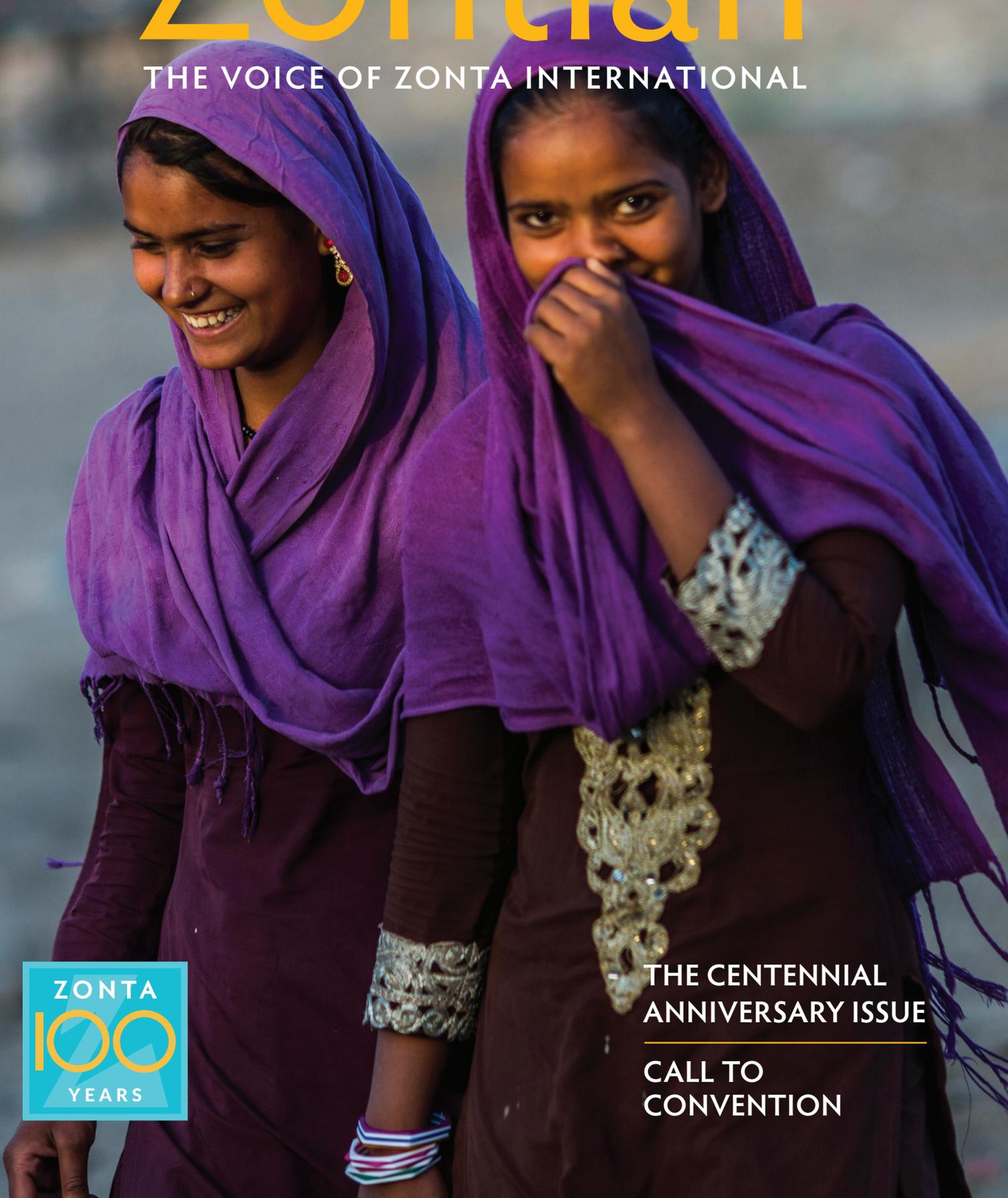


2018-2020 BIENNIUM
ISSUE THREE | OCTOBER 2019

THE Zontian

THE VOICE OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL



THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

CALL TO
CONVENTION



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 photos from Zonta's 100-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

1200 Harger Road, Suite 330
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USA

www.zonta.org



Above: (Top) Rachel Steinberg, Senior Director, Global Cause Partnerships, UNICEF USA, stands with Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz.

(Left) District 24 awarded Carol Harding with their district centennial recognition award for her extensive work in the community involving domestic violence and drug and alcohol rehabilitation. (Right) The Zonta Club of Lagos I in Nigeria organized a free health screening as part of its activities to celebrate Zonta's anniversary.

THE ZONTIAN
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Allison Summers, Executive Director; Kate Edrinn, Communications Manager; Communiq  Graphic Design, Design
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A MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT SUSANNE VON BASSEWITZ



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Dear Zontians,

On 8 November 1919, in the aftermath of World War I, courageous women founded Zonta to help build a future of peace and prosperity. They knew that gender equality would be the key for achieving this and consequently made empowering women their mission. Looking back today, these last 100 years have seen tremendous change and incredible development for humankind, not least for women.

Ever since its beginnings, Zonta has stayed true to its mission. Thanks to you and the members before you, Zonta has provided service to millions of women and girls, and advocated for their rights not only in the 63 countries where we have clubs, but also in many other parts of the world where our help is needed. To promote women's rights as human rights, we have been aligned with the United Nations since 1945. Please take a look at the impressive list of international projects starting on page 18. It will show you that we have been partners with UNICEF for more than 45 years and with UN Women (formerly UNIFEM) for more than 30. Since 1998, education and activities to fight violence against women have been the focus of our international funding. These two aspects are reflected in all three international projects of our Centennial Anniversary Biennium.

Unfortunately, the list alone would already tell us that we have still not achieved what our founding mothers had envisioned. Our world is not free of wars and violence, and access to decent healthcare and education is still not for everyone, especially not for women and girls. We have also learned that progress toward gender equality cannot be taken for granted. Therefore, let Zonta's voice be heard louder than ever before!

Thank you very much for your dedication to our mission and your generous donations. They will let thousands of girls and women see a better future.



Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne von Bassewitz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susanne von Bassewitz
President

Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation

Above: Director Judy Gorton and Mary Vacanti, President of the Zonta Club of Buffalo, visit the Statler building in Buffalo where the first Zontians met under the leadership of Marian de Forest.

Cover: This biennium, Zonta launched a major project to end child marriage in 12 countries, including Bangladesh. (C) UNICEF//UN058165//VISHWANATHAN

CHILD MARRIAGE

a global issue affecting every country

Each year, 12 million girls are married worldwide before the age of 18. That is 39,000 marriages a day; 23 child brides every minute; nearly one every two seconds. According to data from Girls Not Brides and Care, child marriage is declining, but progress is not happening fast enough. Zonta International is addressing this gross violation of human rights as a crime and is actively educating and advocating in communities across the globe to end it.

