

Curriculum Vitae

Born and raised in Italy, she holds a degree in Education *summa cum laude* from the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milano. Following her graduation in 1971, she taught Modern History at the University until her retirement from the faculty, although she lectured for a few more years at the same University. Maria Luisa lived extensively abroad—New York, Chicago, London and Bratislava— with her husband (former banking executive) and her son (who now is a partner in an International Law firm and lives in London with his family).

Maria Luisa joined Soroptimist International in 1994. She was a member of London Mayfair SIGBI from 1994 to 1998. Since 1998, she has been a member of SI club Milano alla Scala, Union of Italy, serving both as President of her club (2004-2006) and as Chairperson of the Extension Committee of SI Italy (2007-2011, with six new clubs chartered during her tenure). Maria Luisa was an SI Registered Delegate at the United Nations/New York for CSW55 (2011), CSW56 (2012), CSW 57 (2013) and CSW65 (2021) conferences. In 2014 she was Keynote speaker to the NGO Forum - UN Genève - Beijing+20 on « Education and Training of Women ».

Particularly close to Maria Luisa's Soroptimist heart is the “*Au Rayon de soleil*” project (a home for orphan girls in Lomé—Togo) on which she has worked as project coordinator from 2003 until 2017 (and which received both the SIE BPA and the SI BPA in 2009) to secure education and independence to 17 girls. The project was a partnership among SI Milano alla Scala, SI Milano Fondatore and SI Lomé Agape.

Throughout her time as a member of Soroptimist, and during her years as a university lecturer and researcher, she worked tirelessly to promote education (in all its forms and in many different countries), with a particular eye toward the benefits that educational opportunities can provide to girls and young women around the world.

Educational imperatives remain critically important to her as SIE Chairperson of the Extension Committee (2011-15), SIE Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee (2015-2019), as a member of the SIE Mentoring Team (2017-21) and as a member of the Union of Italy Mentoring Team (2019-2021).

Maria Luisa serves as Secretary General of the Accademia Ambrosiana at the Ambrosiana Library in Milan (where she is editor for several publications, curator of exhibits, and coordinator of national and international conferences).

She is also Chair of the Milano Duomo chapter and Regional Coordinator of “The Accademia Italiana della Cucina” (a Cultural Institution of the Republic of Italy).

Honors: 1997 *Cavaliere (Knight) dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana*, bestowed by decree of the President of the Italian Republic. Awarded for merit acquired in the educational and social fields for the benefit of Italians living abroad (New York, Chicago and London).

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, theatre, cinema, gastronomy, golf and travel.