

# THE Zontian

THE VOICE OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL





BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of 13 employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women and supports the Zonta International Board in implementing policies and programs to further the objectives of Zonta International.

Our friendly team is ready to assist you!

MEMBERSHIP

memberrecords@zonta.org

COMMUNICATIONS

pr@zonta.org

PROGRAMS

programs@zonta.org

FOUNDATION

zifoundation@zonta.org

GENERAL

zontaintl@zonta.org

World Headquarters

1200 Harger Road, Suite 330  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-3384  
USA

www.zonta.org

Above: The Zonta Club of New Providence, Bahamas, takes part in the 2022 Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Campaign. See more actions taken by clubs on page 26.

Cover: A participant speaks at a workshop during a 2022 program site visit to India. Learn more about President Ute's visit and our other international service projects on page 14.



THE Zontian

THE VOICE OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE TWO | 2022-2024  
MAY 2023

In This Issue

- 3 A message from International President Ute Scholz
- 4 Living the Zonta Spirit
- 8 Commission on the Status of Women returns to UN Headquarters
- 12 Women and Girls: Victims of new and ongoing conflicts and crises around the world
- 14 Strong partnerships help build a better world for women and girls
- 20 Women at the top of their fields: Celebrating 85 years of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship
- 23 Rose Day in full bloom
- 24 Developing a future forward strategic plan: Part 2
- 26 Zontians in action
- 29 Add Your Voice to build the world we envision
- 30 Zonta Convention Brisbane 2024
- 32 Welcome to new clubs

Allison Summers, Executive Director; Kate Edrinn, Communications Manager; Communiqué Graphic Design, Design  
The Zontian (ISSN 0279-3229) is published biannually by Zonta International. As Zonta International's official publication, this magazine contains authorized articles regarding the organization's programs and activities. No responsibility is assumed for opinions of other authors. Annual subscription rate: US\$8.50 (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland) US\$17 (individual airmail outside USA). Publication office address for the publication listed below. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois USA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Zontian, Zonta International, 1200 Harger Road, Suite 330, Oak Brook, IL 60523-3384, USA.



## A MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT UTE SCHOLZ

**Dear Zontians,**

As I write this, I am happily reflecting on my trip to the United Nations in March for the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67). For the first time in four years, Zontians converged in New York for the largest annual gathering on women's rights worldwide. I loved seeing old friends, making new acquaintances and learning more about the challenges we must overcome to achieve gender equity. Thank you to everyone who attended CSW67 either in-person or virtually. Zonta International was visible and well represented.

We are almost halfway through the 2022–2024 Biennium. I have already had the privilege of visiting an Ending Child Marriage site in India, spent time in Brisbane to plan for the 2024 Convention, and hosted my first in-person board meeting at Zonta International Headquarters in Oak Brook, USA. There have, of course, been many other highlights over the last year. I am looking forward to visiting you at district conferences, attending interdistrict seminars and more.

For me, the Zonta Spirit has never been more alive. This is evident not only when I attend events and meet Zontians, but also when I reflect on how actively you are participating in campaigns such as Add Your Voice, Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women and International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day.

As you read the following pages, I hope that you enjoy our reflections and celebrations, but also that you are inspired by the work we must continue doing to build a better world for women and girls. As always, thank you for your dedication and your generous donations.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ute Scholz".

Ute Scholz  
President  
Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women

2022–2024 International President Ute Scholz (front left) and President-Elect Salla Tuominen (front right) stand with Mariarosa Cutillo, Chief of UNFPA's Strategic Partnerships Branch (back left) and Gilles Virgili, UNFPA Strategic Partnerships Specialist (back right) at UNFPA Headquarters in New York during CSW67.





# Living the ZONTA SPIRIT



"Zonta does not leave women out in the rain!" The Zonta Club Schaffhausen hosts a flashmob with their sunny yellow umbrellas.

The Zonta Spirit takes shape within our organization when we have fun and build friendships while collaborating on service and advocacy projects.

Deep in the hearts of those who belong to Zonta and those who join with us to build a better world for women and girls is a flame that continues to ignite our passion for our mission.

This light, the Zonta Spirit, is the heart and soul of all members, and it is how we create a strong and inclusive culture of community, fun and friendship as we work to build a more equal world.

The Zonta Spirit takes shape within our organization when we have fun and build friendships while collaborating on service and advocacy projects. We demonstrate it in all the things we do to make a difference; first, in our local community and then, broadening out to the larger international work we engage in.

## We show the Zonta Spirit when we:

- Work toward gender equality.
- Build a culture that embraces people of diverse backgrounds.
- Say NO to gender-based violence.
- Address climate actions through Zonta Says NOW!
- Connect with one another within our clubs and across the world.

More resources from the Zonta Spirit Working Group can be found at [www.zonta.org/ZontaSpirit](http://www.zonta.org/ZontaSpirit).

## Highlighting Remarkable Stories

Our Zonta Spirit is also our story. Our individual journeys have helped shape who we are while also having us reflect on what we can do to help others. Our Spirit, our stories, are what keep us passionate about Zonta's mission.

Since the start of the biennium, six more diverse women have spoken about their journeys on our Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories series. While each of them has had unique experiences, they all have shared how important it has been to have a network of women or be someone who starts the process for positive change



A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY  
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
**REMARKABLE WOMEN  
POWERFUL STORIES**



**EMMA BEAL**, a climate activist and 2018 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar, shared how mentorship helped shape her to become a leader and how everyone can add to the solution of a problem.

“It has truly taken a network of people and role models in my life to shape me into the person that I am today. I've grown up with an amazing extensive family-friend group where we have multiple generations of women. One of the greatest strengths you can have as a leader is the ability to leverage the diverse perspectives of people around you, be them mentors or mentees, to develop a better understanding on a problem or collaborate on a better solution.”



**ISATA KABIA** is the founding director of Voice of Women (VoW) Africa, a network of female leaders serving to amplify women's voices and inspire collective action. In February, she was asked by Zonta Spirit Working Group Chair, Lynne Foley, OAM what it meant to be leading the work.

“I truly believe that leadership is about action. Once you're able to find something that you believe in, just take action. I'm starting work regardless of whether I will see that success. Remarkable women of the world, just start the work. It's not your job to finish up.”



**JENNIFER TURNER**, executive vice president at TriStar Television for Sony Pictures Television EO and founder of MAD COOL FITNESS and MAD COOL COMMUNITY, shared her insights on mentorship for the next generation, and how important it is for them to grow.

“Being able to reach out to young people and give them the support they need and give them the context and the perspective. They need to be able to work through these issues, because no matter how bad things seem, there's always a light in the situation. There's always hope in a situation.”

See all of the Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories interviews at: [www.zonta.org/RemarkableWomenPowerfulStories](http://www.zonta.org/RemarkableWomenPowerfulStories).

# Introducing the Young Talents Team



Tehani  
Chandrasena Perera  
(she/her)

Supporting  
Member, USA



CJ Blake  
(they/them)

Zonta Club of  
Ottawa, Canada



Dr. Berit Lindau  
(she/her)

Zonta e-Club of  
Germany, Germany  
Chair



Sara Chen  
(she/her)

Supporting Member,  
Golden Z Club of New  
Dawn, Taiwan

Young Talents within Zonta have found an inspiring home this biennium in the Young Talents Working Group. Creating a welcoming environment, empowering members of all ages to contribute passionately and learning from one another, are all elements of the Zonta Spirit that show up in the efforts of this working group. Made up of young professionals, Golden Z club members, supporting members and international awardees, the team is happy to share a little more about themselves, their vision and how to engage young people in your communities.

