

## 20<sup>TH</sup> SI CONVENTION FACT SHEET

The 20<sup>th</sup> SI Convention will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, between 9-12 July, 2015 to develop friendships, hear from expert speakers, and be inspired. Online registration is open and all are welcome to sign up: [www.si-istanbul2015.org](http://www.si-istanbul2015.org)



### **Host Country and City: Turkey & Istanbul**

Historically described as "the cradle of civilizations", Turkey stands today as a **modern and secular democratic republic**, located at the nexus of the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. A member of the UN, NATO, OECD, and the G-20 and a candidate country for EU, Turkey's growing economy and democracy have led to its recognition as a regional power. It has been inhabited by a great variety of ethnicities for millennia who all contributed to the common heritage of humanity. The legacy of the land of Turkey ranges from the oldest known man-made temple and the settlement of the legendary Troy to the world-changing features of the Greco-Roman civilization and the imperial magnitude of the Ottoman society.

**Istanbul**, the Turkish capital of economy, art and culture, is **the only city in the world built on two continents**, Europe and Asia. Its fate has been determined by its vital strategic location and enchanting natural beauty. The city stretches along the two shores of the Bosphorus that links the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. As **an imperial capital for 1500 years**, first of the Eastern Roman Empire and then the Ottoman Empire, today Istanbul is a vibrant, modern and future-oriented metropolis where ancient bazaars and shopping malls, nostalgic houses and skyscrapers coexist, making the city **a subtle blend of Western and Eastern cultures**.

### **Registration for Convention:**

	Early Registration	Registration
Convention Registration	395 EURO	450 EURO
Daily Registration	160 EURO	190 EURO

Convention registration fee covers the opening ceremony, closing ceremony, lunch boxes, coffee breaks, access to all keynote sessions, programme workshops and exhibition hall, convention bag, ID badge. Daily registration fee covers the same for the particular day of attendance. **Early registration will be closed on February 28th, 2015.**

If you wish to cancel your registration, until **April 15, 2015** 75%; from **April 15, 2015** 25% of the registration fees will be refunded. After **June 1, 2015**, registration fees will not be refunded. Alternately, you can appoint someone to replace you before **July 1, 2015**.

### **Convention Venue:**

The Convention venue and main conference hotel is Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus, a five-star hotel and the longest serving international Hilton hotel outside the US. It is just minutes away from the city's business, shopping and entertainment districts.

### **Accommodation:**

For guaranteed rooms at Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel; accommodation dates are between July 8, 2015 and July 12, 2015 with a fixed rate of € 152. Pre and after bookings other than these dates are subject to hotel availabilities, please directly contact with [registration@si-istanbul2015.org](mailto:registration@si-istanbul2015.org).

### **Convention Programme**

The **theme** for the Convention in İstanbul has been determined as “**Educate to Lead: Fresh Ideas Empowering Women**”. The event will be organized as a global gathering with thematic sessions and workshops by leaders from diverse fields of specialization. Our goal is to set the bar high for women’s empowerment and **discover the horizons of women’s global leadership**.

**Sessions:** Major plenary sessions will specifically address the themes of “**educative leadership**”, “**women’s status in business, education and health**” and “**defeating violence against women**” with **inspiring speakers whose** messages will be a source of hope for women’s liberation all around the world in all the spheres of our organization’s cause. Throughout the Convention, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the global consultation on the future of our organization with regard to critical issues of our times.

**Workshops:** Workshops will focus on the emerging needs in the areas of **education, economic empowerment, health, the elimination of violence against women, and sustainable environment**. We will thoroughly be discussing issues such as whether women have **the right rights**, how the perspective of **education as a right** provides a second chance, what **the role of culture** is in determining the status of women, the means of **responsible leadership** in times of crisis, **the endless labyrinth to capital** for women together with **innovative strategies for empowerment** and the **nature of social entrepreneurship**..

**Soroptimist Projects Fair & Best Practices:** Throughout the Convention breaks, participants will have the opportunity to visit inspiring projects developed by their fellow Soroptimists in a large space showcasing our global achievements. Each Federation will also present its ‘**Best Practice**’.



## **Social Programme & Optional Events**

SI Conventions are always designed as events to promote networking among our esteemed and devoted members to create global bonds of activism with an extensive **Social Programme**. The **“Friendship Evening”** will be a great opportunity to spend **fabulous time with old friends** while meeting new ones at the fascinating pool side and garden of the Convention Hotel. The breathtaking view will certainly make this experience an unforgettable memory. A must-do of an SI Convention, the **“Convention Dinner”** will take place under the starry sky of lovely Istanbul, along with the Bosphorus view, with good food and music offered **with the well-known Turkish hospitality**. The **“Open Heart – Open Door Lunch”** will be organized as a celebration of this programme which is directly related to and with the members, giving them a real opportunity **to practice international Soroptimist friendship** for a broader international understanding and thus to a more peaceful world. The **“Chat Line Lunch”**, initiated around two decades ago will encourage discussions on crucial topics and projects by exchanging information and greetings among members.



To make the Soroptimists’ attendance to the Convention a great travel experience as well in **Istanbul**, which has been **recently awarded the Travelers’ Choice as the top destination of 2014 by TripAdvisor’s** millions of reviewers, a great variety of **Optional Events** will be offered to our members. The fantastic and ages-old **highlights of Istanbul** such as **Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Grand Bazaar and Istiklal Avenue** are already in close proximity to the Convention center. Professional tours will be served for sightseeing around in Istanbul with additional events such as an exclusive **Bosphorus cruise, traditional Turkish entertainment nights, cultural ceremonies and craftsmanship demonstrations like the rituals of whirling dervishes, and marbling, folkloric dancing and cooking workshops**. **22th Istanbul Jazz Festival** will be a bonus opportunity for Soroptimist music lovers. Pre and post-Convention tours will provide the opportunity to engage in a discovery of the hinterland of Turkey with daily tours to ancient **civilizational and geographic marvels such as Ephesus and Cappadocia** and **historically eminent Turkish cities like Edirne, Bursa and Iznik**.

