



Dear Zontians and friends,

In honor of its Centennial Anniversary, Zonta started a major project: We've become the first private sector donor to UNICEF and UNFPA's [Global Programme to End Child Marriage](#). Child marriage is not only a severe violation of human rights, it also inhibits social and economic change in countries that could see a more favorable and sustainable development if girls received a good education before becoming mothers.

Our engagement extends beyond funding. Around the world, Zonta members are raising awareness for early marriage and advocating to end this crime. A seminar we held in Vienna is only one example of these efforts. Read below about the speeches and interventions and also about my recent visit to a village in Zambia.

Thank you very much for your great support of this project as well as all the other efforts in this important biennium. And, many thanks for your generous donations.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susanne von Bassewitz".

Dr. Susanne von Bassewitz, President

Field Notes - Combating Child Marriage in Zambia

The field visit started with meeting Chieftainess Kawaza, an impressive lady and the only female chief among altogether three in Katete District (Eastern Province, Zambia). She presented a strategic plan that supports the goal to end child marriage and is carried out in all villages of her chiefdom. This commitment is crucial to the project's success since Chieftainess Kawaza's words carry more weight than that of government officials.

I also sat with village headmen and one headwoman and later also with Alangizi women. These are female initiators and very influential when it comes to shaping attitudes of girls vis à vis boys and potential partners. The Alangizi play a key role in preventing early marriages.

Most often, an early pregnancy leads to marriage. Therefore, education on methods of contraception is paramount and is being provided to girls and boys in



special classes that also tackle various other related topics. Menstrual health management is one them. It is complemented by a project to produce sanitary napkins that both girls and boys participate in.

Life skills such as setting goals for the future and planning how to save money are taught in safe spaces.

All these efforts are targeted to bring about cultural change and to address the benefits of delaying pregnancies and marriage.



To read more about Zonta's efforts to end child marriage, please visit our website.

[Read more](#)

Experts offer their perspectives on Child Marriage

Our seminar "Forced and Early Marriage - A Severe Human Rights Violation," brought Zonta members, representatives of like-minded organizations and students of the renowned Diplomatic Academy in Vienna together with experts on various aspects of the issue. Among them were Dr. Quentin Wodon, a lead economist at the World Bank, and Rime Allaf, a consultant for UNODC's Global Program for the implementation of the DOHA Declaration that centers on the understanding that the rule of law and sustainable development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

Dr. Quentin Wodon outlined three areas where states need to become more active:

1. **Access to education** and learning including schools nearby, affordability, good learning performance, knowledge transfer in life skills.
2. Targeted **interventions for vulnerable girls**; particularly effective are "safe spaces" for girls and incentives to remain in school.
3. Efforts to **change gender-based social norms**; although research reveals limited evidence, such efforts are extremely important to influence long term development regarding gender equality.

Rime Allaf spoke about child marriage in the humanitarian setting of [Syrian refugee camps](#).

- Parents think that early marriages protect their daughters from violence or offer an escape from the trauma of their displacement. However, the girls are not physically, psychologically, emotionally or financially better off.
- Some marriages are not formally registered, with the men often divorcing the child bride or



abandoning her without any repercussion. This leaves the displaced child with no support.

Members of the Golden Z Club of Vienna presented a brief and compelling overview on the issue and shared ideas we can use to educate the communities we live in on child marriage.



Click below to read the full report:

[Forced and Early Marriage: A Severe Human Rights Violation](#)

Report by Barbara Devin, Adviser, Zonta International United Nations Committee, Vienna

Zonta Clubs Ready for the Centennial Anniversary by Raising their Voice #Zonta100

Around the world, Zonta clubs are coming together for events, advocacy, service and celebrations to honor Zonta's 100th anniversary by delivering on our mission. On 8 November, Zonta will mark 100 years of standing up for gender equality. Find out more at Zonta100.org.

The Zonta Club of Taichung and Z Club of Taichung Hong Wen in Taiwan, District 31, held a public event to celebrate Zonta's 100th anniversary by raising awareness for the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and Zonta's actions to end child marriage.



Zonta International Director Marg Bateman joins the Zonta Club of Port Macquarie Inc in Australia, District 24, as they hosted the 2019 Women in Service luncheon honoring great leaders in their community.



We need your help. If you would like to support Zonta-sponsored initiatives like the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, we would be happy to include you in our list of donors.



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