## What does serving on the International Young Talents Team mean to you?

**Tehani Chandrasena Perera (she/her):** It is extremely important to me, as I am able to play a role in opening up avenues and spaces for young individuals to excel and broaden their horizons.

**CJ Blake (they/them):** As a young professional, I am so honored to have the dedicated opportunity to lend my voice to these efforts and help support young professionals within Zonta.

## What is the one goal you want to achieve by serving on the Young Talents Team?

**Dr. Berit Lindau (she/her):** Helping the Zonta community to achieve a more balanced membership with regard to age and to embrace the different perspectives and experiences of members from all generations.

## What do you perceive to be the most pressing issues for young people today?

The team agrees that climate change and climate security are extremely important to all generations, but especially for young people. Besides that, there are other pressing issues which differ depending on where our team members are located in the world; for Sara Chen (she/her), it is youth unemployment; for CJ, it is the unavailability of affordable housing; for Berit, it is balancing economic security with sustainability and global justice.

## Why did you get involved in Zonta?

**Sara:** To have more chances to get in touch with people who try to make women's lives better and to learn and share related topics among them.

**CJ:** I found Zonta when I was in my final year of university and anxious to have my social circle disrupted as friends were expecting to move away for jobs or to be closer to their families. I was eager to join an organization that is social and has a strong community impact.



Zonta International President Ute Scholz (third from left) attends the charter ceremony of the Golden Z Club Hildesheim City.

**Berit:** I was approached when plans arose to found a new e-club in Germany, especially aiming at young professionals. I was excited for the opportunity to advocate and serve the advancement of women and girls worldwide in such a new and flexible format.

**Tehani:** I chose to get involved with Zonta as it was a place for like-minded individuals to get together and strive to be active change agents in society. Advocacy has always been a burning passion within me, and Zonta gave me the resources and the ability to actively work toward the changes that I hoped to see. The networking opportunities, resources and experiences gained through Zonta are what makes it so great to be involved.

### What can clubs do to get younger members involved and committed to Zonta?

**Tehani:** Reach out to more individuals in college/university and graduate school and start up clubs that would get young individuals hooked through university. Highlight the opportunities and recognition that is received through Zonta and how that is beneficial; for example, the different scholarships/awards and how networking can lead to employment and internship opportunities.

**Sara:** Make events more approachable by allowing for online participation if members are not available at the time of the event.

**CJ:** I am a huge advocate for mentorship programs! Bringing younger members into the fold is easier with someone to guide them. Also, take time to understand why they joined and what motivates them, to help facilitate a positive experience that they feel is worthwhile.

**Berit:** Identify opportunities to help Golden Z club members and awardees with the transition to regular Zonta clubs. Also, encourage younger members to take on responsibility and leadership roles so that they experience the impact of their involvement in Zonta. ■

### Have we piqued your interest? Find us on the Zonta App!

Please do not hesitate to approach us with your thoughts and questions! Look us up individually to send us a message. We as a team hope to support the Zonta community with ideas and resources regarding the involvement of young talents and are looking forward to hearing your perspectives.



unicef  
for every child

President Ute Scholz and President-Elect Salla Tuominen stand with partners at UNICEF Headquarters in New York during CSW67.

## Commission on the Status of Women returns to UN Headquarters

The annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened in New York at the United Nations Headquarters in March 2023 after the COVID-19 pandemic forced advocates to meet virtually for the last three years. While attendees were glad to be able to meet in person again, this year's CSW was organized as a hybrid event to allow for both in-person and virtual participation, enabling gender equality advocates to join from anywhere in the world.

### WHAT IS THE CSW?

The CSW is the largest annual gathering on women's rights worldwide and the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### WHAT HAPPENS THERE?

During the Commission's annual two-week session, thousands of representatives of UN Member States, global civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. They discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as emerging issues that affect gender equality and the empowerment of women. ***This year's priority focus area was Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.***





## Key Topics

Discussions inside the UN and parallel events organized by NGOs outside the UN emphasized the **importance of women and girls' full and equal participation in innovation and technology**. Zonta was highly visible through numerous events organized by Zonta districts and clubs, as well as a joint parallel event with UNICEF USA on innovation, partnerships and their transformative impact on gender equity. Despite broad consensus on the importance of women and girls' access to and participation in innovation and technology, both as users and leaders, there are still many barriers that need to be addressed. Some of the major obstacles currently being faced include unequal access and connectivity issues, digital literacy and education.

**Online violence against women and girls** was also a major topic at the CSW. It affects everyone from young girls in school to professional women in their work. One session specifically focused on violence against women journalists and highlighted *The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists* published in 2022 by The International Center for Journalists. The report found 73% of women journalists have experienced online violence; 20% of those women have been attacked offline. It was noted that women journalists are especially vulnerable to online attacks when they report on women's rights, race, religion, sexual orientation or disinformation. When women journalists report abuse, they are often blamed or ignored. As a result, women journalists either self-censor their work or leave journalism altogether.

“Online violence against women journalists is one of the most serious contemporary threats to press freedom internationally. It aids and abets impunity for crimes against journalists, including physical assault and murder. It is designed to silence, humiliate, and discredit. It inflicts very real psychological injury, chills public interest journalism, kills women's careers and deprives society of important voices and perspectives.” — **The Chilling: A global study of online violence against women journalists**

## Actions needed, not just words

As thousands gathered in New York to discuss the rights of women and girls, women and girls in Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine and other conflict and fragile settings were on many panelists and participants' minds. Panelists from Afghanistan asked Member States not to ignore the gender apartheid that is taking place in Afghanistan. At the same time, they called for all CSW participants to amplify the voices of women's rights activists in Afghanistan, Iran and elsewhere. They asked for actions, not just words. They stressed that conversations cannot take place in silos or just at the UN, and that women must be involved in those conversations.

**COMMISSION** *on the*  
**STATUS OF WOMEN**





President Ute stands with fellow panelists at the joint parallel session with UNICEF USA.



Zontians attend the Zonta Club of New York's 100th anniversary celebration while at CSW in New York.



President Ute and Faatiha Aayat at UNICEF USA's International Women's Day event. Faatiha served as a moderator for a panel with Ute and representatives from UNICEF and the Obama Foundation.

## Conclusions and Outcomes

At the end of the CSW, Member States come to Agreed Conclusions on the priority theme and further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's rights. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are then forwarded to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for follow-up. The negotiations on the agreed conclusions can be long and contentious. This year's negotiations lasted through the final night of the CSW, as Member States resolved disagreements and came to consensus around language related to sexual and reproductive rights and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. The Agreed Conclusions provide a roadmap for all stakeholders to promote women and girls' participation in innovation and technical change.

"This year's Agreed Conclusions are game-changing and bring forward our vision of a more equal and connected world for women and girls in all their diversity. It is our job, as we leave here today, to translate them into reality. The ultimate success of these Agreed Conclusions lies beyond their finalization today, in how we will collectively take them forward. They bring us a vision of a more equal world. Let us translate them into reality for all women and girls." —  
**UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous**

Find the Agreed Conclusions and more information about the CSW on the Zonta International website at [www.zonta.org/csw](http://www.zonta.org/csw).



2020-2022 International Director Florence Fischer-Herber stands near the Luxembourg desk on the floor of the United Nations.

## CSW: A Zontian's Perspective

The CSW is open to all Zontians. This year more than 40 Zontians attended the CSW in person in New York, and at least 100 more participated online. Below are some reflections from Zontians who participated in person or virtually.