VIENNA

More than 100 participants from 19 countries, including Afghanistan, Thailand and Ghana, gathered in May at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna for a seminar on child marriage organized by Viennese Zontians and Golden Z club members.

Among the eminent speakers was Quentin Wodon, lead economist at the World Bank, who put child marriage in an economic context. He explained research showing that access to education is key: Universal completion of secondary school could virtually put an end to child marriage. It could also reduce total fertility by a third, thus leading to slower population growth and reduced poverty. It also leads to better opportunities for women to participate in the social and economic development of their societies.

Najwa Duzdar made clear that child marriage is a threat for girls throughout the world. She presented the work of Orient Express, an Austrian organization that offers counselling services and safe accommodation to women who seek to avoid forced marriage or who are victims of it. Five years ago, the clients were mostly adult women. Today, the ratio is reversed: 69 percent of them are minors.

Please read the full report at: <https://www.zonta.org/Media-News/News-Fed/News-Detail/forced-and-early-marriage-a-severe-human-rights-violation>.

Left: "Setting the age of marriage to 18 intends to enable girls to continue their education," says Her Excellency Khojesta Fana Ebrahimkhel, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Austria, pictured with Zonta International President Susanne von Bassewitz (right).

Middle: Members of the Golden Z Club of Vienna present a compelling overview of ending child marriage and share ideas on how to educate communities on child marriage.

Right: Members of the Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey and Unchained At Last stand on the steps of the Pennsylvania Statehouse, calling on legislators to support state laws to end child marriage.



"It doesn't happen here" is often what you hear when someone talks about child marriage.

LEARN MORE

Visit zontasaysno.com to "Get the Facts" about child marriage.

Learn more about the work of Fraidy Reiss and Samra Zafar at unchainedatlast.org and samrazafar.com.

Discover more about the National Coalition to End Child Marriage in the United States at endchildmarriage.org.

See what actions you can take today with the Zonta USA Caucus at Zonta.org/USA-Advocacy.

SPEAKING OUT ABOUT CHILD MARRIAGE IN NORTH AMERICA

Fraidy Reiss and Samra Zafar grew up thousands of miles apart, but their stories share many similarities. As teenagers, both women's dreams were cut short when they were forced to marry men they did not know—Fraidy in the United States and Samra in Canada. As with many women forced to marry at a young age, Fraidy and Samra both endured years of abuse at the hands of their husbands. However, Fraidy and Samra's stories did not end there. Both women devised plans to escape the marriages they were trapped in, pursue their educations, and ultimately realize a better life for themselves and their daughters.

Today, Fraidy and Samra are using their voices and shedding light on child marriage in North America—Fraidy through her work with Unchained At Last and Samra as an author and advocate for equity, inclusion and human rights. At the Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting in Dallas, Texas, in June, they both shared that education is one of the most powerful tools to empower girls to avoid child marriage, seize opportunities that otherwise might be taken away from them and fulfill their potential. It can also be the key to a girl overcoming adversity and reclaiming her life after being forced to marry at a young age.

SHINING A LIGHT ON CHILD MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

"It doesn't happen here" is often what you hear when someone talks about child marriage in the United States. However, according to Unchained At Last, approximately 248,000 children as young as 12 were married in the United States between 2000 and 2010. The Zonta USA Caucus is using Zonta's membership across the nation to shine new light on this issue and join Zonta International's efforts to end child marriage globally.

Ending child marriage in the United States requires advocacy actions at both the state and federal levels. The Zonta USA Caucus is helping thousands of Zonta members and other supporters in the U.S. use their voices and constitutional rights to speak out against child marriage by providing them with the tools and information to contact their state and federal legislators to express their support for, or opposition to, pending marriage legislation.

The Zonta USA Caucus is also working with other advocacy organizations as a member of the National Coalition to End Child Marriage in the United States, a group convened by Equality Now and Unchained At Last. Members of the Zonta Club of Harrisburg-Hershey joined Unchained At Last for a Chain-In at the Pennsylvania statehouse in June to protest forced and child marriage and call on

legislators to support state legislation to end child marriage in Pennsylvania.

WHAT IS NEXT?

The Zonta USA Caucus will be rolling out a national billboard campaign this November to raise awareness of child marriage and call on people across the United States to support legislation to end child marriage in the U.S. ■





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CHANGING MINDSETS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

By Susanne von Bassewitz, *President, Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation*

Above: Community leaders in Zambia meet to discuss the Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

Ending Child Marriage is the first major project Zonta has undertaken. The delegates at the Yokohama Convention voted to fund the project with US\$2 million. This is the highest sum with which our Foundation has ever funded a single project in one biennium.

For this project, we partner with two UN agencies—UNICEF and UNFPA—who have joined forces to fight this fundamental violation of human rights. With 650 million women being victims of this crime, the human rights aspect alone would justify the effort. But there is more. Early marriage is a substantial inhibitor of a society's development. Research shows that education is the most successful factor in breaking this vicious cycle.

Zambia is one of the 12 countries in which the project works. It is a country of about 17 million inhabitants. Young people under 15 make up 46 percent of the population (for perspective, in my country, Germany, it is 11 percent); 45 percent of the children live in extreme poverty. Currently, Zambia struggles with high debts.

I traveled to Lusaka, the capital, to do two things. First, to participate in the annual meeting of the steering committee, in which Zonta has a seat together with government representatives from Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway, Belgium and the European Union. Second, to see and hear firsthand how the project team tackles the issue.

The UNICEF and UNFPA offices in Lusaka are both responsible for carrying out the work. I spent five days with colleagues there and was impressed with their dedication and enthusiasm. The approach they take is multi-sectoral, meaning it comprises different areas like education and health.

UNICEF and UNFPA work with the Ministry of Gender on a national costed action plan, which has been broken down to district action plans. One of the exemplary districts is Katete, in the Eastern Province of Zambia, and that is where the field visit started. It is a rural area with little villages, partly not electrified, and the main economic activity for the 1.6 million inhabitants is agricultural. We traveled to Chipata, the district capital, almost 500 kilometers from Lusaka, and first met with district officials to discuss the status of their activities.

Other important parts of the programme, like peer mentorship, require the collaboration of the village to make sure girls attend school. Often you need to talk to the parents and, of course, to the girl herself.

