

2018-2020 BIENNIUM
ISSUE TWO | MAY 2019

THE Zontian

THE VOICE OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER WOMEN



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS**

Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of 16 employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation and supports the Zonta International Board in implementing policies and programs to further the objectives of Zonta International.

Our friendly, capable staff is ready to assist you!

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If you are visiting the Chicago area, we invite you to visit Headquarters. Enjoy a tour of our offices and see artifacts from Zonta's 99-year history. To schedule a visit, please call +1 630 928 1400 or stop by our offices during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CDT.

World Headquarters

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Credit: ©UNICEF/IMG. 7235/Ralaivita.
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Zeme, 15, student at the new classroom in the secondary school of Berano (Anosy Region). She want to be a midwife.

Cover: The members of students' club in secondary school of Tanambao/Taolagnaro, Madagascar.

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**A MESSAGE FROM
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
SUSANNE VON BASSEWITZ**



Dear Zontians,

Since Zonta was founded in 1919, most societies have undergone tremendous changes; one of them is the movement toward gender equality. Some sociologists even call it, along with the movement for human rights, the most profound and most consequential change of all. Well, for Zonta members this movement is not yet enough. Our reason to be around, therefore, has not changed at all. That 650 million women in the world were still girls when they were married is not acceptable. Nor can we tolerate other forms of violence inflicted on women and girls. While in industrialized countries we advocate for equal pay, 830 women in less fortunate societies die every day during pregnancy or giving birth and two million suffer from obstetric fistula.

At this year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) it became clear that the progress we have seen cannot be taken for granted. We need to raise our voices and stay engaged in the empowerment of women. In order to be successful, collaboration and partnership are indispensable. I am glad to report that we have strengthened our partnerships and relations with like-minded organizations at the CSW and in other forums. The record number of 112 Zontians who attended the inspiring discussions and meetings at the CSW in New York between 10 March and 22 March saw firsthand how our partnerships with UNICEF USA, UNFPA and UN Women translate into advocacy activities and how we collaborate with Girls Not Brides and Unchained At Last to end child marriage.

The Zonta world is celebrating our centennial anniversary with multiple efforts. Charity stamps and stickers, grants and awards, special donations, concerts, panel discussions and many other events give proof of our unfaltering commitment to our mission. It is amazing to feel the enthusiasm and the creativity that fuel the efforts to speak about Zonta's achievements in the past 100 years and our aspirations for the future. On behalf of the entire Zonta International Board, I thank you for all the great things you do.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne von Bassewitz".

Susanne von Bassewitz

Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation President, 2018–2020



CSW63: CALLING AN END TO CHILD MARRIAGE

After two weeks of intense negotiations, Member States agreed on further actions to accelerate progress toward gender equality and promote women's rights.

Ending child marriage was the resounding call for action from Zonta International at the [63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW63) at the United Nations (UN) in New York in March. More than 110 Zonta members from 15 countries participated in the annual meeting that brings representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities together at UN Headquarters to discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the [1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), and, the new and emerging issues affecting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the world. After two weeks of intense negotiations, Member States agreed on further actions to accelerate progress toward gender equality and promote women's rights.

CSW is a time for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), like Zonta, to engage in high-level discussions and meaningful debates with government officials, UN agencies and like-minded organizations. In the last 10 years, Zonta International's presence at the Commission on the Status of Women has grown with more opportunities for Zonta to address key stakeholders at high-level events and with more and more Zonta members eager to seek out new ways to use their voices for advocacy at the international level. Here are a few highlights from CSW63 as Zonta International used its influence to bring attention to and demand actions to end child, early and forced marriage.

Zonta Youth Observer to the CSW Aysha Emmerson makes an intervention at a side event on a project in Georgia that uses storytelling to nurture equality between girls and boys.





Zonta UN Committee Advisor Leslie Wright, Committee Chairman Ingeborg Geyer and Committee Member Pamela Morgan at CSW63.

ZONTA CSW63 HIGHLIGHTS

CHILD MARRIAGE SEMINAR

Zonta International's inaugural child marriage seminar brought experts from [UNICEF](#) and [Save the Children](#) together to discuss child marriage, the primary focus of Zonta International's service and advocacy efforts during the 2018-2020 Biennium. Participants received an update on the [UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage](#), a program Zonta International is supporting with a record US\$2 million, and the multi-faceted causes and consequences of girls being forced to marry too young.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EDUCATION PARALLEL EVENT WITH UNICEF USA

"Life is all about showing up. Be a change maker," was Susan Cummings-Findel's call to action at the UNICEF USA/Zonta International parallel event on girls access to education, health and protection services as a means for achieving progress toward gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals. Cummings-Findel, founder of UNICEF's Let Us Learn program, joined Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz, Caitlin McCurn, deputy director of Global Programs at [UNICEF USA](#), Dr. Veena Khandke, director of Grants and Partnerships for [Dining for Women](#), and Zonta Youth Observer to the CSW Aysha Emmerson for an inspiring panel discussion. "I am enthusiastic about the women that are here. It inspires and gives me confidence that what we are doing here supports the change makers," concluded Susanne.