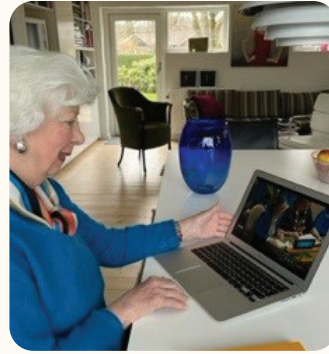
"At the CSW67, I had the opportunity to meet and interchange ideas to reduce gender gaps in the digital world with participants from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and the USA!" —Tomasa Ravines, Zonta Club of Corvallis, USA



"At 3 A.M., trying to look alert, but so exciting to be part of CSW67! One take away—civil society members are not diplomats so they can be more outspoken." —Alwyn Friedersdorff, Zonta Club of Albury-Wodonga, Australia



"I learned that digital education is the foundation to enhance peer-to-peer exchange of ideas promoting innovation and empowerment of women and girls. Women need smart phones to access educational, financial and healthcare resources." —Joan Kabayambi, Zonta Club of Kampala, Uganda



"The Danish Permanent Mission to the UN and the Danish Foreign Ministry were very supportive and inclusive for Zonta as NGO. We were able to attend virtual morning briefings and the opening of CSW as well as side events and parallel events." —Hanne Friis, Zonta Club of Aarhus I, Denmark, and member of the Danish delegation



"It is the second year that I can participate virtually in the CSW Forum, and I really liked it! A very interesting way to update ourselves on issues related to women. All were interactive talks with the participation of women from all continents explaining their points of view, sharing experiences and problems in their communities. I met new valuable Zontians and met Zontian friends...each one told something about the session in which they participated and links and recommendations could be exchanged." —Adriana Otero, Zonta Club of Montevideo, Uruguay



"CSW is a truly unique Zonta experience that shows how Zonta works on global scales; that our voice has an international platform; and that we have like-minded partners around the world to learn from and work with to build a better world for women and girls." —Britt Vaughan, 2022–2024 International Director, Zonta Club of Burbank Area, USA

Join your fellow Zontians at CSW68 in 2024. Watch for the dates to be announced later this year.

# WOMEN AND GIRLS:

## victims of new and ongoing conflicts and crises around the world

**C**onflict and war have devastating consequences for society. Women and girls, however, are disproportionately harmed in the multitude of conflicts and crises unfolding around the world. More than 20 years ago, the United Nations called upon all parties to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence within Resolution 1325. However, increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence, food insecurity, lack of access to education and health care and vulnerability to child marriage continue to be some of the many challenges facing women and girls living in conflict today.

To understand the enormity of these challenges, we took a closer look at five countries in conflict. This list is by no means an exhaustive one. We recognize that women and girls in many other parts of the world are also living in dangerous or fragile circumstances while fighting for their rights.

### **Afghanistan: Banned from school**

Political unrest disrupts girls' access to education. After the Taliban seized power in August 2021, 80% of school-aged Afghan girls and adolescents are now out of school. Nearly 30% of girls have never started their primary education, and 100,000 women have been banned from university education.

### **Iran: Facing gender-based violence while demanding rights**

Political violence often leads to violence against women and girls. In response to the increased threats and arrests of women for violating Iran's strict dress code and compulsory hijab laws, women and girls in Iran have taken to the streets to demand their full rights, including the right to bodily autonomy. As a result, they have faced beatings, detainment, rape and even death. The violence has continued with reports of more than 1,200 schoolgirls being deliberately poisoned in 91 schools across the country.

### **Syria: Grappling with effects of prolonged conflict and aftermath of earthquake**

Multiple crises intensify the effects of war for women and girls. After 12 years of war, 7.7 million women and girls in Syria remain in need of humanitarian assistance. The January 2023 earthquakes that struck Syria and Turkey have made the situation even more dire. An estimated 133,000 pregnant women, as well as breastfeeding mothers and menstruating girls, are struggling to access essential care, support and supplies while dealing with homelessness, discrimination, financial destitution and heightened risks of exploitation and abuse.

### **Ukraine: Encountering multiple challenges while on the move**

Displaced women and girls face significant, intersecting challenges. After one year of war, nearly 7.3 million people have fled Ukraine, and 7.7 million are internally displaced, most of whom are women and children. Increasing rates of food insecurity, malnutrition and energy poverty have had devastating impacts for women and girls, including an alarming increase in gender-based violence, transactional sex for food, child marriage with girls forced to leave school, increased unpaid care and domestic work, and damage to women's and girls' physical and mental health.

## Yemen: Needing access to lifesaving health care

Violence often destroys a country's health infrastructure. Eight years of conflict in Yemen have left 23.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance as the result of a dire economic crisis, damaged infrastructure and a shattered health system. Yemeni women and girls are especially vulnerable. In Yemen, five million women and adolescent girls lack access to essential, lifesaving sexual and reproductive health care. One woman dies every two hours during childbirth from causes that are almost entirely preventable due to limited or a complete lack of access to services. ■

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S

### STATEMENT ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS AND POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS

Approved by the Zonta International Board May 2022; Published June 2022



#### Protecting the rights of women during conflict

The history of violence against women and girls during and after armed conflicts seems to be as old as armed conflict itself. Following the horrors of World War II in all its facets, the Geneva Convention (1949) states in Chapter IV, Article 27: "Women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault." Building upon the Geneva Convention, United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), commonly referred to as the Resolution on "Women, Peace and Security," also stresses the role of women in conflict prevention and the peacebuilding process.

If we look at conflicts in recent years, the situation has changed dramatically. Armed conflicts are no longer a battle between just national armed forces, but are often supported or initiated by militias, groups of mercenary soldiers, rebels in the name of ethnic or religious groups or even well-organized terrorists fighting for their so-called "right belief." These groups in most cases do not respect UN conventions like those mentioned above.



## What can organizations like Zonta do?

The statistics are staggering. The individual stories are heartbreaking. So what can we do? Zonta International is not a humanitarian assistance or relief organization; however, when we come together, we are a powerful voice for women and girls across the globe.

In 2022, Zonta International issued two statements—one on Women's Rights in Armed Conflicts and Post-Conflict Settings and the other on Women Migrant and Refugees. These statements include clear and concrete calls to action for both governments and members of Zonta International to address the unique needs of women and girls in conflict settings, including those who have been forced to leave their homes. Download these statements and start advocating today at [www.zonta.org/statements](http://www.zonta.org/statements).

**Together, we can be a voice for women and girls in conflict and crises around the world!**

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S

### STATEMENT ON WOMEN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Approved by the Zonta International Board May 2022



#### Migration: an opportunity or an escape

Migration impacts nearly all of our societies, be it as country of origin or as a destination. For some, it is a huge opportunity or an escape from unbearable circumstances; for others, it is more a threat, fearing that an incoming greater group of foreigners could cause deep changes in their personal life or their society as a whole.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines migrant as a person "who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is."

#### 2020 WORLD MIGRATION



281 million migrants globally



3.6% of the world's population



of which 135 million are female

Source: 2022 IOM World Migration Report

# Strong partnerships help build a better world for women and girls

## Zonta, UNFPA and UNICEF take action to end child marriage in India

India is one of the 12 focus countries for the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage. In October/November 2022, Zonta International President Ute Scholz had the opportunity to visit India with the Global Programme to see firsthand the progress made there in delaying child marriage.

India is the largest democracy and the second most populated country in the world. Around 20% of the population are adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19—the age group that is most at risk of child marriage. The legal age for girls in India to marry is 21; however, despite these laws, India still has the highest number of child marriages in the world. One third of marriages in India are child marriages, and 16% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are already married.