To eradicate child marriage, the district action plan foresees close collaboration with the traditional leaders. Out of the three chiefdoms in Katete District, which comprises a population of roughly 200,000, one is led by a woman, Chieftainess Kawaza. She is an impressive lady who is very friendly and spoke firmly. It was fascinating to see the respect with which she is treated by her people as her word carries more weight than that of government actors. Chieftainess Kawaza has developed a strategic plan for her chiefdom, covering all issues related to the well-being of her people. She has formed committees comprising headmen who represent her in all villages of her chiefdom.

While meeting with her, Chieftainess Kawaza was very clear about her intentions. “We want to put an end to child marriage,” she said. From her speech to us, it became obvious that teenage pregnancies are a major concern with

Examples of Strategies of the Ending Child Marriage Programme:

- Engage adolescent girls through initiatives, including life skills, health information, economic empowerment and social protection.
- Improve education access and retention.
- Provide out-of-school girls with alternative learning opportunities.
- Strengthen health, education, child protection and social protection systems.
- Foster community dialogue and create public service announcements to better inform of the dangers of child marriage and the benefits of supporting and investing in girls.

While meeting with her, Chieftainess Kawaza (right) was very clear about her intentions. “We want to put an end to child marriage,” she said.



child marriage. Once the girl is pregnant, her parents would seek to marry her to the child’s father. In recent years, it has been observed that the fathers were sometimes only a few years older than the girl.

After meeting with Chieftainess Kawaza, we sat with the village headmen and one headwoman. The headmen have started to document births, marriages and deaths, and, upon Chieftainess Kawaza’s request, said that they will not allow girls below the age of 18 to be married. We asked them how they can possibly achieve this. “Every couple has to report to us and get our consent,” answered one of the headmen. They showed us the registers they are keeping – huge ledgers with meticulously filled out columns. This is a good step, although one headman admitted that, in some cases, the “marriage” would take place outside of the village and would not be registered.

After this conversation, we sat with the Alangizi, the traditional female initiators who play an important role when it comes to delaying early pregnancies. Chieftainess Kawaza’s strategy has already stopped the practice that girls quit school for a few weeks to undergo initiation. Initiation now takes place on weekends or during vacation time so that the education is not interrupted.

We also saw how girls and boys are being addressed within the program when we spent time with them in one of the Safe Spaces, which have emerged as a key strategy for the protection and empowerment of women and girls. More



©UNFPA

Above: A boy demonstrates how to wear a sanitary napkin.

recently, they have been expanded for work with young boys and are also open to teenagers not enrolled in a school program. They receive special trainings that enable them to build their lives like nutrition and basic financial skills. The trainings are complemented by discussions that help them build their confidence to use their abilities and work on providing opportunities for them during the challenges ahead.

Health education is provided through extra classes that boys and girls attend together. One of the sessions we saw provided knowledge about contraception and protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

Other important parts of the programme, peer mentorship and community help, require the collaboration of the villages to make sure girls attend school. Often you need to talk to the parents and, of course, to the girl herself. Peer support is also very helpful when it comes to conversations about contraception practices or support to get a girl back to school after she has had a child.

Seeing how the programme is really changing mindsets becomes obvious when we look at the Menstrual Health Management Club. Together, boys and girls produce washable sanitary pads out of small pieces of fabric. This joint activity is a clear sign of how communication leads to a better understanding of genders that will ultimately change the way men and women interact. ■



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Rawan Majali, UN Women Field Officer, embraces a woman from the Eid bi Eid project.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011, has resulted in today's largest refugee crisis. Many of the refugees have fled to Jordan, which is estimated to be the country that hosts the second highest number of refugees relative to its own population. Of the more than 700,000 refugees registered in Jordan, 49 percent are women. International help is necessary to ease this burden and UN Women, Zonta's partner and one of more than 40 aid agencies active in Jordan, was the one to introduce a gender perspective into the humanitarian work. In 2012, they started an initiative in Za'atari, the biggest camp. It is called Oasis and has become a rightfully praised model.

Building resilience in this very difficult situation is why the project is so important. The immediate goal is to create work opportunities, both inside and outside of the camps. As part of Zonta's thorough monitoring of the project's progress, President Susanne von Bassewitz traveled to Amman, Jordan's capital, in late July. She was accompanied by Christine Gerberding, Zonta International Public Relations and Communications Committee chairman, Joy Orlich, Zonta International Foundation Development Committee chairman, and Pam Osathanugrah, Zonta International UN Committee member. "We each paid for our travels, of course," Christine said, "and the insights we gained were absolutely worth it."

This is a space where refugee women feel their needs are respected. They can bring their children to enjoy some happy moments on the playground and lessons in a kindergarten setting.

The team drove to four sites, among them Za'atari in the northeast of Jordan, only 10 miles away from the Syrian border. Generally, Syrians in the camps can be considered the most vulnerable of the refugees. Thirty percent of the women in Za'atari, which provides shelter for 80,000 people, live as single mothers. Many are traumatized and very often they have been victims of gender-based violence.

As soon as you pass the gate of an Oasis center after having driven through the camp, it is a calm and friendly environment. Like everywhere else in the camp, there are containers that have replaced the tents that were set up early when the crisis started, but everything looks a lot more orderly and well kept. There is a playground, a small garden and container walls with colorful paintings that evoke green landscapes.

This is a space where refugee women feel their needs are respected. They can bring their children to enjoy some happy moments on the playground and lessons in a kindergarten setting. Most women who come there apply for three-month courses. Apart from them, there are also Syrian women, e.g. teachers, who work more permanently alongside UN Women staff.

Getting to the Oasis is almost never a walk around the corner. Five days a week, the women come to the center, bring their small children, learn to sew, weave or manufacture and, at one training course, produce baby kits — a supply of clothes for the first year of a child's life. They are given to the parents of a newborn baby in the camps, where about 400 babies are born every month. The women receive cash for work that can be spent on food and supplies they are usually not provided.

The Oasis centers not only empower women by providing meaningful work and money, but through dialogues and confidence building sessions where women are encouraged to take on leadership roles in the community. Through councils, the refugees partly organize their lives. UN Women helps the beneficiaries of this project raise their voice and take on responsibility.

Starting this year, eight Oasis model centers became operational outside the camps in areas with particularly vulnerable populations. They are run by the Ministry of Social Development and UN Women supports the set up and

Below: A participant completes a project in a maintenance course offered at the Oasis center.

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

There are expected to be at least 25,750 direct beneficiaries including:

120

Syrian refugee women.

300

Jordanian and Syrian women through decent work opportunities.

150

Syrian women through remedial education services.

3,000

Syrians benefiting from comprehensive maternal kits.