Read more about the agreed conclusions from CSW63 below:
[Agreed Conclusions](#)



Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz speaks about Zonta's commitment to ending child marriage at a side event hosted by Zonta International and the Republic of Niger. Seated to Susanne's left are Nora O'Connell from Save the Children and Minister Zeinabou Adam Elback.

SAVE THE DATE FOR CSW64 9–20 March 2020

Interested in joining your fellow Zonta members at the 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women next March? [Add your name to our CSW64 mailing list](#) to stay informed of plans as they develop.

PASSING LAWS IS A FIRST STEP

PARALLEL EVENT WITH UNCHAINED AT LAST AND BREAKTHROUGH

Co-hosted by [Unchained At Last](#), [Breakthrough](#) and Zonta International, and moderated by Mabel van Oranje, founder and chair of Girls Not Brides, this event compared and contrasted laws, policies and attitudes on child, early and forced marriage in Afghanistan, India, Kenya and the United States. Participants were shocked to learn that only two states in the United States have laws prohibiting marriage before the age of 18. “We need all of you to let them know, you need to vote ‘yes’ on ending child marriage or you’re going to be out of a job,” explained Fraidy Reiss, founder and executive director of Unchained At Last, speaking on why it is so important to urge legislators across the U.S. to pass commonsense laws to end child marriage.

PASSING LAWS IS NOT ENOUGH

SIDE EVENT WITH MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER, UNICEF and UNFPA

“Even once laws are passed...20,000 girls are married illegally every day. That’s over 7.5 million each year. So clearly passing laws is not enough,” said Nora O’Connell, Associate Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy for Save the Children, at a side event hosted by Zonta International and the Mission of the Republic of Niger. Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz emphasized the role of civil society in addressing large-scale issues like child marriage. Nankali Maksud, Coordinator of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, underlined the importance of national action plans to end child marriage that are cost-associated and budgeted for across multiple government sectors, while Satvika Chalasani, Technical Specialist for UNFPA, spoke of the need to provide services for girls who have already been married. Zeinabou Adam Elback, Niger’s Minister of Women’s Promotion & Protection of Children shared her government’s commitment to ending child marriage and some of the recent successes in Niger.



Watch a recording of the full side event on [UN WebTV](#).



CSW63: REFLECTIONS FROM ZONTA'S YOUTH OBSERVER

Each form of trauma
I came across allowed
me to see the world
and the collective
experiences of
women and girls
through a new lens.

Aysha Emmerson, a 2018 Young Women in Public Affairs Awardee and freshman at Harvard College, was the first ever Zonta Youth Observer at the 63rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Along with 110 Zonta members—the highest number of participants ever—Aysha attended many panel discussions and presentations and shared her impressions at a Zonta closing event on 14 March. She allowed parts of her speech to be shared below.

This past week, I have been reading trauma both between the lines and in the text itself of the many sessions I have attended and stories I have listened to.

From the despair felt by a Kenyan mother after incurring years of persistent poverty and a lack of access to social protection, to the psychological damage faced by a Slovenian woman who is victim to cyber violence, to the denigration of a human-trafficking victim when she is reduced to a form of currency, to the invisibility of Canadian women with disabilities, to the anguish experienced by a girl when she is forced from childhood and into a wedding dress: I have observed that women's history of trauma does not rhyme or repeat—it is ongoing and unrelenting.

Each form of trauma I came across allowed me to see the world and the collective experiences of women and girls through a new lens. I frequently came face to face with the reality of my own relative privilege, all while becoming more attuned to the oppressive structures that also surround me as a young woman in North America.

However, peeking out from behind these structures of oppression and systemized instances of trauma, I saw something much more promising and powerful—I saw resilience.

Resilience rises from the ashes of trauma, taking shape as the radiant life force of women and girls through societies as social protection systems, infrastructure, and parity. This is a life force that can be felt in the jam-packed hallways of the parallel events and side events here at the CSW, and in the voices of the passionate women who speak or ask questions at these engagements.

Her Excellency Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason, chairperson to the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women, began the CSW by stating that “resilience is embedded in women's DNA.” Well, if resilience is in our DNA, the positive work done by the

United Nations, by the CSW, by civil society, and by each of you on a daily basis, is what creates the environmental conditions for this resilience to be expressed.

I would not be here if it were not for the network of support you Zontians weave for young women, such as myself. In particular though, I would not be here if it weren't for a Zontian from my local district named Helen. Her support has helped enable my own resilience.

At the time, Helen could never have imagined the doors her support would open for me and each of you makes this same kind of difference in everything you do as members of Zonta.

This past week at the CSW has been an experience of a lifetime. It has stretched me both emotionally and intellectually, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity.