Social and economic pressures caused by poverty, hunger, age-old traditions, illiteracy and dowry are the key drivers of child marriage in India. President Ute spoke with adolescent girls about their experiences. For some girls, their fathers had



passed away due to COVID-19, leaving their mothers to struggle to feed all their children. Allowing a daughter to marry was seen as a way to survive and be able to feed the remaining children. Other girls reported that they were orphans and marriage offered them a way to join a new family.

### Ending child marriage in Odisha State

Illiteracy is recognized as a key driver for child marriage and a consequence of girls dropping out of school. In Odisha, only 69.5% of women can read, only 33% of women have been enrolled at school for at least 10 years, and 22% of girls drop out of secondary school.

Despite these challenges to girls' education and literacy, Odisha has made significant progress. From 2005 to 2016, the number of teenage pregnancies in Odisha decreased by 50%, and from 1995 to 2022, the percentage of girls married decreased from 45.5% to 20.5%.

See more about President Ute's site visit at: [www.zonta.org/GPChildMarriage](http://www.zonta.org/GPChildMarriage)





©UNICEF/2022/Soumi Das

However, Odisha's efforts to end child marriage have not stopped there. UNICEF and UNFPA worked closely with several government departments in 2019 to draft a multi-sectoral "Strategic Action Plan to End Child Marriage" to make the State of Odisha child marriage free by 2030. This goal will be accomplished by the cohesive and convergent efforts of various government departments, civil society, districts, communities and villages, as well as families and schools working together with the Global Programme.

A crucial component of this action plan is the "ADVIKA – Every Girl is Unique" program, launched in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA on 11 October 2020, International Day of the Girl. ActionPlan, a local partner, supports the implementation and works closely with communities and local administration.

ADVIKA reaches out to adolescent girls and boys and informs them about the rights of children, sexual and reproductive health, gender, child protection, nutrition, and more. Girls as Peer Leaders, called "Sakhi Sahelis", are identified and trained. They provide basic orientation in life skills components and key messages on child marriage, child labor, child trafficking and child sexual abuse. During the COVID-19 pandemic, WhatsApp groups of peer leaders were formed to meaningfully engage girls to ensure that they raise their voices and are reached with the right messaging on the issues affecting them.

Boys are also included in the ADVIKA program. They are educated in reproductive health, child marriage, child rights and more.

The ADVIKA App, launched with an IT partner, engages girls and boys digitally and provides them a supplementary learning platform with curated courses on digital skills, employability skills and financial literacy. An app is a good way to reach adolescents, as one-third of adolescents in India have their own mobile phone. For those without personal access, mobile phones are available in schools and community houses to reach the target group.

Overall, 1 million adolescent girls and boys in Odisha were reached through ADVIKA and were informed about the rights of children and other key messages.

In the villages, there are committees that create awareness on the issue of child marriage, track vulnerable adolescents and support the frontline workers. Every Saturday is declared as "Nirbhaya Kadhi Day," and committees at all levels are responsible for engaging and interacting with adolescent girls in their area. Regular sensitization sessions help to ensure the sustainability of the program.

These sessions include essay competitions, debates, drawing competitions and awareness rallies, followed by an oath ceremony by the students. Mass pledge campaigns among school students across the district are conducted as part of the Nirbhaya Kadhi program, the Fearless Leaders. Students from primary schools and high schools participated in the oath taking ceremony as well as members of women's self-help groups, nurse midwives, and other workers at health care units.

Adolescent girls and boys who successfully prevented their own child marriage are honored as "Leaders against Child Marriage." They participate in various forums to share their stories. President Ute and the other Global



©UNFPAIndia

Programme members spoke with these “Fearless Leaders” and listened to what happened to them and how they escaped their child marriage.

Empowering disadvantaged adolescents is also a priority. Around 1 million adolescent girls from tribes and castes were supported with scholarships to continue their education. Tribal adolescents have also been mentored to act as a “Change Agent” in their community through livelihood and enterprise promotion. In 1,157 tribal schools, life skills education programs have been implemented, reaching nearly 150,000 girls. The Global Programme is equipping them with knowledge, skills and attitudes to lead healthy lives and address vulnerabilities including child marriage and teenage pregnancy.

In order to reach out to adolescents with disabilities with information on their sexual and reproductive health and rights, UNFPA has developed user-friendly learning tools, training materials, Braille and tactical books and models, video files with sign language interpretation and scrolling text, as well as other communication materials for dissemination in 155 special schools.

In Odisha, the 14th of the last month of each quarter has been declared as “A Day for Children.” On that day, meetings of Child Protection Committees are held at district and village levels. A review is made on the issues related to children, strengthening of child protection mechanisms and implementation of child protection schemes. Adolescent leaders are encouraged to join and share their issues in the meetings.

Declaring villages a “child marriage free village” by mobilizing community members and adolescents began in 2019. The initiative started in one village. Other villages followed and declared themselves child marriage free. The State of Odisha recognized this as a best practice and directed all districts to take similar steps and mobilize communities to take ownership in creating an enabling environment for children, especially girls, toward ending child marriage. Declarations and signs about the status as

a child marriage free village are seen all over in the streets with the hashtag “SayNoToChildMarriage.”

Temples in the villages declared themselves as child marriage free temples. This is a big success because usually marriages happen in temples. President Ute and the other visitors had the chance to talk to the village religious leaders. They were proud to contribute and to show the visitors their child marriage free temple—a remarkable shift in age-old traditions toward child protection and child marriage.

A Law Department Order was passed in Odisha to display notices of the ban on child marriage at religious places and institutions. A verification of age for both parties is mandatory in all temples before a marriage can happen. Now, 10,000 villages have declared themselves child marriage free.

Traveling on the way back to the capital, New Delhi, the Global Programme donors were invited by the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to share their impressions and give feedback. The members of the Global Programme Steering Committee were very pleased to see the power and engagement of all parties on state, district and village levels. Adolescents, who are valuable partners to the Global Programme, were included so their voices could be heard. This involvement also enables the adolescents to grow to be resilient and self-determined adults.

Between January and August 2020, 1,855 child marriages were prevented in Odisha, compared to the 657 child marriages prevented in 2019. This increase shows that the implemented strategies are effective due to good cooperation on all levels. The fight to end child marriage started at the state level, and with support of UNICEF and UNFPA and their partners in the villages, the people in the villages adapted it as their own project to really set an end to this harmful practice and to protect children’s rights long-term.

In reflecting on Zonta International’s role in the Global Programme, President Ute said, “As Zonta International, we don’t only support this programme with generous donations to our Zonta Foundation for Women. Beyond this, Zontians are worldwide advocates against child marriage, not only in these 12 countries of the programme, but around the world where Zontians are. This is an additional layer that Zonta can contribute to this programme to be even more effective.”

“Zontians raise their voice against child marriage also in Europe, Africa, America, Oceania and Asia and demand that actions are taken. And we can see that child marriage is no longer tolerated as a tradition, but that it is seen as what it is—a violation of women’s and children’s rights!”



# Zonta and UNFPA help women live free of violence in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste



Lack of a survivor-centered approach is a key challenge in the delivery of gender-based violence (GBV) response services in the Asia-Pacific region, including in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority: Strengthening Services for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence, a partnership between Zonta International and UNFPA, aims to strengthen the capacity of GBV response sectors, particularly health, to ensure provision of quality and timely services in adherence to GBV survivor-centered principles.