©UN Women | Lauren Rooney



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Above: Zonta members pose with women of the Eid bi Eid project in Jordan during their July visit.

the operation with social workers. Transportation is a critical element as the women and their families do not have cars and public transport is not available. Therefore, UN Women provides transportation for women not in the camps. Without this service, the women could not come to the center. These centers work similarly to an Oasis center in the camps, but what is special is that Syrian and Jordanian women are together in a six-month rotation.

Although there are maintenance classes where the women are trained in plumbing or in fixing electrical appliances, training in tailoring seems to be a focus. While this seems to perpetuate old gender roles, because of the Jordanian labor market structure, even women with a college degree often cannot find a job in their field of expertise. All women who have been trained in the centers (around 4,200 in 2018) could at least find work in a factory. However, not every family and not every husband would allow one of the trained women to work outside of the house.

In each of the centers, the courses provide a protected environment to talk and share experiences, both bad and good. "When we sat with the women at the Mwgagar center, they shared with us that the group has become a sisterhood to them," Joy said. "They even started a WhatsApp group and try to support each other outside of the center," Pam added.



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Left: Pam Osathanugrah, Christine Gerberding and President Susanne von Basewitz speak with the women in the camps during a recent site visit.

Right: Fatimah, a Syrian refugee, found the courage to take charge of her life and is now assisting other women in the center.

“But what struck us most was the power and the courage of the women we met.”

The centers also offer support for victims of gender-based violence. At the center in Zarqa near Amman, operated by the Jordanian Women’s Union, women receive basic medical care, psychological and legal support and training. “They can also take lectures and courses on topics that they choose themselves,” Christine said. “So those women really get what they ask for.”

The Zonta team met with Fatimah, a Syrian refugee woman, single mother of four, who first helped in the kitchen with the intention to bring food back to her family since she could not afford to have a stove. She now comes to the center every day and helps in various ways. The center changed her life. She was depressed when she first came and now has the confidence and the energy to build a new life for her family.

“We were impressed with the commitment and high energy of the UN Women colleagues. We could also see and feel that there is a trusted, even warm relationship with all parties involved, be it the women themselves or operators of the centers,” Susanne concluded. “But what struck us most was the power and the courage of the women we met.” ■

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

End Child Marriage

Join Zonta International's Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and the 28,500 Zonta members across the globe who are using their voices to #EndChildMarriage.

During the 16 Days of Activism, 624,000 more girls around the world will be forced to marry before the age of 18. What can you do?

EDUCATE YOURSELF about child marriage in your country. You may think it does not happen, but it does – in every country and in every social class.

RAISE AWARENESS of this crime, already inflicted on more than 650 million women and girls globally.

ADVOCATE for the rights of the more than 12 million more girls who will become child brides this year.

#EndChildMarriage

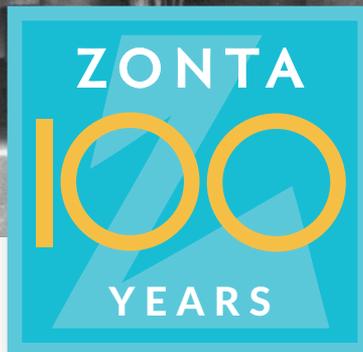
#ZontaSaysNO

#16Days

www.zontasaysno.com



©What Took You So Long



100 years of bold steps on the road to gender equality

*Key highlights and remarkable women
who have made history*

We would not be the successful organization we are today if it were not for the women and work that came before us. As we reflect upon the last 100 years, we see that our leaders, projects and members have been on the forefront of change and innovation in putting women first.



LEADING THE WAY TO GENDER EQUALITY

Honoring Zonta's Presidents

Zonta International Presidents

Since Mary E. Jenkins fulfilled the role in 1919, Zonta International's 54 presidents have shown unwavering dedication and commitment to serving women of the world and achieving gender equality. We recognize every one of these great women and acknowledge their time, vision and determination they have provided to the members of Zonta.

Susanne von Bassewitz (2018–2020) Germany
Sonja Hönig Schough (2016–2018) Sweden
Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard (2014–2016) Denmark
Lynn McKenzie (2012–2014) New Zealand
Dianne Curtis (2010–2012) USA
Beryl Sten (2008–2010) Sweden
Olivia Ferry (2006–2008) Philippines
Mary Ellen Bittner (2004–2006) USA
Margit Webjörn (2002–2004) Sweden
Mary Magee (2000–2002) Australia
Val Sarah (1998–2000) Australia
Josephine G. Cooke* (1996–1998) USA
'Folake Solanke, SAN (1994–1996) Nigeria
Sonja M. Renfer* (1992–1994) Switzerland
Leneen M. Forde (1990–1992) Australia
Ruth F. Walker* (1988–1990) USA
Amey E. Grubbs-Adams (1986–1988) USA
Annikki Makinen* (1984–1986) Finland
Cornelia S. Hodges (1982–1984) USA
Shirley K. Schneider* (1980–1982) USA
Evelyn E. DeWitt* (1978–1980) USA
France de la Chaise-Mutin* (1976–1978) France
Eleanor Jammal* (1974–1976) USA
Harriette Yeckel* (1972–1974) USA
Leota Pekrul* (1970–1972) USA
Helvi Sipilä* (1968–1970) Finland
Edna Nairn* (1966–1968) Canada
Ruth S. Knight* (1964–1966) USA
J. Maria Pierce* (1962–1964) USA
Ellen Harris* (1960–1962) Canada
Audra E. Francis* (1958–1960) USA
Emma L. Conlon* (1956–1958) USA
Dorothea Radusch* (1954–1956) USA
Edwina B. Hogadone* (1952–1954) USA

Elizabeth Gist Dozier* (1950–1952) USA
Elizabeth A. Judge* (1948–1950) USA
Louise C. Grace* (1946–1948) USA
Jessie Ekins* (1944–1946) Canada
J. Winifred Hughes* (1942–1944) USA
Mary Moyers McElroy* (1940–1942) USA
Helen Pearce* (1938–1940) USA
Ellen Anderson Parks* (1937–1938) USA
Dora E. Neun* (1935–1937) USA
Cora E. MacKenzie* (1933–1935) USA
S. Katherine Maddux* (1932–1933) USA
Helen W. Cleveland* (1930–1932) Canada
Olivia Johnson* (1929–1930) USA
Katherine B. Sears* (1928–1929) USA
Louise C. Gerry* (1926–1928) USA
Ethel M. Francis* (1925–1926) USA
Marian de Forest* (1924–1925) USA
Harriet A. Ackroyd* (1922–1924) USA
Esther Parker* (1921–1922) USA
Mary E. Jenkins* (1919–1921) USA

Past Foundation Presidents

In 1985, the Zonta International Foundation was established as the fundraising arm of Zonta International in order to support Zonta in carrying out its charitable objectives. The work of the presidents of the Foundation have directly contributed to the strength of Zonta's programs and the impact they have made for women and girls in the world.