I observed the future taking shape—through shared goals, new standards, and most prominently, through other youth. Moreover, I looked, listened, and learned, but I also found myself engaging—soaking in the abundance of expertise I was immersed in, while also contributing to the common pool of knowledge by sharing some of my own perspectives and experiences.

I see trauma. I see resilience. I see change.

Zonta Youth Observer to the CSW Aysha Emmerson (center) stands with Lori Montigel (left) and Florence Fischer-Herber (right), members of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Award Committee who selected Aysha as a 2018 YWPA Award recipient.



Daily Reflections

Through Aysha's role as the Zonta Youth Observer, she wrote daily reflections on what she saw at CSW63. Read about her experience by clicking the links below.

[Preparing for CSW63](#)

[Youth at the CSW](#)

[A pencil is not a privilege—it is a right](#)

[The launch pad for global change](#)

[Seeing the CSW through the lens of love](#)

[Translating policy](#)

[“Empowered” is a feminist buzzword](#)





Credit: ©UNICEF/IMG_7348/Ralaivita.

ZONTA AND UNICEF USA:

Creating opportunities for girls in Madagascar



children first.

Girls in Madagascar are being given the opportunity to continue their education beyond primary school, thanks to an ongoing partnership between Zonta International and UNICEF USA in support of UNICEF's [Let Us Learn](#) program. With an additional contribution of US\$1 million to Let Us Learn over the next year, bringing Zonta's total contribution to the program to US\$2 million, Zonta is assisting the most vulnerable adolescent girls in Madagascar in transitioning from primary school to secondary school by reaching out-of-school children, expanding girls' education and improving quality outcomes for all students.

In April 2019, Zonta International Vice President Ute Scholz, Past International Director Judy Kautz, 2018 Convention Chairman Sadako Miyake and Past District 6 Governor Tamara Hagen traveled to Madagascar. International President Susanne von Bassewitz asked them to represent Zonta International on a UNICEF USA field visit to Let Us Learn sites in the southern part of the country that are supported by Zonta International. Below, they share their reflections on what they learned about some of the most critical components of the program and what they see as the successes and challenges for girls in Madagascar.

Children run to go to the new classroom in secondary school of Berano.



The students in the secondary school of Berano (Anosy Region).

Investments in infrastructure provide safe spaces for learning

On Day One of the field visit to Madagascar, the Zonta team traveled to Amboasary to get their first glimpses of the Let Us Learn program in Berano Ville where new school classrooms and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities were built with the support of Zonta International.

“These structures are well built and maintained with the classes taking turns cleaning the latrine daily. It is an appropriately vented pit latrine with a cement base. It was only after several more stops and the use of other latrines that the scope of how much better that WASH facility was over everything else we saw. Unfortunately, it did not have a water source associated with it since the well that was dug was “negative” i.e. either dry or too salty to use. Therefore, the sanitation was much improved but the hygiene portion was less than ideal. With just the sanitation portion, the risk of diarrheal disease is still reduced by 45 percent. Sanitation and hygiene is taught at that school in biology.”

—Dr. Tamara Hagen, Past District 6 Governor

Construction on two new classrooms, gender-specific latrine blocks and a sports field will begin elsewhere, thanks to Zonta's support at the Marolinta lower secondary school in Androy in June. Currently, the approximately 100 students in Marolinta attend classes in a nearby elementary school or community auditorium and do not have access to separate latrines for girls and boys.



Credit: ©UNICEF/IMG_7849/Ralaivita.

Zeme is a mother leader in Tanandava (cash transfer). She has three children and sensitizes the other mother about the importance of education for children.

Cash transfers give families options that allow girls to stay in school

Since 2016, more than 1,500 households have received cash transfers through the Zonta International/UNICEF USA partnership, an integral component of the Let Us Learn program. The Zonta field visit team met with the mother leaders who assist with the program and the families who receive them.

"The families receive the amount of US\$3 every two months for every child that attends school. This enables them to build up their own existence and to educate their children. Just imagine what an enormous impact these US\$3 have on these families in Madagascar!" said Ute Scholz, Zonta International Vice President.

"The money is paid and confirmed by the mother of the family and the family also gets consultancy how to invest the money best. When we stayed in this very remote village with little palm huts in the dry sand, no running water, no latrines, no infrastructure at all, but lots of children, two baby lambs were just born. The family bought the mother lamb from the money that they received by cash transfer to build up their own flock for milk and cheese. I was so happy to see this growth!

'Cash transfer' does not only mean that families receive money. Additionally, the women of the village are trained and coached by 'mother leaders' about the impact of cash transfer, how to get safe water, about (menstrual) hygiene, breastfeeding, how to lead a household and how to educate strong children, etc. The key messages are sung and danced by the women, so that the content can easily be remembered and practiced."

"I was deeply impressed about the warmth of the people and how eager they are to learn and to improve their situation so that their children will have a better life one day!;" —Ute Scholz, Zonta International Vice President

An evaluation of the cash transfer program conducted in July 2018 indicated a 6% increase in secondary school enrollment for children aged 11 to 18 who received a cash transfer. Results also indicated that children benefiting from cash transfers were in compliance with the conditions of the cash transfers and attended at least 80% of classes.