Though the project faced significant implementation roadblocks due to COVID-19, natural disasters and local political upheavals, in 2022, UNFPA, with Zonta's support, achieved the following results:

## Papua New Guinea

- Completed baseline assessment of family support centers.
- Expanded family support centers in Milne Bay to provide specialized services for GBV survivors.
- Developed an action plan with health authorities in Milne Bay to identify key priorities and support with adequate and sustainable Provincial Health Authority funding for the family support centers.
- Conducted cascade training to build capacities of health staff on survivor-centered care to GBV survivors in Milne Bay.

- Strengthened capacity and functioning of the GBV referral system and case management mechanism.
- Developed information, education and communication materials for awareness raising on GBV.

## Timor-Leste

- Conducted a comprehensive assessment of the health sector capacity to respond to GBV in Liquica municipality.
- Developed, in partnership with Ministry of Health, a national comprehensive competency-based in-service training package for health care providers and managers to address GBV.
- Conducted an orientation workshop to GBV service providers on referral pathway and case management to ensure a strong multi-sectoral response to GBV in Liquica municipality.
- Conducted community awareness activities in Liquica municipality.
- Conducted preparatory work for the establishment of a safe space in Liquica Municipality.

[Watch for further updates to come on the Zonta International website.](#)





# Zonta and UNICEF reach adolescent girls with health care and violence prevention activities in Peru

Despite recent political unrest and protests in Peru, UNICEF has continued its state and community level work to reach adolescent girls. For the new school year, which began in March 2023, UNICEF's plan is to implement the school violence prevention program, developed with support from Zonta International and the Ministry of Education, in 2,000 schools. As part of its school violence prevention activities, UNICEF has prioritized providing psychosocial support for families and children affected by the protests.

The ongoing partnership between UNICEF and Zonta International in Peru follows significant achievements from 2020 to 2022, including:

- 82,779 adolescent health screenings (46,543 girls) were carried out in UNICEF-supported districts in Huancavelica and Ucayali.
- 284 schools implemented violence prevention protocols across the two districts.

- Standards and laws establishing guidelines for comprehensive mental health care for children and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence were developed and officially approved by the Peruvian state at the national level.
- 13,830 teachers were trained to apply better school policies to prevent violence and improve the school environment in their classrooms with positive discipline strategies and the development of socio-emotional skills.

[Visit the Zonta International website for more details on the progress in Peru.](#)



for every child



©UNICEF-UN0508071-RAMASOMANANA

## Zonta and UNICEF engage girls on climate change in Madagascar

Zonta International's new collaboration with UNICEF to engage girls on climate change in Madagascar only recently got underway; however, the project is already making good progress. To promote environmental education and reinforce hygiene and sanitation behaviors that promote children's access to education, UNICEF Madagascar has:

- Identified five pilot schools.
- Prepared training on the effects of climate change, water conservation, and solid waste sorting and management.
- Inventoried the five pilot schools according to the Madagascar water system.
- Identified service providers for the planting of trees and flowers at the five pilot schools.

**Watch for the first full progress report to be released in July/August 2023.**



for every child



©UNICEF-UN0494346-ANDRIANANDRASANA

Please visit [www.zonta.org/InternationalServiceProjects](http://www.zonta.org/InternationalServiceProjects) for more information on each of our projects.

# Women at the top of their fields: Celebrating 85 years of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship



EXPANDING HORIZONS FOR WOMEN  
IN AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AND SPACE SCIENCES

When the Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellowship was established in 1938, it was truly ahead of its time. There were so few women in aeronautical engineering at the time that it took two years to even identify qualified applicants for the award.

Today, Zonta International is proud to call more than 1,700 women from 76 countries Amelia Earhart Fellows. These exceptional women are pioneers and leaders in their fields, astronauts, engineers, innovators, entrepreneurs, a Nobel laureate and more. They are conducting research in the farthest reaches of outer space and tackling real world issues on the ground. They are mentors for future generations of girls and young women who now see a place for themselves in aerospace engineering and space sciences.

While women have made great strides in aerospace engineering and space sciences since 1938, thanks in part to the Amelia Earhart Fellowship, there is still more work to be done. Greater representation of women in these fields, as well as more women in leadership roles, are needed. Our rapidly changing world and the booming space economy

also present immense opportunities. Programs like the Amelia Earhart Fellowship support women researchers and position them for future success as leaders in these emerging fields, but we must remain steadfast in our efforts.

To celebrate our trailblazing Amelia Earhart Fellows and support future women in aerospace engineering and space sciences, make a donation to the Amelia Earhart 85th Anniversary Campaign a [www.zonta.org/AmeliaEarhart85](http://www.zonta.org/AmeliaEarhart85).

## AMELIA EARHART FELLOWS LEADING THE WAY IN AEROSPACE

Look no further than the 2022 class of Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellows to see how women are leading the way in aerospace engineering, aeronautical and astronautical engineering, climate change, mechanical engineering, planetary science, space systems and more. These brilliant, innovative, trailblazing women from 20 different countries are conducting cutting edge research to explore the still unsolved mysteries of space and tackle the challenges we are facing here on earth. Learn more about two of these amazing women on the next pages and read about all of the 2022 Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellows at [www.zonta.org/AEFellowship](http://www.zonta.org/AEFellowship).



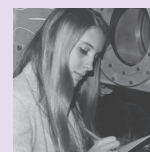
**1928**  
**Amelia Earhart**—first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean.

**1938**  
**Hanna Reitsch**—first woman to fly a helicopter.

**1953**  
**Jacqueline Cochran**—first woman to break the sound barrier.

**1963**  
**Valentina Tereshkova**—first woman in space and the only woman to have been on a solo space mission.

**1964**  
**Geraldine “Jerrie” Mock**—first woman to fly solo around the world.



**1979**  
**Sharon Langenbeck**, 1977 & 1978 AE fellow and 2020–2022 Zonta International president—first woman with a Ph.D to be employed at Lockheed-California.



**1983**  
Zonta International Honorary Member  
**Sally Ride**—first American woman to go to space.



### Meet Vanessa Awate: Exploring the study of rotary wing aerodynamics

Vanessa Awate is a Ph.D. candidate in aerospace engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA. Her primary focus is the study of rotary wing aerodynamics, more specifically, the dynamic stall process that occurs as wings or blades move rapidly. This complex dynamic stall phenomenon typically results in a highly unsteady flow field and renders aircrafts uncontrollable. The goal of Vanessa’s research is to understand and predict the prevalent vortex shedding process to inform future designs and control mechanisms for such flows. She hopes her experiments will contribute to the development of new flow sensing and control capabilities on helicopters, maneuvering aircrafts and wind turbines.

After completing her doctoral degree, Vanessa envisions working for NASA. She is already part of the Pathways program, which prepares interns for a career and offers a direct pipeline to full-time employment at NASA upon graduation. Her long-term goals include starting the first aerospace sciences academy in her home country, Senegal, tackling gender and racial disparities within the STEM faculty body and search committees and teaching at the collegiate level.

“I would like to thank you for honoring me as a 2022 Amelia Earhart fellow. I am truly grateful to receive this prestigious award and very thankful for the financial support. I have seen that 1,674 talented women have previously been honored as Zonta Amelia Earhart fellows and I cannot express deeply enough how humbled I am to have been chosen among them.

While at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, I have had the chance to explore my passion for aeronautics and expand my appreciation and knowledge of aerodynamics. These opportunities have let me work closely with my peers and grow as a confident researcher.

As a recipient of this incredible award, I can only hope to continue my graduate studies with the same determination and curiosity as the women pioneers that have come before me and to contribute to their long-lasting legacy in the field.” —**Vanessa Awate, 2022 Amelia Earhart Fellow**

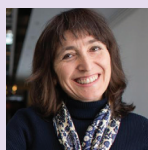
**1984**

**Svetlana Savitskaya**—first woman to go to space twice and the first woman to perform a spacewalk.



**1986**

Zonta International Honorary Member **Jeana Yeager** co-pilots the first non-stop, non-refueled flight around the world.