Zonta International President serves both organizations (2008–Present)
Betty Jane Bourdon (2007–2008) USA
Anne Silvester* (2005–2007) Australia
Gerda Senkyr (2003–2005) Austria
Donna J. Lane (2001–2003) USA
Barbara A. Geil* (1999–2001) USA
Jane Roberts Garvey* (1997–1999) USA
Luella M. Hoffman* (1995–1997) USA
Eleanor Jammal* (1993–1995) USA
Mary L. Good (1988–1993) USA
Rosaland Crandell* (1985–1988) USA

**deceased*

SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: *The Zonta way of life*



Above: Eleanor Jammal meets U.S. President Gerald Ford in the White House Oval Office, May 1975.

Below: Eleanor Jammal meets with Past District 5 Governor and Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign regional representative Rae Arnold and District 5 Governor Margot Hoffman, May 2019.

“Zonta has given me, as it gives to all Zontians, the opportunity to serve more effectively and to work for the good of all mankind and peace,” Eleanor Jammal wrote in the September 1974 issue of *The Zontian*, her first edition as Zonta International President.

Service was always part of Eleanor’s family life. Her mother was active in the Red Cross and in the church, and her father dedicated his services to the health and education of youth.

Eleanor was born on 14 October 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1948, she graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. She was one of just three females in a class of 63.

Eleanor valued her education and giving others the same opportunity. It was at Temple when she realized “that we live not only for ourselves, but for

others.” This belief was the basis of the biennial theme from 1974 to 1976: “Service Throughout the World: The Zonta Way of Life.”

Of the outstanding events Eleanor attended during her biennium, she particularly valued participating in the World Conference on International Women’s Year held in Mexico City in 1975, during which the Declaration of the United Nations International Women’s Year was inaugurated. The World Plan of Action was adopted by the 133 governments represented and was to be implemented during the United Nations Decade for Women.

“It was a privilege to be a part of such an historic event, and thrilling to see so many Zontians from around the world leading and participating in their government delegations,” Eleanor wrote of her experience at the conference in the September 1975 issue of *The Zontian*.

Eleanor traveled throughout her term, visiting clubs throughout the U.S. as well as in Asia, Europe, Mexico, South America and New Zealand. She also presided over the first Zonta International Convention outside of North America in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 1976.

Even after she served as president, Eleanor remained committed to Zonta.

She served as the Zonta International Foundation President from 1993 to 1995 and chairman of Zonta’s pioneering project to end violence against women. This past May, Eleanor was awarded a commemorative pin for her contributions to the Endowment Fund.

Sadly, Eleanor passed away on 28 July. The entire Zonta International community lost a dedicated leader who contributed greatly to Zonta’s success as president of Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation and in her more than six decades of active membership. She truly made a difference for women and girls and will continue to hold a special place in the hearts of all those who had the privilege to know her. ■



Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men. ...

Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$19.2 million to International Service Projects benefiting women through training, education, health, sanitation, agricultural and micro-credit assistance for women in 35 countries.

2018–2020

Eid bi Eid (Hand in Hand): A program to improve the resilience and empowerment of Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women with UN Women will reach at least 25,760 direct beneficiaries with long-term outcomes of reducing poverty by providing access to sustainable and decent employment, protective services and community leadership/engagement, and enabling greater equality and reducing violence against women.

2016–2020

Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA is giving more than 20,000 girls the opportunity to realize their right to an education in a secure and protected environment while also addressing quality of education and gender inequity.

2008–2018

Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Liberia with UNFPA resulted in more than 1,500 women and adolescent girls receiving treatment and more than 400 fistula survivors completing the rehabilitation program and successfully reintegrating into their communities.

2014–2016

Gender Responsive Schools Pilot Model in Vietnam with UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UN Women, addressed gender-based violence as one of the main barriers to girls' empowerment and gender equality and promoted a model of safe, accountable and child-friendly schools where adolescent girls and boys received a quality education in an environment free of gender-based violence.

2008–2016

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF resulted in a nation free of AIDS and new HIV infection among children, adolescents, women and families, while ensuring access to health care and reproductive services. This program also prevented and responded to gender-based violence, a critical issue for both the development of Rwanda and the safety of its women and children, by supporting the national scale-up strategy for One Stop Centers and investing in community-based prevention strategies.

2008–2012

Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala, and San Salvador, El Salvador, with UN Women increased the safety of women by helping them collaborate with the local government and urban planners to create practical solutions, public policies and municipal plans that decreased the risk of violence in their cities.

2006–2008

Support for Revival of Rural Community-based Self-Help Initiatives in Sri Lanka with UNIDO enhanced the livelihood of communities affected by the 2004 tsunami by improving self-help initiatives and entrepreneurial and technical skills of women and women's groups engaged in agriculture-based production activities.

Education and Leadership for Girls and Young Women in Bolivia with CARE provided 1,300 working women and 150 teachers an opportunity to learn to improve their status, marketable technical skills, well-being and the opportunities available to them, with a special focus on women's health education—since formal school curriculum does not adequately address this sensitive topic.

2004–2008

Mata Masu Dubara (Women on the Move): MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger with CARE supported efforts to reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS and its physical, social and economic consequences for at least 5,100 women and their dependent children in the Bouza district through the establishment of all-female savings and loans groups, HIV/AIDS education, self-esteem and negotiation skills training, and support networks of female peers.

2002–2008

Women's Learning Center and Health Clinic in Mir Bacha Kot, Afghanistan with Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) provided access to quality education and vocational skills training for approximately 650 women and girls each year in rural or poor urban settings by improving programs offered by community-based educational organizations. The project also supported basic health services and education for at least 24,000 women and children each year in clinics, community-based organizations and Women's Learning Centers.

2002–2006

Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning supported women-led campaigns to prevent trafficking in women and girls for sexual exploitation, funded small grants, technical and strategic media assistance, advocated for enforceable laws and policies that showed compassion for victims and punished offenders, and generated local education and prevention directed at young people, families and schools.

Eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) in Afghanistan with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF reduced rates to less than one case per 1,000 live births by 2005 and supported immunization efforts for more than 50,000 women, including three doses of the tetanus toxoid vaccine and vaccine delivery, as well as education on safe birthing practices, training, and national and district planning and coordination of the initiative.



Left: Zonta supported the Liberia Fistula Project which helped women reintegrate into their communities.

Middle: A doctor administers a vaccination to a baby in Rwanda.

Right: Women in Guatemala collaborate with the local government and urban planners to increase safety.