Life skills classes make a difference for girls and boys

Life skills sessions, led by peer educators, give students the opportunity to talk about the most pressing issues they face as adolescents. The Zonta team observed a life skills session and talked with the peer educators and participants

"We met some amazing young women and this concept really does seem to be making a difference. They seem to really like these classes, and they spoke to us comfortably about their experiences with early marriage, early pregnancy, abortion and violence against women. We also got to speak to mothers of the participants about their feelings about these classes. Those we spoke to were positive, stating they learned from the students, and their other children did too. They were glad that topics like early marriage and pregnancy were being discussed, as they were uncomfortable discussing these issues with their children themselves." —Judy Kautz, Past International Director



Credit: ©UNICEF/IMG.7913/Ralavita.

Rakotoarinaivo Mamisoa Lucia is a teacher in the secondary school of Tanambao/ Taolagnaro (Anosy Region). She benefited some training with the support of the Let Us Learn program and now she knows how to have more interaction with students.

Child Protection Clubs improve awareness of child rights among students

Child protection clubs are formed in schools, to facilitate peer to peer engagement with the support of the school administration. The child protection club in Tanambao is a group of 50 girls and boys who discuss the impact of violence at home and in school, including issues of sexual violence and rape through song and dance and call and response, which they demonstrated for the Zonta team during their visit.

During the youth-led discussion, participants shared that sexual violence, rape and child prostitution are common, while two girls spoke about their own experiences with their parents wanting them to marry early. The students felt that their open discussion of these issues and learning about their options was valuable. When queried, the boys felt they had learned techniques to intervene in a situation if they saw a girl in danger. Both girls and boys related that they shared what they had learned with others, including classmates who were not in the club, siblings and friends.

This biennium, UNICEF is in the process of finalizing plans for child protection training for 23 secondary school directors in the district of Ambovombe in the Androy region. Trainings will focus on child rights, child protection and school codes of conduct and will serve as a model for the other six districts in Androy. They are also continuing to support and monitor 19 child protection clubs and conducting an analysis to predict needs and plan how many additional clubs will be launched going forward.



Credit: ©UNICEF/IMG 7521/Ralaiwita.

Zonta International Vice President Ute Scholz (center left), Past International Director Judy Kautz (second from left), Past District 6 Governor Tamara Hagen (center right) and 2018 Convention Chairman Sadako Miyake (far right) stand with some women in Amboasary (Anosy region).

Junior reporter clubs teach students valuable communication skills

Members of the Junior Reporter Club meet twice a week to produce a weekly radio show. As a group, they decide on the topic of the show, write the script and then record the show. Topics discussed include the environment, the measles outbreak, importance of education, child marriage and sexual violence, among other community-related topics.

Participants work with support staff from the radio station, including a graduate of a former class. They learn interview techniques, how to research topics and find individuals to interview, and the logistics of recording and editing the material.

Students expressed to the Zonta team that they had learned significant lessons on how to better communicate with others and used these skills in other aspects of life. They were recognized at their schools as being on the radio and had become the "experts" that other children looked to for information.

"The participants are spunky, confident and have incredible aspirations about what they want to do. What fun we had with them." —Judy Kautz

"The main obstacles are the gap between rich and poor, which is large, and long-standing customs that may be harmful to girls. Although it will take time, Zonta's efforts to invest in the education of girls and to address gender inequity will improve the situation for women and girls in Madagascar."

—Sadako Miyake, 2018 Convention Chairman

Learn more about the Let Us Learn program and how you can help adolescent girls in Madagascar realize their right to an education at foundation.zonta.org/Let-Us-Learn-Madagascar.

SERVING ZONTA'S WHY

Zontians believe in making the world a better place by empowering women, and they find joy in working on this together in a community with like-minded people that even extends to other cultures. This encapsulates the essence of what Zonta has been for 100 years: our Why.

We have collected examples from all over the Zonta world that express this 'why' and demonstrate our commitment to our mission.



Zonta Club of Fort Smith, USA, District 10 (for 49 years)

Working with the **Girls Shelter of Fort Smith** was the first service project the Zonta Club of Fort Smith ever took on. Now, 49 years later, members are still dedicating time to the shelter. In 1970, the shelter opened as temporary housing for underprivileged girls and now serves as a long-term residential treatment facility. Club members help to promote a positive and safe environment, as well as encourage character enhancement and educational advancement. They even help reunite girls with their families.



Zonta Club of Salt Lake Area, USA, District 9 (for 25 years)

Every holiday season, members of the Zonta Club of Salt Lake Area provide hundreds of gifts through **House of Hope**, an addiction and recovery service in the area. The gifts are given to the mothers attending House of Hope to give to their children. Often, these mothers are working to improve their lives after struggling with addiction.