**1987**

**Wendy Freedman**, 1980 & 1981 AE fellow,—first woman appointed to the Carnegie Observatories permanent scientific staff.



**1991**

Zonta International Honorary Member **Millicent Hughes-Fulford**—first woman civilian scientist in space aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia.



**1992**

Zonta International Honorary Member **Roberta Bondar**—first Canadian woman and the first neurologist in space when she flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery.

**1992**

**Mae Jemison**—first Black woman to go to space.



### Meet Emma Stevenson: Applying AI research to challenges of space debris and space traffic

Emma Stevenson is a third-year aerospace engineering Ph.D. student and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Early Stage Researcher at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain. Sitting at the exciting intersection of two fields, her research focuses on the application of recent advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) to the growing problem of space debris and space traffic management. To this end, she is developing new techniques to aid in automating operational processes for avoiding

catastrophic collisions between space objects, a topic of paramount importance for protecting current day space assets and the future usability of the space environment.

Her research project is supported by Stardust-R: the Horizon 2020 Space Debris and Asteroid research network. As a part of her Ph.D., she has also carried out two research stays at the French Space Agency and the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, to help bridge the gap between research and operations. Emma has been involved in a variety of outreach activities to raise awareness of the issues surrounding space debris and the need for sustainability in space, as well as promoting space science topics, and women in space and scientific career paths.

**“This prestigious award is a great honour, and I am truly humbled to have been selected. As a woman in a male-dominated field, I sometimes find myself doubting my abilities and wondering if I am on the right path. Receiving this award is a powerful reminder that I am doing what I am meant to do.**

**I would like to thank the committee for believing in my potential, and for the support that this award will afford as I continue to work towards earning my Ph.D. in aerospace engineering and beyond. I look forward to joining a community of inspiring women in the domain of aerospace-applied sciences and engineering. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity.”**

**—Emma Stevenson, 2022 Amelia Earhart Fellow**



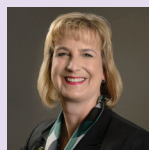
**1994**  
Zonta International Honorary Member  
**Chiaki Mukai**—first Japanese woman and the first Asian woman in space.



**2012**  
**Andrea Ghez**, Zonta International Honorary Member, 2020 Nobel Prize winner and 1987 AE fellow,—first woman to win the Crafoord Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for her work in astronomy.

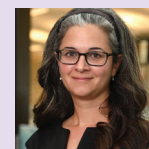


**2015**  
**Wendy Okolo**, 2012 AE fellow, obtains her doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington, becoming the university's youngest and first black woman to do so.



**2017**  
**Cheryl B. Schrader**, 1989 AE Fellow,—first female president at Wright State University, which is named in honor of aviation pioneers Orville and Wilbur Wright.

**2019**  
**Christina Koch** breaks the record for the longest continuous time in space by a woman.



**2020**  
**Noël Bakhtian**, 2010 & 2011 AE fellow,—the founding executive director of the Berkeley Lab Energy Storage Center, U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

**2023**  
**Makenzie Lystrup**, 2007 AE Fellow,—first female director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.



## ROSE DAY IN FULL BLOOM

Rose Day is a meaningful day for all members to celebrate the Zonta Spirit and the women and men who inspire them. Through a donation to the Zonta Foundation for Women, members recognize individuals who have positively impacted their lives or inspired them in their work for gender equality. This recognition in turn supports Zonta’s lifechanging projects and programs.

The 2023 Rose Day campaign once again showed the collective power of the Foundation’s supporters. The increase in donations and new donors will help build a better world for women and girls.

**Thank you to everyone for their support!**

## Together, in 2023, donors gifted: US\$91,695



**US\$148**  
Average Gift



**453**  
Unique Donors



**619**  
Gifts



**19%**  
Increase of Gifts  
Over Last Year



**29**  
First-Time Donors



**ZONTA  
FOUNDATION  
FOR WOMEN**

## THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Did you know that within Zonta there is a select group of donors who can alter the future? There is no magic involved, but there is a lot of Zonta Spirit! All members are invited to join these donors in the Mary E. Jenkins 1919 Society. By including the Zonta Foundation for Women in their legacy plan, they will continue to support the efforts for gender equality for decades to come. Membership benefits include exclusive partner events, invitations to Foundation gatherings and more!

**Learn more and join at:**  
[www.zonta.org/PlannedGiving](http://www.zonta.org/PlannedGiving)

## MAKING AN IMPACT THROUGH CLUB SPIRIT

As of 28 February 2023, **34% of active clubs have donated 56.63% of the total donations** benefitting the projects and programs (not including endowment).

Fundraising takes a lot of time and effort. To ensure clubs get the recognition they deserve and are included in the 2022-2023 Zonta Foundation for Women Annual Report, please submit club donations by 31 May 2023. Find out more on our ways to give page at [www.zonta.org/waystogive](http://www.zonta.org/waystogive).

Help us continue to stay on track to reach our 2022-2024 fundraising goal. We hope to see all clubs contribute 1/3 of their annual funds raised to the Zonta Foundation for Women to support Zonta’s service and educational award programs.

Make your gift today at [www.zonta.org/Donate](http://www.zonta.org/Donate).

# DEVELOPING A FUTURE FORWARD STRATEGIC PLAN PART 2

In the last issue of *The Zontian* we featured the actions being taken by the Zonta International Board as part of the strategic plan evaluation process. Since that article, the Zonta International Board continued work on the draft of the plan by identifying strategies, goals and tactics; however, at the time this article was written, the Board was still reviewing the priorities and the resources required to fulfill the plan. Additionally, the Zonta International Membership Survey was completed, and results were presented to the membership.

## On the Minds of Members

Over October – November 2022, all Zontians were invited to participate in a member-wide survey. Of the respondents who answered, there was a strong representation from Europe (35%), North America (29%) and Australia/New Zealand (18%) with a weaker response rate from other areas of the Zonta world. The Board was pleased that there was diversity in the respondents' years with Zonta: 31% 5 years or less, 29% 6 years to 15 years, 22% 16-25 years and 18% 26+ years.

### What do members think about club life?

- Working on local service projects is the most important reason for 52% of respondents to participate in their local club or e-club. This is followed by 43% indicating socializing with women in their community, 35% selecting raising money for local service projects and 33% to learn about local issues impacting women and girls.

### What do members identify as the three most important reasons for engaging and participating with Zonta International?

- Respondents indicated that the top two most important reasons they participate in the worldwide community is learning about the global issues impacting women or girls (50%) and supporting efforts by the United Nations to advance women and girls (47%). (Note respondents could select up to three items.)

### What do members think about advocacy and how we can go about building a better world for women and girls?

- 78% of the Zontians who answered indicated that Zonta's role in advocacy (bringing attention to issues and fostering change) is the way to advance women or girls.
- Top advocacy issues identified as needing to be addressed locally by clubs were gender-based violence (38%) followed by lack of personal financial freedom (29%). Not far behind was impact of climate change (27%), lack of political participation (26%), and lack of opportunity caused by family or traditional gender roles. The acknowledgement by respondents that climate is an equity issue is an item we have noted growing in importance as Zonta entered its second century of work. (Note respondents could select three items.)
- Top advocacy issues identified that should be worked on by Zonta International were support for educational opportunities for girls (63%) and to protect the individual or human rights of women or girls (54%). This was followed by improve job or economic opportunities (31%), support women's leadership in political, business or educational positions (30%), and help create a healthy and safe family or community life (29%). These responses have been noted by the Zonta International Board in their strategic planning. (Note respondents could select three items.)