2000–2004

Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, with UNIFEM instituted a multi-faceted approach to violence, making information on women's rights and services available to them and continued to raise awareness of the potential role of men in preventing gender-based violence.

2000–2002

Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus (MNT) in Nepal with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF targeted 679,541 women of childbearing age for immunization in eight Nepalese districts while focusing on education of clean birthing practices.

1998–2002

Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision (FGC) in Burkina Faso with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF reduced the incidence of FGC in targeted populations by 50 percent by expanding extensive public education, training and awareness.

1996–1998

Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW) was created as the first international service project administered by Zonta International to improve education about and increase awareness of violence against women and children. Adopted as an ongoing program in 1998.

Girls' Education Project in South Africa with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF supported government efforts to develop public policies to increase access to quality primary education and improve attendance and learning outcomes among primary school students with a special focus on girls in the Northern Province.

1994–1996

Gender, Women, and Development, Phase IV project in cooperation with UNIFEM and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF connected women from grassroots organizations with policymakers to reach approximately 275,000 women through training programs, manuals and brochures in Central America.

Technical and Technological Support to Rural Women's Groups project in cooperation with UNIFEM promoted economic independence by improving techniques used in the production, processing and marketing of fruits, vegetables and fish products in Senegal.

1992–1994

Organization of Mapuche Peasant Women project in cooperation with UNIFEM improved living conditions through leadership development and expansion of markets for products while working with three women's micro-enterprises to introduce productive and commercial activities to generate higher income for women in Chile.

1992–1994

Enhancing Opportunities for Women in Development project in cooperation with UNIFEM improved productivity and access to financial resources for 3,600 participants and set up 90 community credit committees to offer revolving loans to women in Ghana.

Women and Pesticides: Training and Education project in cooperation with UNIFEM reduced damage caused by pesticides by training more than 500 women in correct usage in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

1990–1992

Integrated Development for Women in Sericulture project in cooperation with UNIFEM worked with 500 women in India to improve crop and silk production and raised participants' awareness of related women's development issues.

Agricultural Training of Young Rural Women project in Togo in cooperation with UNIFEM trained 256 women in agricultural practices and encouraged their participation in community and national development.

Revolving Loan Fund for Village Women project in Egypt in cooperation with UNIFEM established a revolving loan program for women's income-generating activities that initially served 300 women.

1988–1990

Production, Processing and Marketing of Rootcrops project in the Philippines in cooperation with UNIFEM increased the income of 200 rural women and their families.

Women's Agricultural Cooperative project in Brazil in cooperation with UNIFEM assisted 800 participants through the establishment of agricultural cooperatives.

Assistance for the Strengthening of the Women's Association for National Development (WAND) in Sierra Leone in cooperation with UNIFEM supported women's organizations by encouraging their participation in development issues.

"Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" Workshop in Nigeria in cooperation with INSTRAW involved women more efficiently in all aspects of water supply and sanitation projects.

Textile Production Project in Guatemala in cooperation with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF supported the purchase of equipment and materials and the training of women to improve textile production, nutrition, gardening and food conservation.



Left: Nearly 680,000 women of childbearing age were targeting for immunization in eight Nepalese districts.

Middle: The Well Water project in Sri Lanka brought safe water to communities.

Right: Ellen Harris, Zonta International President 1960-1962, visits the Anne Frank Village.

Young Mothers Hostel Project in Uruguay in cooperation with UNESCO provided equipment for a workshop that annually supported five young mothers with job-skills training.

Technical Training and Introduction of Appropriate Agricultural Technology to Increase Women's Productivity project in Mexico in cooperation with UNIFEM decreased women's household workload by introducing technology, such as water pumps, to provide additional time for income-producing activities.

1986-1988

Training Women as Health Promoters project in Argentina in cooperation with UNIFEM focused on training 500 women as promoters of primary health care to provide services primarily in rural areas.

Training and Income Generating Project to Improve Fish Processing Methods and Organize a Marketing System in Botswana in cooperation with UNIFEM improved techniques and expanded markets for smoked fish.

The Hirondelles Training Center for Women project in the Comoros Islands in cooperation with UNIFEM provided technical instruction to women who went on to train other women in the areas of health, food and clothing production.

Marketing Network for Women's Handicrafts project in Thailand in cooperation with UNIFEM expanded market outlets and established a network for women's handicrafts.

Training and Support for Women in Food Processing Technologies project in Zimbabwe in cooperation with UNIFEM introduced low-cost, efficient food product technology and provided training to establish and sustain a revolving loan fund.

1982-1988

The Well Water project in Sri Lanka in cooperation with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF provided safe drinking water to 350,000 dry zone settlers.

1976-1982

The Colombian Urban Slum project in cooperation with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and the Colombian government constructed and provided equipment for health and education centers.

1974-1976

The Pan African Training and Research Center for Women project in cooperation with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF focused on the recruitment and financing of the African Women's Volunteer Task Force, which addressed the needs of women in rural areas.

1972-1974

Mobile Medical Units project in Ghana in cooperation with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF served the health needs of children and mothers in rural areas of Ghana.

1962-1976

Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Zonta International's first partnership with a UN agency, raised the money for 573 scholarships for women over 14 years.

1959-1960

Zonta International, in commemoration of the United Nations World Refugee Year, supported the Anne Frank Village to aid refugee families in the Federal Republic of Germany.

1956

Zonta International provided direct aid of US\$8,000 to provide food, shelter and English classes for Hungarian refugees.

1923

Zonta International supported the Near East Relief in efforts to care for 115,000 orphan children in Smyrna, Turkey, and furnished means of self-support for the women.

*...In such a world,
no woman lives in fear
of violence.*



Since 1996, Zonta International has provided more than US\$9.5 million to support projects to end violence against women and girls in 46 countries. These projects strive to realize the world all Zontians envision: a world where no woman lives in fear of violence.

2018–2020

Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action with UNICEF USA and UNFPA has the potential to directly reach 2.5 million girls across 12 countries within the initial phase by bringing together a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and support those already married.

2016–2018

The Future We Want: Creating Sustainable Foundations for Addressing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration of Women and Girls in Nepal with UN Women addressed the link between human trafficking and foreign labor migration of women and girls, specifically in the aftermath of the April and May 2015 earthquakes.

2014–2018

Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger with UNFPA reduced early marriage and early pregnancy in all regions of Niger, which has the highest child marriage prevalence in the world, with 75 percent of girls married by age 18 and 36 percent by age 15.

2014–2016

Voices Against Violence: Non-formal Education Curriculum for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) on Ending Violence against Women and Girls with UN Women provided young people from 5 to 25 years old in 12 countries with tools and expertise to understand, educate and involve their peers on the root causes of violence in their communities and learn where to access support if violence is experienced.