Zonta Club of Owen Sound, District 4, USA (for 25 years)

After 25 years of providing clothing to women at their regional hospital, members of the Zonta Club of Owen Sound recently began donating hygiene products as well. The donations go to women who are in the hospital due to experiencing violence or health or mental health issues. Many of the women are unable to go home in the clothes they arrived in and they are welcome to take any items found in the **Comfort Closet**. An outpatient mental health manager told club members that the donations go a long way toward building self-esteem and making a positive impact on the women.



Zonta Club of Laguna, Philippines, District 17 (for 20 years)

For the past 20 years, members the Zonta Club of Laguna have focused on empowering women in their community through encouraging them to become more self-sufficient. **The Maternal and Children Empowerment Program** was created by the club in the 1998-2000 Biennium through the Continuing Livelihood and Literacy Education Program, which offers educational and income-generating projects that empower local women to become economically self-sufficient. Club members provide materials for trainings and courses in mathematics and art, as well as practical skills such as cooking, bag making and parenting. While the mothers attend classes, their children are provided free schooling by Golden Z club students from Saint Michael's College of Laguna.



Zonta Club of Dhaka III, Bangladesh, District 25 (for 19 years)

Of all their service projects, the Zonta Club of Dhaka III is most invested in the girls at the **Shishu Bikash Kendra School**. The club initiated and fully funds the school, which provides free education to more than 150 underprivileged children. Classes are offered to adolescent girls in English, math, computers, sewing and more; adults can take literacy classes and participate in counseling and advocacy sessions. Additionally, a free clinic operates once a week where girls and their families are treated by a doctor employed by the Zonta club. A daily breakfast program for the students is also served throughout the year with contributions from club members.

See more stories of Zonta service at www.zonta.org/Local-Action/Local-Service-Advocacy



Zonta Club of Alytus, Lithuania, District 13 (for 18 years)

Zonta Club of Alytus members, as well as professionals in various fields, provide legal and psychological counseling to women through the public organization **Alytus City Women Crisis Center**. The center was established by the club as a place to receive temporary volunteer services. The crisis center team has implemented more than 50 projects, including providing computer literacy training courses to nearly 600 women, participating in European projects for the integration of women into the labor market and offering 24-hour counseling services over the phone.



Zonta Club of Laramie, USA, District 12 (for 17 years)

To help build confidence in women entering the workforce, the Zonta Club of Laramie provides interview and professional clothing and accessories through the **Suited for Success Closet**. The clothing is available at no charge to 20-30-year old women who are actively seeking employment.



Zonta Club of Coos Bay Area, USA, District 8 (for 15 years)

The annual **Dress Your Best** event offers information on job search skills, resume writing and interview techniques as well as free job interview clothing to women who are re-entering the work force after facing hardship. Focusing on women who have faced domestic violence, drug addiction or homelessness, the club provides aid in selecting appropriate clothing for job interviews. A classroom component is also offered and held at the local gender violence shelter. Club members frequently encounter past Dress Your Best participants in the community, who express their gratitude and share college enrollment and job success stories.



Zonta Club of Aarhus, Denmark, District 13 (for 14 years)

The Women's House in Aarhus was founded with the intent of being a safe house for all women and has successfully served as a secure space for women to meet and relax. Supported by the Zonta Club of Aarhus, women who visit take part in social, creative and educational activities. Club members say the Women's House provides an opportunity for women to meet others who may have been in similar situations in the past.



Zonta Club of Buffalo, USA, District 4 (for 14 years)

Through the Zonta Club of Buffalo's longstanding service project, girls are taken off the streets, given a place to live and are assisted with enrolling in school, finishing their GED or getting a job. Members of the club's service committee spend time mentoring the girls of **Teach and Restore Youth (TRY)** on a weekly basis. They talk with the girls, cook, do crafts or go on outings together.



Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi, USA, District 15 (for 12 years)

The Zonta Club of Farmington/Novi has cut, sewn and stuffed mastectomy pillows as a service project for more than 12 years. Just since 2016, the club has provided **600 pillows to breast cancer survivors**. The mastectomy pillow is used to protect the mastectomy incision by comfortably keeping the arm away from the site, making the recovery process easier. When the project began, it was supported by club funds. Now, the project is secured by community grants.



Zonta Club of Longview, USA, District 10 (for 11 years)

Approximately 330 girls were able to dance in style at their prom in the dress of their choice thanks to the Zonta Club of Longview. Every year, hundreds of girls attend the club's annual **Zonta Prom Boutique** in search of their perfect dress. Through the event, gently used dresses are collected and provided to girls for free, lifting the financial burden of buying a dress off of many families in the community.



Zonta Club of Singapore, Singapore, District 17 (for 11 years)

Hoping to provide educational funding to as many secondary school girls as possible, the Zonta Club of Singapore launched the innovative **Project Pari** in 2008. Club members began their efforts by providing monthly stipends to the girls, as well as hosting workshops and mentorships. Schools that are run by the Ministry of Education were approached about the project and took part by shortlisting girls based on their background and character. Club members then interviewed the girls before deciding who would receive the funds. Through this system, Zonta club members meet and interact with the students and often visit them at their schools.



