



SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SWITZERLAND

SI-CH | News from Ukraine No. 5

Online-Version



WE STAND UP!

Dear Soroptimists

The latest issue of our news from Ukraine reports on actions that committed Soroptimists have carried out for the benefit of Ukrainian club sisters.

I wish you a good read in Soroptimistic solidarity.

Brigitte Mantilleri

SI Union President Switzerland



A KIND OF WELCOMING CULTURE FROM WOMAN TO WOMAN!

The clubs all over Switzerland work intensively for the Ukrainian refugees, although other projects are still running in Switzerland. In general, the will to help all displaced persons is great.

For example, in the transit camp for Ukrainian refugees in Schaffhausen, a gift table filled with hygiene and care products is available. "With the delivery of care products, we support the women in their well-being, their self-confidence and their dignity," report the Soroptimists of the Club SI Schaffhausen.



PLANNED CAREER – UNPLANNED FLIGHT: TWO UKRAINIAN WOMEN REPORT

Maria Bilodid (36) and **Maria Mykhailenko** (28), two women with the same first name. They are both from Kiev. The two young Ukrainian women have some similarities. We want to report on this, but also on their differences, their way of life and their everyday work in Switzerland.

They both lived in Switzerland for some time a few years ago. The Swiss society and several economic sectors as well as cultural and structural differences are largely known to them. We could call both women businesswomen and cosmopolitans.

[To report \(PDF\)](#)

Excursus: Childcare and school education in Ukraine and Switzerland

Childcare in Ukraine is regulated by the state. All preschool children attend a nursery all day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The school children are also absent from home all day and get meals at school. In Switzerland, children and mothers now have to get used to a different day and care structure. The cantons are making every effort to include Ukrainian children in everyday school life, as the example of the Canton of Lucerne shows.

[To report \(PDF\)](#)

"Mega exciting when things went like this" – until 24 February!

Maria M. and Maria B. had lived in Switzerland for several years, learned the language and educated themselves. Back in Ukraine, they continued their education and made a career. They had maintained their contacts with friends in Switzerland. On February 24, the Russian attack abruptly changed their everyday lives and they decided to flee to Switzerland.

"It's the post off!" – View into the social welfare office Neftenbach

From the social welfare office Neftenbach we learn how everyday life works. The structures are complex. Contact with Ukrainian and other recipients of social assistance includes both social and financial support as well as help with federal and cantonal requirements. Cooperation with private organisations as well as with host families is also intensively cultivated.

To report (PDF)

In summary, back to the situation of the two mentioned Ukrainian women: What constitutes the success of these two women? What is striking is their ability to network, to live social commitment as a matter of course in everyday life, to approach people, to contribute their skills even under demanding conditions. At the same time, they are both extremely forward-looking in the world of work, picking up on new trends and reacting to transnational developments in their own areas.

And then the Ukraine will become even more of a democratic country»

Despite the enthusiastic narration of both women about their work, it is repeatedly emphasized at the same time that an early return to Ukraine is their top priority. Maria M. formulates her firm conviction for a future under different conditions and in a peaceful country with the following words: "I also hope that this war – how do you say that? – filters those people who are e.g. pro Russian or have stolen so much. They are then gone. Now those who want Ukraine to have a future have remained. ... We have to work and work. And then Ukraine will become even more of a democratic country."



Our transports to Lviv

Medical goods provided to us are part of this delivery. In recent weeks, transport routes have also become more difficult. On the other hand, food is now also needed, such as Soroptimist Käthi Streuli, mother of Jürg Streuli and since Decades associated with Ukraine, reports to

us. A few days ago, Jürg Streulis transports is arrived in the Ukraine. She sums up her conviction in a few words: **"Those who remain are the heroines."**



Finances

The commitment of the clubs to Ukrainian Soroptimists and to the Ukrainian population is still great, which is also reflected in the figures. By the end of May, around 200,000 SFr. had been paid into the Union's Ukraine account by the Swiss clubs SI.

In general, we look back on a large flow of donations in the last three months, which has become somewhat smaller. In total, donations totalling CHF 340,000 and EUR 30,000 were recorded in the Ukraine account. Of this, SFr. 210,000 was spent. Direct aid to Ukraine in particular remains extremely urgent.

*You will find on **our Website** www.swiss-soroptimist.ch/solidaritaet-ukraine information about the war in Ukraine, and the **Blog of our Union President Brigitte Mantilleri** as well as further short news from the Ukraine!*

*Contacts with our Ad-hoc Commission: ukraine@swiss-soroptimist.ch
We are looking forward to the echoes of the news from Ukraine 5!*

News from Ukraine No. 6 will be published at the beginning of July.

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