to the proven cooperation with the relief organization (hilfswerk-ukraine.ch) of Dr. med Dr. sc. Jürg Streuli, the medical aid supplies can be sent to Ukraine as quickly as possible. On 18 March, a truck also took off from Ticino. Soroptimist-Governor of the Swiss Union S.I., Dr. med. Jolanta Jozefowski and Honorary President of the Union Marie Jeanne Bosia coordinated and organized the collection and rapid transport of medical supplies. (see photos).

Responsible for News from Ukraine:

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Collaboration with Jürg Streuli

Dr. med. Dr. sc. Jürg Streuli, the son of Katharina Streuli, soon reactivated an aid organization that his parents had founded at the end of the 1990s. Today, he can rely on a proven, reliable team in Ukraine. His own large network, founded by his profession as a doctor, is of great benefit. In this calendar week 12, another transport financed by Soroptimists with relief goods donated to Ukraine leaves Switzerland for Lviv. It is envisaged that the transport can be carried out directly to Ukraine in the same way as the last delivery.

Article from newspaper Tages-Anzeiger:

https://mcusercontent.com/fe92d8768e87d04d0a723bb1b/files/bfb70aa6-9e67-02e4-382b-3111864d9de8/TA070322_Juerg_Streuli.pdf



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Disaster Recovery Fund

Reference to the actions of SIE European Federation of Soroptimists

There are many other important aid actions taking place at European level by Soroptimists. Union Switzerland is in close contact with various country organisations and supports Poland in particular. Close cooperation already exists with this country, the Union and individual clubs

www.soroptimisteurope.org

Fundraising: Account in CHF – Swiss Francs

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