Zonta Club of Houston, USA, District 10 (for 10 years)

Women now have their dream job, own apartments and can sufficiently care for their children after taking part in a training course offered by the Zonta Club of Houston. From 2009, the club's members have continuously volunteered their time to provide clients of **The Women's Home** with critical vocational skills training, such as team building, time management and interview skills. The nine-week vocational series of classes is a required part of the Home's vocational program and is offered by Zonta volunteers on a quarterly basis.



Zonta Club of Darmstadt, Germany, District 28 (for 10 years)

Through the local women's shelter, the Zonta Club of Darmstadt supports an **art therapy project** that has made a tangible difference in improving the lives of more than 150 women. In the art course, women paint postcards, which the club sells at their events. This project helps the women grow in confidence and feel proud of their work. Funds for the program are generated by the club's annual film event held on International Women's Day.



Zonta Club of Nuernberg Area, Germany District 14 (for more than 10 years)

The Zonta Club of Nuernberg Area contributes to **empowering women** through their longstanding service project. Club members help young women in their community grow in their self-confidence by encouraging them to start careers and get politically and socially involved at a young age. Together with the local education center, the club organizes trainings for girls, after which members stay in contact with them, following their careers and keeping them linked to the Zonta club and Zonta's values.



Zonta Club of Nanaimo, Canada, District 8 (for 10 years)

Over the last decade, the Zonta Club of Nanaimo has supported the **Samaritan House Shelter**, a place for women who are homeless. Club members have donated toiletries and clothing and have supported a gift card program, where residents receive a reward for completing chores. Club members also participate in a visitation program where they play board games and have tea with the residents. Once a month, three members prepare breakfast for the women at the shelter.

Maximizing IMPACT Through Collaborative Partnerships



At the 2018 Zonta International Convention in Yokohama, Japan, Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz laid out her vision and goals for Zonta's centennial anniversary biennium. At the core of those goals is a focus on the future of Zonta and the generations of young women and girls that will benefit from Zonta International's continued efforts toward women's empowerment and the realization of gender equality. President Susanne called on all Zonta members to take bold action to "maximize Zonta's impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls." Zonta districts and clubs were encouraged to forge new partnerships with like-minded organizations and strengthen existing collaborations to enhance Zonta's effectiveness and maximize service and advocacy results at all levels of the organization.

Partnership and collaboration have also been emphasized as critical to the success of Zonta International's focused efforts on ending child marriage, an appalling violation of human rights and one of the worst obstacles girls are facing globally. In the last year, Zonta International has made great strides in bringing attention to the issue of child marriage and coordinating actions at the international, national and local levels to change attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate this harmful practice in countries and cultures across the globe. These early successes can now be expanded upon and adapted to local contexts by other Zonta districts and clubs.

Strength in numbers: joining forces at the international level

Addressing a large-scale, multi-faceted issue like child marriage requires the coordinated efforts of governments, United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector all working together. As the first private-sector donor to the [UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage](#), Zonta International is joining forces with UNFPA, UNICEF and key stakeholders, and pooling its US\$2 million contribution with contributions from the governments of Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the European Union to address the issue of child marriage in 12 of the countries with the highest prevalence of child marriage in Africa and Asia.

The Global Programme promotes the rights of adolescent girls to say no to early marriage and early pregnancy and pursue paths to alternative, more promising futures, while addressing the underlying conditions, laws and policies that allow child marriage to continue. UNFPA and UNICEF are working to build the capacities of governments and NGOs in each of the 12 countries to address child marriage while engaging with other entities working on the issue globally, including members of [Girls Not Brides](#), a global coalition of civil society organizations working together to end child marriage and support those girls who are already married. Zonta International joined Girls Not Brides in 2015.

Through these partnerships, Zonta International has had unique opportunities to bring greater attention to the issue of child marriage. Immediately following the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in March, President Susanne had the opportunity to highlight Zonta's work to end child marriage at the UNICEF USA Annual Summit in Washington, D.C. There, Susanne discussed Zonta International's efforts to end child marriage as part of a breakout session titled, "Uniting for Impact: Ending Child Marriage." She was joined by State Representative Kay Khan who spoke about efforts to

end child marriage in the United States. President Susanne also participated in a main stage panel, "Beyond Fundraising: Transformative Partnerships for Children and Young People." Moderated by Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, UNICEF deputy executive director, the panel focused on how NGOs, corporations, foundations and individuals are supporting UNICEF's mission beyond their funding commitments.

"Zonta International's commitment is having a transformative impact on efforts to end child marriage. In addition to providing crucial financial support to the Global Programme to End Child Marriage in 12 countries, Zonta members are also using their voices to advocate for girls all over the world who are impacted by or at risk of child marriage. Throughout UNICEF USA's 47-year partnership with Zonta, we have seen that civil society organizations and their members enable UNICEF to maximize its reach and impact."

