

a global voice  
for women

Soroptimist International



**Press Release: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

### **Soroptimist International Republic Of Ireland to Host Soroptimist International Convention in Dublin, July 2023**

Soroptimist Republic of Ireland are delighted to announce that they are the successful bidders to host the 2023 Soroptimist International Convention which will take place in July 2023 in Dublin. The Dublin Convention Centre was agreed by the board of Soroptimist International as the host venue, which will attract up to 3,000 Soroptimists and their guests from all over the world. With this convention only being held every four years, competition in the bidding process was very high.

**Fáilte Ireland** supported the Soroptimist bid which included letters of endorsement from their CEO and the Lord Mayor of Dublin as well as providing extensive guidance on their bid. The detailed bidding submission included the excellent variety of accommodation in Dublin, the wonderful venues to host friendship evenings and gala dinners, with endless examples of tourist attractions, coupled with the Irish 'Céad Míle Fáilte' and the eagerness of the Soroptimists in the Republic of Ireland to host this convention. The facilities of the Convention Centre Dublin, it being the world's first carbon-neutral constructed conference centre, also strengthened the Soroptimist Republic of Ireland bid.

The hosting of the Soroptimist International Convention 2023 will give a great opportunity to raise further awareness of Soroptimist International and the work the whole organisation undertakes around the globe. Soroptimists Republic of Ireland will build on this convention and its lasting legacy to grow membership and build partnerships to continue to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. Young women and girls, key partner organisations and influential people will be invited to participate in this convention.

**National President Soroptimist Republic of Ireland Teresa Irwin** said *"It is just unbelievable that we have won the hosting of this convention but our submission was very strong and I am so proud of our Soroptimists who did the hard work on that submission and built the good partnerships with Fáilte Ireland and the Convention Centre Dublin".*

**SI Global Executive Director, Deborah Thomas** said *"the board of Soroptimist International and I are delighted to have endorsed the thorough and professional proposal to hold our 2023 international convention in Dublin. The destination, facilities and cultural experiences on offer are first class, with international flights routing into Dublin, access will be superb for our global members and guests. We very much look forward to working with the local team to deliver an inspiring convention, bringing to the fore the multi layered work of Soroptimists around the globe, who work ceaselessly to achieve gender equality and human rights for women and girls".*

**Paul Mockler, Head of Commercial Development at Fáilte Ireland, added:**

“Fáilte Ireland is delighted that Soroptimist Great Britain and Ireland were able to secure the International Convention for Dublin in 2023 with our support. The work and dedication of Conference Ambassadors like Sarah McCormack supported by Fáilte Ireland’s Meet in Ireland’s team, delivers a real economic benefit to this country - with this event alone worth in the region of €4.8million.

“Conferences like this are not only important in terms of generating significant revenue for Ireland, they also leave a lasting legacy. The Soroptimist International Convention is a great example of this - it is renowned for improving the lives of women and girls in local communities around the world. We look forward to continuing our good work with Soroptimist Great Britain and Ireland, and are always looking to recruit expert Conference Ambassadors to our programme to help bring future business like this to Irish shores.”

Soroptimist International is a worldwide volunteer service organisation of women who work to improve the lives of women and girls. There are 18 clubs in Ireland. New members are always welcome to join Soroptimist International.

Soroptimist International holds an international convention every four years, the next being held in Kuala Lumpur in July 2019. The hosting of the 2023 convention is truly a great achievement for Ireland and the Soroptimists of the Republic of Ireland; a small group of women working on a voluntary basis to achieve the goals of Soroptimist International a wonderful organisation for women and girls across the world.

**ENDS**

**Notes to the Editor**

Founded in 1921, Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls with nearly 80,000 Members in 124 countries. Soroptimist International is made up of four Federations; Soroptimist International of the Americas, Soroptimist International of Great Britain & Ireland, Soroptimist International of Europe and Soroptimist International of South West Pacific. There are 18 Soroptimist Clubs located across the Republic of Ireland, with approximately 350 members.

Soroptimist vision is that women and girls will achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

Advocating for human rights and gender equality, at the heart of Soroptimist International’s advocacy is its work across six UN Centres, where Soroptimist UN representatives ensure that the voices of women and girls are heard. Soroptimists work on local, national and international projects that help women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in communities worldwide.

Visit [www.soroptimistireland.com](http://www.soroptimistireland.com),. [www.soroptimistinternational.org](http://www.soroptimistinternational.org), [www.sigbi.org](http://www.sigbi.org)

**List of Soroptimist Clubs in Ireland**

1. Athlone and District,
2. Ballina and District,
3. Ballinasloe and District,
4. Bandon and District,
5. Bray and District,

6. Castlebar,
7. Clonmel and District,
8. Cork,
9. Drogheda,
10. Dublin,
11. Dungarvan and District,
12. Ennis and District,
13. Killarney and District,
14. Limerick and District,
15. Mullingar and District,
16. North Kildare
17. Sligo and District,
18. Wexford.

### **Fáilte Ireland**

Fáilte Ireland, the national tourism development authority, was established in 2003 to guide and promote tourism as a leading indigenous component of the Irish economy.

The tourism and hospitality industry is of vital importance to the national economy, with tourists spending €7.2 billion in Ireland and employing an estimated 240,000 people.

### **Meet in Ireland**

Meet in Ireland is the official MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and events) brand for the island of Ireland. Owned and managed by Fáilte Ireland, it facilitates a partnership with Tourism Ireland and Tourism Northern Ireland, to promote Ireland.

- Business Tourism was worth €758m to the Irish economy in 2017 and supported 22,000 jobs.
- Over the next 7 years, Fáilte Ireland have set itself very ambitious targets to grow the international MICE market to Ireland by 45% to €1bn.

**Fáilte Ireland's Conference Ambassador Programme** has been one of the key bedrocks of success for Ireland as a MICE destination. Through the programme, Fáilte Ireland's Meet in Ireland team identify influencers across a myriad disciplines and encourage them to bring an international conference here. Due to the structured nature of this industry sector, it's possible to research and identify associations that have the potential to come to Ireland, and also identify a member of that association influential in his or her field. Once an influencer has been identified, is contacted and agrees to bid for an international conference, he or she becomes a Conference Ambassador. Fáilte Ireland provides practical and financial aid to support them through their journey, from bid stage to implementation. Such has been the success of the Programme to date that over 75% of all international conferences confirmed for Ireland arrive via this route. Find out more at [www.meetinireland.com](http://www.meetinireland.com)

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