# ZONTA INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

## The Objective

Develop a new strategic plan to meet the needs of Zontians while opening new pathways for other gender equality advocates who care about our causes to engage with Zonta.

### Thinking about the future

- Although Zonta International plays a slightly more important role in the success of Zonta's mission, respondents are more satisfied with their clubs. 83% rated club life as very satisfied and somewhat important whereas only 75% ranked Zonta International in the same way. This metric provides a starting point for efforts to try to improve member satisfaction and engagement.
- Although people feel welcomed to contribute positively to their Zonta club (93%), they have less confidence that their Zonta club will be as successful in the future with only 65% believing their Zonta club is set up to be successful over next five years. This is a datapoint that the Zonta International Board is evaluating and seeking knowledge on what needs to change for members to feel more optimistic about club life going forward.
- As society has rapidly been changing due to technology and the post-COVID era, the survey wanted to know how individuals felt about the club model. Respondents were asked to consider the variety of ways people might want to participate in the mission of empowering women and girls. They were offered a list of various engagement models and asked to rank interest level in each model. 72% of respondents find the current club model to be very desirable or desirable. Conversely, this means 28% were no longer interested in the club model but possibly ranked the other models of engagement as more appealing, such as paying a fee based on corresponding activities of interest or holding a Zonta International direct membership.

### On the Minds of International Leadership

The Zonta International Board has consolidated the feedback from the survey into other research and datapoints. In January 2023, the Board convened a two-day strategic planning session and in the subsequent months continued to work out the elements of the new strategic plan.

At the core, Zonta will not change. Zonta will remain a place where globally minded individuals connect, collaborate and demand change to build a better world for women and girls. But we must remain relevant for the future and open to change to continue as a sustainable and strong community of individuals working together to fight for gender equity.

It was also identified that Zonta must expand its credibility and visibility in the world on key advocacy issues. But for Zonta to be successful, there must be faith in the clubs and members must enjoy a healthy club life. Zonta must remain prudent with its resources and reconsider the programs that it delivers to ensure the organization delivers on its mission. To do this, Zonta must seek out new members, allies and partners who are like-minded in the drive to build a better world for women and girls.

The new strategic plan will be developed in year one of the biennium in accordance with biennial goal 5. We hope the Zonta members will review and discuss the plan and make a commitment to grow Zonta and attract members, allies and partners so that we can stand on a strong foundation as we demand change in the world. ■



### Follow along

The full results of this survey can be found at [www.zonta.org/StrategicPlan](http://www.zonta.org/StrategicPlan).

# ZONTIANS IN ACTION

Clubs continue to be shining examples in their communities in how they serve women and girls. Below, we have highlighted only some of the amazing efforts clubs have taken during the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and in honor of International Women's Day. While we can only feature a few actions, Zontians are visible everywhere and continue to build a better world for women and girls.

---

---

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

During the week of 8 March, International Women's Day and Zonta Rose Day, members organized countless events focusing on issues that affect women around the globe.



The **Zonta Club of Fort Smith, USA**, held two events to address period poverty. At the club's meeting, they invited Brenda Jonas from Lotus Intervals to share her organization's critical work to alleviate period poverty in their community. The club donated feminine hygiene products and

signed a letter to their representatives calling for an end to the sales and usage tax on feminine hygiene products. The club also visited the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith where club members met with students to discuss their shared concerns about period poverty.



The **Zonta Club of Pori I, Finland**, held a special public event to discuss women, crime and punishment in Finland with guest Kaisa Tammi, a long-time prison director who has done significant work with Finnish female prisoners. Although the number of incarcerated women is low in Finland, the club felt explaining why women go to prison is important. Many women in prison have been victims of childhood abuse and sexual violence, often at the hands of loved ones. The consequences of these mistreatments often lead to the loss of one's boundaries or self-respect. Kaisa explained that in prison, suicide, eating disorders, addictions and avoidance are considered women's symptoms and many incarcerated women need empowerment, emotional regulation and security. Kaisa admitted that prison is not an effective problem-solving tool. However, it can sometimes be needed to set change in motion.

Find more International Women's Day actions and more at [www.zonta.org/localserviceandadvocacy](http://www.zonta.org/localserviceandadvocacy).

Two clubs hosted events to discuss issues related to women's work. The **Zonta Club of Bologna, Italy**, teamed up with a delegation of young students to collect and present lists of signatures for a popular initiative bill for the elimination of voluntary resignations from work.



And, In New Zealand the **Zonta Club of South Auckland**, held a presentation on equal pay featuring Dr. Siouxsie Wiles, a renowned scientist and science communicator.

Siouxsie described her academic career and how she still does not get the pay-related recognition that her male colleagues get, despite being awarded 14 different honors, nationally and internationally. Siouxsie's presentation made the club and its attendees think about equal pay and the lack of recognition women get in their professions and industries.



Also focusing on women's work, the **Zonta clubs in Ghana** organized a seminar about innovation and technology for gender equality for 120 women from the Agboghloshie market, one of the largest markets in Accra. The clubs advised the women on how to use their cell phones to manage their funds, market their businesses and use mobile banking options instead of carrying and holding large amounts of cash. A health insurance team also registered the women for national health insurance and renewed their expired insurance cards through an app, giving them access to health services and medication.

## ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Throughout the world, Zontians have been making efforts to increase the visibility of the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. These actions allow more victims and survivors of gender-based violence to access more resources, giving them opportunities for a world where they do not have to live in fear.



In Bangladesh, the **Zonta Club of Dhaka IV** engaged 50 rickshaws in the Pallabi and Mirpur area to carry "Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women" posters in their local language.



In New Zealand, the **Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury** placed signs in bathrooms in parks and gardens around the city with information on how women can seek support if they are experiencing violence.

And, in Australia, the **Zonta Club of Ipswich**, partnered with its city council to install a red bench in Tulum Place, the civic center in the Queensland suburb, to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide an opportunity for this important issue to remain visible.



In **Bulgaria and Romania**, Zonta clubs called upon attendees of their events take part in a flash mob to express their protest through the power of Bulgarian folk dance and to declare their categorical “NO to violence against women and girls.”



The **Zonta Club of Sofia, Bulgaria** also held a training session about cyber violence with experts from the Chief Directorate for Combating Organised Crime for more than 250 7th–11th grade students.

Also bringing to light the prevalence of gender-based cyber violence were the **Zonta clubs in Belgium**. The clubs hosted a press conference and panel discussion at Brussels City Hall highlighting how cyber violence disproportionately affects women and girls, causing severe psychological harm and deterring them from digital participation. Each speaker provided insights on how to work together to end gender-based violence and support victims.



Survivor support was also featured within the work of the **Zonta Club of Hong Kong, Hong Kong**. The club partnered with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Cease Crisis Center. Fifteen women were appointed as peer counselors to encourage and support women who are facing domestic violence and crisis. ■

Hundreds of more actions that Zontians have taken to say NO to violence against women can be found at [www.zontasaysno.com](http://www.zontasaysno.com).