—Caryl M. Stern, President and CEO UNICEF USA

Zonta USA Caucus: building coalitions at the national level

Child marriage is a global issue, and the United States is no exception. An estimated 248,000 children, some as young as 12 years old, were married in the United States between 2000 and 2010, according to *Unchained At Last*. Only two states, Delaware and New Jersey, have laws that prevent child marriage with no exceptions. To address the issue of child marriage in the United States, the Zonta USA Caucus joined the National Coalition to End Child Marriage, a group of organizations and individuals in the United States advocating to end marriage before the age of 18 in all 50 states and to repeal loopholes and exceptions that allow child marriage to continue. Through the coalition, the Zonta USA Caucus stays abreast of new legislation and advocacy opportunities that they can then pass on to Zonta clubs and members to act upon. In addition to their work with the [National Coalition to End Child Marriage](#), the Zonta USA Caucus is now planning a major, national advocacy action on child marriage as part of the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and the 16 Days of Activism in 2019. Stay tuned for more information on those activities.



[Learn more about the initiatives from the Zonta USA Caucus.](#)

Has your Zonta district or club taken action to end child marriage? Have you successfully partnered with another organization?

Share your story with Zonta International members around the world, and help us demonstrate how this issue is being addressed in Zonta countries and communities across the globe.



COME EXPERIENCE CHICAGO!

Your visit to Chicago for the 65th Zonta International Convention will be memorable. While you are in town, take in some of the hallmarks that make this city one of the most cultured destinations of the U.S.



- See the works of Frank Lloyd Wright in person or speed through the steel and glass within the heart of the city on a Chicago River architecture tour.
- Visit the Art Institute of Chicago, home to iconic works by O’Keeffe, Cassatt, Renoir and van Gogh. Discover more about our world at the Museum of Science and Industry, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium and Shedd Aquarium. Plus, take advantage of the city’s many theater, ballet and music venues.
- Nothing captures the beauty of Chicago like catching the sun reflecting off of Lake Michigan. Just on the edge of the lake, find flower and sculpture gardens in Millennium and Grant parks.
- Home to not one, but two great baseball teams, you can catch an American pastime by watching the Chicago Cubs play at Wrigley Field on the North Side or the Chicago White Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field on the South Side.
- On the doorstep of the hotel is The Magnificent Mile, which offers designer shopping, thoughtful souvenirs and anything you could possibly need to make this trip special.
- No matter what you are craving, Chicago has a seat at the table for you. Surrounded by endless five-star and Michelin-rated restaurants and casual dining options, the tastes of Chicago await you.

We will offer organized tours before and after convention. The Midwest states endure cold winters, but live for the summer! Be part of the fun in 2020!

convention.zonta.org



CENTENNIAL IN PROGRESS



There are so many ways to celebrate our centennial. From up in the air on a skydiver to down on the ground on luggage, the centennial icon has been spotted all around the globe, showing off the excitement surrounding the upcoming centennial celebration. See how Zontians have been showcasing the icon leading up to the celebration of the century.



Since being inducted as Zonta International president, Susanne von Bassewitz has traveled the world over. Starting her biennium in Japan, heading to Oak Brook, Illinois to ZI Headquarters and her home of Düsseldorf, Germany, with many stops in between, she has traveled with her trusted luggage at every visit, showing off the vibrant teal of the centennial icon.

Like the Olympic Torch, a flag is currently traveling through District 4 in the United States, being passed from club to club, linking 800 Zontians. The flag will be received by clubs and will be present during celebrations surrounding the centennial. Each club president will sign the flag, becoming a memento of the district coming together in honor of this great occasion.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

BELIEVE • INVEST
EMPOWER

For our future...

As we look back over the last 100 years, so many strong, impressive women have made their mark on the world through Zonta and have touched the lives of thousands of women and girls. We want to guarantee that this will continue. Zonta is our legacy. Together, we can make Zonta International thrive and prosper.

By growing Zonta International Foundation's endowment funds, we are ensuring a constant streamline of interest revenue to provide more support for our international projects and programs. To date, we have raised nearly US\$3 million.

Thank you for helping millions of women. Your investment truly makes a difference.

Learn more, and donate now for the future at zontaendowmentcampaign.org



The Zonta Club of Sofia in Bulgaria launched its centennial celebration in an exciting way by jumping out of an airplane. In true Amelia Earhart fashion, the club reached for the horizon by having a skydiver courageously leap and parachute down to the earth while showing off a flag with the centennial icon.



Watch the club's video [here](#).



The Zonta Club of Greeley in the U.S. knew the best way to add to the excitement of the holidays was by adhering a special stamp to their cards.



Sabine Voss, Area 02 representative for the District 30 Centennial Anniversary Events Committee, stands in front of 75,400 stamps, which were ordered by 87 German Zonta clubs and one governor to show their support of the centennial.



District 17, Area 6, shared the message of "We Empower Women" on their scarves for their 99th anniversary celebration at the Peninsula Plaza, Bangkok.

