



4-8 July, 1999 XVI Soroptimist International Convention,
Helsinki, Finland

Economic and Social Development - Interactive Panel
“Women’s Spending Power”

from *Convention Proceedings*

Chairman of the Panel: Ralda Forzin, SI Programme Coordinator

Members: Valerie Evans, Katherine Mayer, Indrani Manuel and Evi Wunder

From transnational corporations, big government and big money to the power of the individual:

- to influence transnational corporations, big governments and big money
- by consumers ability to make an informed choice in purchase
- to be informed by making use of the WWW as a tool and as a source, ensuring accuracy
- by linking with other Soroptimist clubs in the places in question

This can then be turned into Action through the Soroptimist programme using:

- UN Representative reports
- the Soroptimist statements in “Where We Stand”, and
- accessing other groups' prepared material, e.g., Great Britain's “Consumer Education” package and consumer watchdog web sites.

Economic and Social Development (ESD) as a programme is critical in Soroptimist work as it encompasses a number of major issues:

- economic global action and its affect on consumer choice as well as on social development
- exploitation of resources beyond sustainable levels
- the health of our families and environment
- employment levels and conditions and social development in general