## CREATING GREATER VISIBILITY WITHIN ZONTA ACTIONS

Here are five ways to ensure your club's actions gain greater visibility on social media:

- 1 Include one or more properly sized photos that tells the story of your action; avoid posed group photos unless discussing membership opportunities.
- 2 Use topical hashtags (#WomenInSTEM) or one that is dedicated to a larger event (#ZontaSaysNO). To gain attention of your fellow Zontians, use #ZontiansInAction.
- 3 Find your partners and members and tag them within the post. Remember, handles may differ based on the platform so double-check before you assume you have it correct.
- 4 Click "share" and add your own comment before hitting post to get more traction in feeds.
- 5 After you submit your event at [www.zonta.org/shareyourstory](http://www.zonta.org/shareyourstory), share your story from the Zonta webpage once it has been published. And follow Zonta on social media to see your actions and those from all Zontians from across the globe.



# ADD YOUR VOICE

## to build the world we envision

**W**hen a member invites a friend or colleague to add their voice to Zonta International, the equal world we envision comes closer to being a reality. The work needed to realize gender equality becomes less daunting and more impactful when we stand together with more women and men who share our vision.

Last year, the clubs listed below\* worked toward the goal of having more voices join Zonta's mission. They increased their club membership by at least 20% — adding more than 200 members through the 2022 Add Your Voice campaign. Zonta thanks all clubs for their efforts to increase our visibility. And, we thank our members for their passion, energy and time as they continue to build a better world for women and girls.

### **TIER III**

#### **Clubs with 15 or fewer members**

**Douglas County, District 12, USA**

**The Villages, District 11, USA**

Tainan Phoenix, District 31, Republic of China (Taiwan)

Northampton Area, District 1, USA

Jacksonville, District 11, USA

Victoria, Canada, District 8, Canada

Antelope Valley Area, District 9, USA

Bangkok VI, District 17, Thailand

Pine Rivers Inc, District 22, Australia

San Juan, District 11, Puerto Rico

Middelkerke-Westkust, District 27, Belgium

Sables D'Olonne, District 29, France

Watkins Glen-Montour Falls, District 2, USA

Austin, MN, District 7, USA

Nogales, District 9, USA

Fort Collins, District 12, USA

Pittsburgh, District 4, USA

Invercargill, District 16, New Zealand

Whangarei, District 16, New Zealand

### **TIER II**

#### **Clubs with 16–29 members**

**Mount Isa Inc, District 22, Australia**

Melbourne, District 11, USA

Bundaberg Inc, District 22, Australia

The New Territories II, District 17, Hong Kong

Paranaque, District 17, Philippines

Nicosia Region, District 14, Cyprus

Miaoli, District 31, Republic of China (Taiwan)

Sen-Himeji, District 22, Japan

Manawatu, District 16, New Zealand

Brisbane South Inc, District 22, Australia

Maricopa, District 9, USA

Nantou, District 31, Republic of China (Taiwan)

Mascoutah Area, District 6, USA

Fyn, District 13, Denmark

Kitakyushu, District 22, Japan

Syracuse, District 2, USA

Chiengrai I, District 17, Thailand

### **TIER I**

#### **Clubs with 30 or more members**

**Lenawee County, District 15, USA**

Warren, District 4, USA

Bangkok IX, District 17, Thailand

Taipei III, District 31, Republic of China (Taiwan)

Billings, District 12, USA

Bangkok V, District 17, Thailand



*\*Listed in order of membership increase; **Top clubs***

# Giving voice to the voiceless

Introducing 2024 Keynote Speaker: Rabia Siddique



Zonta International is pleased to announce Rabia Siddique as a keynote speaker at the 2024 Convention in Brisbane, Australia.

Rabia, is a retired British Army officer, criminal and human rights lawyer, former terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, international speaker, humanitarian, best-selling author and hostage survivor, and is known for making every day count.

A common thread in all her roles is a desire to make the world a better place, to give voice to the voiceless, and to lift up those around her so that they may be the best version of themselves.

Rabia is committed to living each day with purpose, serving others, and speaking her truth. Ordered by the British Military to never discuss how she was taken hostage while negotiating the release of captured Special Forces soldiers, Rabia developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. This led to her bravely suing the British Government for sexism and racism, against public ridicule. She became a catalyst for policy change to ensure a fairer workplace for women and cultural minorities in the military.

Members and guests at the 66th Zonta International Convention will not only be inspired by Rabia's unique and powerful story but will hear how to find the great authentic leaders within themselves. Calling her audiences to a higher purpose, attendees will be challenged to practice and live great, authentic leadership, to lead by example and be agents of change.

Today, Rabia is an Australian ambassador for the United States-based Support Veterans Now, Project Peace on Earth as well as several Australian charities. She is also a director of the International Foundation for Non-Violence and The Museum of Human Rights Australia.

A keen runner, Rabia, who speaks English, French, Spanish, and Arabic, has completed the London marathon and a double marathon in Australia for charity. Consistently striving for personal and professional growth, Rabia's most rewarding challenge is being a mum to her triplet sons.

To learn more about Rabia and see her well-earned awards, nominations and honors, please visit:

[www.rabiasiddique.com](http://www.rabiasiddique.com).

©JESSE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHER

©Howard Smith Wharves

©JESSE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHER



# Come early and stay longer to experience all that Brisbane has to offer

The excitement in building for our 66th Zonta International Convention.

As the 2024 Convention Committee continues to work to make you feel at home in Brisbane, here are five things to look forward to right now!



**1 Zonta Says NO Rally:** Continuing with the excitement of our first Zonta Says NO day in Hamburg, Zontians will be visible by wearing orange, meeting up and walking together through the neighborhood surrounding the Convention Center to a nearby park.

**2 Sausage Sizzle:** Following the Zonta Says NO Rally, gather with your fellow Zontians and their guests on the park lawn near the Brisbane River. There, enjoy a sausage sizzle.

**3 Dinner with Friends:** The food adventure doesn't end at the sizzle! And there is so much more cuisine to enjoy around the convention center and throughout Brisbane. With so many options to choose from, the hardest part will be deciding where to go!



**4 The Ease of Travel Throughout the City and the Coast:** Getting from one must see attraction to the next is a traveler's dream in Brisbane. Between roads, ferries, trolleys and ped ways—Brisbane is one of the easiest to navigate cities on the east coast of Australia!

**5 Seeing and visiting with your friends:** Even with the convenient ways to travel, there is only one more thing that could make Brisbane one of your best experiences: Your Zonta friends! Make plans so you can truly explore Queensland and greater Australia with your fellow Zontians.

We look forward to seeing you in Brisbane 27–30 June 2024!

[www.zontaconvention.com](http://www.zontaconvention.com)

#ZONTABRISBANE



# Get Social



Zonta International



@ZontaIntl



Zonta International



zontaintl



Zonta International



The Zonta International  
Mobile App



BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

## WELCOME TO NEW CLUBS

### ZONTA CLUBS

Saratoga County  
District 2, Area 1

Atlantico Sur  
Region South America, Area 2

Kigali New Voice  
District 18, Area 3

Pingtung Homeland  
District 31, Area 2

### GOLDEN Z CLUBS

SUNY Oswego  
District 2, Area 2

College of the Canyons  
District 9, Area 3

UT-Dallas  
District 10, Area 1

HKAPA  
District 17, Area 2

\*as of 5 April 2023



### Z CLUBS

North Country  
District 2, Area 1

West Ranch High School  
District 9, Area 3

Alpena High School  
District 15, Area 1

St. Benilde School  
District 17, Area 3

St. Clare's Girls' School  
District 17, Area 2

CCC Hoh Fuk Tong College  
District 17, Area 2

Satree Wat Mahapruttharam  
District 17, Area 6

Rattanakosinsompoch Bangkhunth  
District 17, Area 6

London Grace Int. School  
District 25, Area 2

Himeji Technical High School  
District 26, Area 4

New Taipei Shining Youth  
District 31, Area 1

Sheng Kung Girls High School  
District 31, Area 2