One in four clubs applied for a Centennial Anniversary Grant

A grand total of 289 applications were submitted by 31 March.

"The project is quite innovative for Zonta. And this number far outstripped expected submissions," said Catherine McEwan, International Service Committee Chair. "We are now diligently reviewing each and every application and giving careful consideration to the wonderful projects proposed by clubs."

Last August, the committee and the team at Headquarters invested a lot of time in setting up a digital platform for the grants. Without this preparation, the volume of applications would have hardly been manageable.

"Although it is a staggering amount of work for us, it is also very inspiring to know how Zonta clubs worldwide are making a difference in their communities," Catherine said. "We are striving to produce the shortlist of recommended projects to the Board's Executive Committee by the end of May. We can't wait to complete our task and share the effect our clubs' superb initiatives are having on empowering women around the world."



Catherine McEwan, Zonta International Service Committee Chairman

INDIVIDUAL

While in Yokohama, Japan for the 2018 Convention, members approved a new way to bring Zonta's values to even more people with the option of individual membership. We recently caught up with a few of our individual members who shared why this style of membership fits their lives and their passion for gender equality.

Shontaye Abegaz, USA

"I'd been intrigued by Zonta International's work and global contribution for some time, but due to an erratic personal and professional travel schedule, I feared I would never be able to truly connect to a club at the local level. I believe Zonta International is blazing the trail with options that perfectly fit not only my lifestyle, but other women who balance their lives between two or more countries."



Rosemary Abella, Canada

"In search of an organization that strives for gender equality and women's rights both globally and locally, I was interested in joining a Zonta club, but there isn't one established in my region. I then decided the individual membership would be the best alternative. Through the individual membership, I will still be able to connect with Zonta members worldwide and will still be able to participate in activities and campaigns. Overall, I'm excited to be member of Zonta."



MEMBERSHIP



Lacey Balsmann, USA

“As a fourth-year medical student traveling across the U.S. for clinical rotations, it is hard for me to join a club. Individual membership is the perfect fit for me right now. It gives me the flexibility to be part of something bigger than myself and join in on the mission whenever I can. Thank you, Zonta, for providing membership for those in the ‘in-between’ phases of life.”

Angela Williamson, Australia

“As an individual member, I still have a voice for women’s issues that Zonta espouses so satisfactorily, can spend time with like-minded women and can visit and be welcomed at any club when I travel. Many issues matter to me, but my ‘hottest button’ is—and will always be—equality of opportunity for women and girls and being able to assist in the improvement of less advantaged women and girls in developing countries. Zonta provides that mechanism; its consultative status with the UN is paramount to achieving those goals.”



Elevate women's voices in technology

emPOWERING the future with Women in Technology

As the world and our daily lives become increasingly digitized, it is critical that women become more largely represented and have an active role in technology and technological developments.

Join Zonta in breaking down barriers and creating pathways for women pursuing advanced education, career opportunities and leadership roles in technology with the NEW Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship.

Download full eligibility requirements and the application at foundation.zonta.org/womenintech.

EDUCATION | CAREER OPPORTUNITIES | LEADERSHIP ROLES



WELCOME TO THE ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY!

ZONTA CLUBS

Copenhagen Multicultural
District 13, Area 1

Vigrestad Og Omegn
District 13, Area 4

Bangkok XI
District 17, Area 6

Cradle-Coast
District 23, Area 5

Fukui Fine
District 26, Area 3

Diepholz-Vechta
District 27, Area 3

Osnabrück Westfälischer Friede
District 27, Area 3

Vevey-Montreux
District 30, Area 4

Taichung Land-Sing
District 31, Area 2

The Zonta Club of Taichung Land-Sing held its chartering ceremony 22 February. Welcome!

GOLDEN Z CLUBS

University of Jamestown
District 7, Area 1

CSU
District 12, Area 2

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig
District 17, Area 1

University of Baguio
District 17, Area 4

UP Diliman
District 17, Area 5

Abidjan-Cocody
District 18, Area 1

Campus
District 23, Area 1

Mumbai
District 25, Area 1

NAMI
District 25, Area 2

Silver Mountain
District 25, Area 2

Young Luxembourg
District 27, Area 1

Main-Taunus
District 28, Area 2

Chung Hwa
District 31, Area 2

Z CLUBS

Bridgewater-Raritan
District 3, Area 2

Niagara Falls High School
District 4, Area 3

Mays Conservatory
District 11, Area 3

Fort Myers High School
District 11, Area 6

Greeley West High School
District 12, Area 2

University High School
District 12, Area 2

Howick College
District 16, Area 1

ISSB
District 17, Area 5

Mount Alvernia College
District 22, Area 1

Cairns SDE
District 22, Area 5

Strathfield Girls High School
District 24, Area 1

Armidale Secondary College
District 24, Area 3

Asian International School
District 25, Area 1



Get Social



@ZontaIntl



Zonta International



Zontiantl



Zonta International



Zonta International Official Group

TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER WOMEN

