SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SWITZERLAND

SI-CH | News from Ukraine Nr. 2

WE STAND UP!

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

«We did stand up»!

The slogan "We stand up" is indicative of the activities and actions that are now taking place throughout Europe and also in Switzerland due to this terrible war in Ukraine. We Soroptimists immediately stood up and joined forces to support the victims of this war

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

The first refugees have arrived in Switzerland

With the actions that have already taken place, we have so far focused mainly on supporting refugees outside Switzerland. It is now crucial that we Soroptimists also help people who have fled to Switzerland. This support, which is extremely important to us, must be well planned and coordinated. In this context, we address all Soroptimists in Switzerland, ask for support and help. This is primarily **a call for help in an action group** (a CH Task Force, so to speak. In the Swiss Action Group – see also below under Fundraising – it is well-founded clarified how we can help. The aim is to develop a proposal for the clubs on how best to help individual refugees. This includes, among other things, a clarification of the needs, the legal situation, accommodation, support as well as communication and language topics.

In this context, we ask all club presidents to ask in their clubs whether they know women who speak Ukrainian or Russian. Who would be willing to help in our organization and provide translation services? Please send your feedback to the following e-mail address: ukraine@swiss-soroptimist.ch

Structures: We organize Ukraine aid in the Swiss Union

As you learned from the first Ukraine Newsletter – the No. 1 news from Ukraine – the Union immediately convened an ad hoc commission at S.I. Union Switzerland level. Almost every day, it strives to coordinate and optimize the aid. We have built up structures within our CH organization that help to make our solidarity with the war-affected people from Ukraine effective and sustainable. The fact that many people trust us is shown by the high volume of donations. As of the end of March 2022, donations of CHF 250,000 were received by the Ukraine Aid Account "We stand up". The ad hoc Commissioners are fully aware of the responsibility that this generous support entails. We would therefore like to inform you briefly. In addition to the information on how the donations have been used so far, we also give an insight into the work and organization of the Commission.

Cooperation with SIE (European Federation) and other SI country organizations

It has become clear how important a coordinated approach is at all levels of the Sorop organization. Transnational cooperation will therefore be intensified. Carolien Demey, our SIE President, has convened a SIE Task Force for this purpose. The surrounding country organizations, which are not directly adjacent to Ukraine, are represented in it, including Switzerland. Members of the SIE Task Force assume coordination and communication responsibility for the severely affected areas (Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, etc.).

In principle, this ensures that all countries and clubs that need help and support refugees are also taken into account.

The S.I. Union Switzerland is responsible for Ukraine and Poland together with the SIE President Extension Alice Evan from Luxembourg. We are also responsible for the 78 Ukrainian Sorop sisters, regardless of where they are. We are currently trying to get in touch with all these Soroptimists and to support them in the best possible way.

On March 30, 2022, a first meeting with the club president Mariya from the Club Kiev took place. She fled to Switzerland with part of her family. With the clothes, hygiene articles and a monetary donation of 500 SFr., we have given her a great pleasure.

Mariya, President S.I. Club Kiew, 2. v.l. with her daughter and visitors from the Swiss Union: Claudia Meister and Sina Stiffler, appointee for Ukraine

In consultation with the SIE Task Force and aware that Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe and yet has taken in many refugees, two Sorop clubs in this country have already been supported with 10,000 euros.

We help those directly affected in the Ukraine!

Despite increasing dangers and bureaucratic hurdles at customs, the weekly transfers we make to an account in Poland help our guarantors in Ukraine. Aid supplies that have become scarce are procured and distributed to the needy in Lviv. Rising prices unfortunately also exacerbate the hardship.

On March 25, 2022, an **aid transport** sponsored by Sorop under the direction of the relief organization “Hilfswerk-Ukraine” with medical supplies left Switzerland for Ukraine. The joint goals of both organizations as well as the coordinated, targeted emergency aid in Ukraine can thus be implemented in the best possible way.

Relief organization “Hilfswerk Ukraine” with Jürg Streuli's crew before departure with our goods, the range of Soroptimists are ready

As reported in the News from Ukraine No. 1, a truck with medical supplies has also started from Ticino, organized by Governor Jolanta Jozefowski. On March 28, 2022, Chauffeuse Monika handed over the delivery to our guarantors at the Polish border in Przemys..

Already on the following day, Soroptimist Nataliya had taken care of the distribution of medical supplies to hospitals as well as the necessary things to refugees! A second transport will follow in the next few days!

Food parcels for refugees in Lviv/Sumy.

As of 29 March 2022, CHF 125,000 has already been used for the above-mentioned purpose of "direct aid to Ukraine". Our help and support in Poland

Our help and support in Poland

The soroptimist network also supports people who are currently in Poland. Members of the Ad Hoc Commission are in close contact with the Polish Union and individual Polish clubs. So far, our support has been limited to financial aid. To date, we have supported the clubs in Poland with 15,000 euros. In order to support the Polish women in their help for the refugees in the best possible way, we will intensify our cooperation.

Fundraising

Activities in the Clubs

We know of some great promotions at the club level in Switzerland. The actions are coordinated by **President-elect Catherine Schuppli**. Information on this will follow by e-mail to the club presidents and to the secretaries of the clubs. It is important that ideas can be collected and a know-how transfer can take place as quickly as possible. In order to scale, we want to make these ideas accessible to all clubs. Similar to the orange day information, we will set up a database in which the activities are explained and described. We would like to mention some of

the assistance that has already been provided: The Club Schaffhausen has driven an aid transport with medicines and emergency material directly to Lviv. The Club Luzern Saphir has sold Easter bells and children have collected. The children's toys sold at the flea market have also raised a large amount of money for Ukraine.

Please report your actions to the Union! Please address any questions to the following e-mail address, which has been activated for the promotions.

E-Mail: ukraine@swiss-soroptimist.ch / ***Ursula Jutzi**, Past President, is coordinating.*

Charity events and other actions

Soon a group "Charity Events" under the direction of Franziska Brändli, President of the Extension Commission, will start its work. Further information will follow in Newsletter 3.

www.swiss-soroptimist.ch/solidaritaet-ukraine

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Account in Swiss Francs

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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 organizations and supports Poland in particular. Close cooperation already exists with this country, the Union and individual clubs

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