2012–2014

Safe Cities for Women in Honduras with UN Women addressed the issue of the increased risk of urban violence by working with local authorities and organizations to build awareness and solutions.

Mass Communication with a Purpose: Global Partnership on Edutainment for Social Change with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UN Women, used a proven approach combining positive and locally relevant messaging with community outreach to transform the myth that violence against women is “normal” and “inevitable.”

Empowering Women in Rural Samoa to Combat Violence with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UN Women, worked with rural communities to prevent and combat gender-based and intimate partner violence, which women and girls, ages 18 to 65, experience at a high rate.

2010–2012

Towards a Comprehensive Strategy to End Burns Violence Against Women in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*, focused on improving response from the justice, police and health sectors, mobilizing communities to monitor and advocate for the implementation of legislation reform, and encouraging individual responsibility to end this form of gender-based violence.

Security and Empowerment for Women and their Families: Ensuring a Gender-Responsive Humanitarian and Early Recovery Response in Haiti with UNIFEM focused on increasing services to victims of gender-based violence, delivering support for women’s economic livelihoods, and promoting, supporting and ensuring women’s empowerment and participation in the recovery process after the earthquake in 2010.

2008–2010

Ending Violence Against Women through Community Action (EVAWCA) in Cambodia with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, supported the implementation of the Law on the Protection of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims, the Civil Code and Criminal Code, among others, in three provinces and worked to change societal attitudes and modify harmful behaviors through education and counseling.

Combating Physical Violence Against Women and Supporting the Implementation of Protective and Anti-Discriminatory Laws and Policies in Egypt with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, built the capacity of service providers to respond more effectively to the needs of gender-based violence survivors in their communities, specifically those survivors in Ezbet El Haganna.

Community-Based Center for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence in Syria with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, created a one-stop center, providing protection, medical and legal aid, counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration assistance while also addressing harmful societal norms and discriminatory practices, helping women become less vulnerable to violence and teaching people to speak out against violence against women.

Above: Participants of the Voice Against Violence program learned about the root causes of violence in their communities during a training in New York, USA.



Left: The ending child marriage project has the potential to reach 2.5 million girls.

Middle: The Torch of Peace is paraded through the streets of Samoa.

Right: Women of Cambodia worked to effect change within their communities, addressing violence.

2006–2008

Prevention of Cross-border Regional Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro with STAR Network of World Learning and Regional Anti-Trafficking Mobilizations for Prevention (RAMP) fostered joint work by governmental and non-governmental organizations through grants and matching funds given to pairs of communities on either side of the borders. The project also created anti-trafficking advocacy modules for Zonta clubs worldwide.

Implementation of Laws, Policies and Action Plans on Violence Against Women in Niger with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, built the capacity of judges and medical doctors, ensuring the effective implementation of the law for the protection of victims of violence while also targeting youth and women to promote advocacy toward the enforcement of their lawful protection.

Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in Sierra Leone with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, addressed domestic violence, sexual violence, women's entitlement to inherit and own property independently, and the practices of early and forced marriage of girls by putting recently approved national laws on these topics into practice.

Preventing Trafficking in Women in Thailand by Addressing the Normative Dimensions of Demand with UNIFEM worked with various community groups and local governments to address socio-cultural norms, values and behaviors that "justify" exploitation that generates gender-based violence and the demand for trafficked persons, especially women and children.

2004–2006

Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women: Creation of Women Friendly Police and Judicial Procedures in Bhutan with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM, helped make a safer and more secure environment so women could pursue their development without violence.

Prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) among Sudanese Refugees in Chad with the UN Foundation and UNFPA addressed security and legal justice needs, focused on preventive measures and protective laws and policies, and worked with communities to recognize the health, family and community impact of GBV.

Support to Prevent and Manage the Consequences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka with the UN Foundation and UNFPA addressed the needs of potential victims of sexual and gender-based violence, which increased after the 2004 tsunami, and aimed to prevent further instances of sexual and gender-based violence through support of local NGO partners and health facilities.

2000–2004

Twelve projects were designed to reduce violence against women and children and Zonta International Strategies to end Violence Against Women grants were awarded in amounts up to US\$25,000 to Zonta clubs that partnered with local non-governmental organizations or schools to produce programs aimed at preventing violence against women. Fundraising goal of US\$425,000 for the ZISVAW Fund approved at the 2004 Convention.

1998

ZISVAW adopted as an ongoing program of Zonta International at the 1998 Convention; mediation training grants to Zonta clubs announced as part of the program.

1996

The Zonta International Strategies to eradicate Violence Against Women and children, proposed by President Josie Cooke, and chaired by PIP Eleanor Jammal, was adopted after the 1996 Convention. Zonta committed US\$125,000, in addition to the US\$50,000 remaining from the original summit, to develop the initiative.

1995

Two hundred participants attended the Zonta International Summit on Violence Against Women, sponsored by Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation, held 8-10 June 1995 at Tysons Corner, Virginia outside Washington D.C. The ZISVAW Steering Committee set a goal to create an ongoing fund within the Foundation for the international eradication of violence against women.

**UNIFEM merged with three other agencies to become UN Women in July 2010.*

Dates indicate years funds were collected by Zonta to support the project. The information was compiled from project files, program highlights and past issues of The Zontian.

Partnering together to make a bigger difference



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Congratulations on your centenary! At UN Women we greatly value Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation's role and work, as well as the endeavours of Zontians around the world. We are grateful for this collaborative partnership and your continued, unwavering support to empower women and girls and to prevent violence against them.

Their changed lives demonstrate the impact of our work together and the potential it holds for women and for society as a whole.

I send you my warm congratulations and look forward to driving ahead together to bring hope and change to even those left furthest behind. —**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director**



© UN Photo/Mark Garten

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**



UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, extends its warmest congratulations to Zonta International on their centennial anniversary. For more than 10 years, UNFPA has been proud to partner with Zonta to empower women and girls, efforts defined by our joint commitment to improving the lives of the most marginalized among them, and to leaving no one behind.

We at UNFPA are fortunate to count Zonta International among our many allies supporting our global efforts to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. Our partnership over the past decade has helped improve the health and lives of adolescent girls, facilitating their access to education, empowering them through female mentorship, and protecting them from violence and harmful practices, including child marriage. Zonta has also been a key partner in our efforts to prevent and treat obstetric fistula and support the social reintegration of survivors. We look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration to ensure that every girl and woman everywhere can enjoy her full spectrum of human rights and live with dignity and respect. —**Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA**



RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING WOMEN

International honorary membership is given to outstanding women of the world in recognition of their international achievements of advancing the status of women.

