

# SGI-USA MEMO

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DISTRIBUTE TO:

All Women's Leaders

FROM:

Women's Chief Secretary—Barbara Snyder

SUBJECT:

New Sophia Group Guidelines

## Sophia Group of the Second Act

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of thousands of women across the country during the last twenty years, the Sophia Group has flourished, enabling the women of SGI-USA to grow and develop into capable leaders of the 21st century. It is a source of great pride that so many leaders have been raised through participating in Sophia Group.

The continuing mission of each Sophia sister is to infuse a passion for study into her district, through sharing the joy and benefit derived from her participation in Sophia Group.

Now, in the Second Act of worldwide *kosen-rufu*, we have revisited the original purpose of President Ikeda's establishment of the Sophia Group, which is:

1. Leadership development based on the Oneness of Mentor and Disciple; and
2. Support for the transition of recent YWD graduates into the Women's Division.

In support of this, the focal points of the Sophia group have always been to:

- ❖ Understand the history of the SGI and the significance of the district discussion meeting;
- ❖ Deepen one's understanding of the oneness of mentor and disciple; and
- ❖ Infuse the spirit of these first two points into the district discussion meetings.

**In keeping with the original spirit of Sophia Group, the following new guidelines for participation have been established, effective January 2010.**

All Sophia Group members will have a term limit of two years, including facilitators.

In January of every even year—2010, 2012, 2014, etc.—a new term will start with a new group of women: members and facilitators alike. Women have participated in the Sophia Group prior to 2010 are eligible to join a two-year term of Sophia Group beginning in January 2010. All existing Sophia Groups will complete their present rotation and finish their current curriculum by the end of 2009.

Throughout SGI-USA, Sophia Groups of the Second Act will begin the new curriculum together in January 2010. We hope that Sophia Groups that have previously started in the fall or at another time of year will choose to inaugurate their Sophia Group of the Second Act in January 2010 in unity with their sister groups around the country.

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## **Material:**

The material for all Sophia Group activities will be *The Human Revolution*, (Books One and Two) exclusively. Book One contains the original Volumes 1-6 and Book Two contains Volumes 7-12. (This is the blue, two-book boxed set published in 2004, which is the most updated version.) In the SGI-USA, *The Human Revolution* is available in English only. (For other language-based Sophia Groups, please select appropriate material available in your respective language.)

Due to the large volume of material in *The Human Revolution*, we suggest that each Sophia Group meet once a month, January through December, for the entire two-year term. Each local Sophia Group should determine the number of pages or chapters to read each month, as well as the most effective agenda for meetings. The group should create its own pace and read the amount that best suits its membership. As a result, it is understood that the entire two-book set may not be completed within the two-year term.

## **Facilitators:**

Facilitators should be selected and assigned by the appropriate level (region or area) of women leaders. No prior Sophia Group experience is necessary. This is a chance to give more women the opportunity to grow and develop through taking responsibility as a facilitator. With the spirit of continually raising more successors, leaders should select individuals they are confident can fulfill this important responsibility. This will keep the Sophia Group fresh and vital.

## **Group Size:**

Please select a Sophia group size that is small enough to accommodate meaningful discussion.

It is our hope that throughout her Sophia Group term, and after its completion, each participant will infuse her district with the benefit of her experience, helping to generate the most exciting discussion meetings based on faith, practice, and study, with a strong emphasis on the importance of study.