

## **Biography**

I'm lucky because I was born in a right place and right time, in the loving family. Therefore, I owe other women who were not that lucky, help and assistance in access to education.

I was born not only in the last century, but also B.C. – before the CHANGE, change from communism into market economy, which was reversing not only the economy, but also everything around. In 1989 Poland and Krakow were moving very quickly. The change provided a wonderful opportunity to learn and do new things, a fascinating challenge bringing an immediate reward. Unfortunately, not all people could face this challenge successfully, some needed help. So when a colleague of mine had brought me to a Soroptimist meeting ten years later, it was obvious that I joined the First SI Krakow Club and thus Soroptimism to change the world even more. Then I became the Union President, then a Vice President of the Federation, President Elect and finally the SIE President 2019 – 2021.

My Presidency is challenging, most of my original plans went bust, new ones had to be put together. Especially difficult was the beginning of the pandemics when no-one knew what to do, but all were ready to criticise.

I think that we, Soroptimists should inspire the world and create the future, the future WE want it to be like. This requires learning and educating – of ourselves and others.

Education covers everything: awareness of women's rights, global warming, care of environment not allowing for violence against women. I strongly believe in education and life-long learning. Education is power – it brought Malala Yousafzai the Nobel Prize and is empowering and gives independence.

Education now is more important than ever as we can observe a significant step backwards in women's issues. Pandemics have deprived women of their work, as service sector where many women were employed is shrinking. Pandemics increased domestic violence of about 30 percent.

Whatever happens, whatever the future brings we, Soroptimists stand up for women.