2017

The Right Honorable Helen Clark (New Zealand) is the former prime minister of New Zealand and former administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and chair of the United Nations Development Group.

2016

Dr. Yakin Ertürk (Turkey) is the former director of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the director of the Division for the Advancement of Women and Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women at the United Nations and is the founder and current member of the executive board of Asylum and Migration Research Center in Ankara.

“I must express my gratitude to you all for privileging me with honorary Zonta membership. I am truly honored. At a time when world peace and universal human rights values are seriously threatened, the solidarity offered by Zonta International is all the more important. I shall carry my membership with full recognition of Zonta’s values and abide by my responsibilities in this regard.”
—Yakin Ertürk

2015

Dr. Anne Gallagher AO (Australia) is the former Special Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former President of Ireland. She is an award-winning activist on human rights and human trafficking.

Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Iceland) is the former UN Women regional director for Europe and Central Asia and representative to Turkey, the former UN Women country director in Afghanistan, former minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, and former member of Parliament and the Social Democratic Alliance.

“Achieving gender equality is a transformative enterprise. It is about disruption. It is about breaking social norms and harmful stereotypes that limit opportunities for women and girls and restrict men and boys to certain roles. It has been my lifelong enterprise and I appreciate this opportunity to partner with Zonta International in pursuing our common goal.” —Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir

2014

Her Excellency Mrs. Jeannette Kagame (Rwanda) is the first lady of the Republic of Rwanda. She is the president of the Imbuto Foundation and an advocate for women and youth to build stronger lives and for prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Marilyn Waring (New Zealand) is an activist for female human rights, principle founder of feminist economics, author, academic and former member of Parliament. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

2012

Prof. Shirley Randell AO (Australia) is a leading expert in the public sector and institutional reform in developing countries, gender mainstreaming and human rights for women.

“As I speak to Zontians around the world—in Hong Kong, France, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand and Australia—I continue to be impressed by the wonderful work Zonta International does for women in their own countries and for global initiatives for women and girls. It is an honor to be an international honorary member of this splendid organization.” —Shirley Randell

Naoko Yamazaki (Japan) is a former Zonta International Amelia Earhart Fellow and a Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) astronaut.

2011

Quentin Bryce AD (Australia) was the first female governor-general of the Commonwealth of Australia.

2010

Carolyn Hannan (Sweden) was the director of the UN’s Division for the Advancement of Women, where she was responsible for guiding the UN’s policy work on gender equality.

2007

Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore) is an advocate for women’s rights; She was UN under-secretary general and executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and was the past executive director of UNIFEM.

2004

Dame Margaret Anstee* (UK) was a diplomat in the UN, UN assistant secretary general (New York) and UN under secretary general (Vienna). She was the first woman to head a UN peacekeeping mission (Angola) and the first woman to hold UN field officer and UN resident representative.

2001

Dame Silvia Cartwright (New Zealand) was the first woman appointed judge of the High Court of New Zealand. She is the former governor-general of New Zealand.

2000

Chiaki Mukai, M.D., Ph.D. (Japan) is a cardiovascular surgeon and groundbreaking Japanese astronaut and space scientist.

1999

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir (Iceland) is the former president of the Icelandic Republic. She was the first woman popularly elected head of state of a parliamentary democracy.

“[Vigdís] has demonstrated the spirit of Zonta International’s founding members by breaking through the glass ceiling and has consistently worked to advance human rights and the rights of women through [her] advocacy.” —Val Sarah, Zonta International President 1998-2000

Appeared in a March 1999 letter to Vigdís Finnbogadóttir



1996

Sylvia Alice Earle (USA) is an oceanographer, marine biologist, conservationist and ocean floor explorer.



Dr. Catherine Hamlin AC (Australia) is a gynecologist and co-founder of a hospital in Ethiopia that treats outcast women suffering complications from fistula and obstructed childbirth.

Elisabeth Rehn (Finland) was a member of Finnish and European Parliaments and was the first female Minister of Defense in the world.

Simone Veil* (France) was a French and European public official leader of human rights and status of women issues.

1995

Helen Caldicott F.R.A.C.P. (Australia) is a humanitarian leader in medical and nuclear education. She is a public advocate for nuclear disarmament.

Georgia Neese Gray* (USA) was the first woman appointed United States Treasurer.

1994

Rita Süßmuth (Germany) was the president of the German Bundestag and is recognized for her commitment to youth and family.

“[Rita’s] support for women’s issues, involvement in foreign relations, and advocacy for youth and international development have earned [her] a well-deserved reputation as a citizen of the world.” —Folake Solanke, Zonta International President 1994-1996

Appeared in an April 1996 letter to Dr. Süßmuth

1993

Rita Levi-Montalcini* (Italy) was a professor of medicine and Nobel Prize winner.

Dr. Fiona Stanley AC (Australia) is a specialist in children’s health, particularly focusing on the Aboriginal people of Australia.

1992

Corazon Aquino* (Philippines) was the first woman president of the Philippines during a historic transition of government.

Roberta Bondar (Canada) was the first Canadian woman in space.



Kathryn S. Fuller (USA) is an environmentalist and former president and chief executive officer of the World Wildlife Fund.

Millicent Hughes-Fulford (USA) was the first woman civilian scientist in space aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Gaby Kennard OAM (Australia) successfully retraced and completed Amelia Earhart’s flight by circumnavigating the world solo in a single-engine aircraft.

1990

Kay Cottee AO (Australia) was the first woman to complete a solo, nonstop and unassisted circumnavigation of the globe by sea.

Ellen Fairclough* (Canada) was the former Secretary of State and Canada’s first woman federal cabinet minister. She introduced equal pay for equal work.



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Margaret Chase Smith* (USA) was a former U.S. senator. She was awarded the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom.

“[Margaret] was a ‘person of distinction.’ Her superb achievements will continue to inspire women all over the world. The Senator was the epitome of the Zonta ideal. We are proud to have been associated with the unique lady. —Folake Solanke, Zonta International President 1994-1996

Appeared in a letter of condolences to Margaret’s sister, Evelyn Williams



Jehan Sadat (Egypt) is an advocate for women’s rights and education; wife of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

1988

Margaret C. Snyder (USA) is the former director of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

Liv Ullman (Norway) is an actress and former Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF.

1987

Jeana Yeager (USA) was the first U.S. woman to co-pilot a nonstop, non-refueled flight around the world.

1984

Celeste Holm* (USA) is an actress and former UNICEF Board member.

Sally Ride, Ph.D. * (USA) was the first U.S. woman in space.

“Dr. Sally K. Ride—the first American woman in space—is like Zonta’s own Amelia Earhart, seen by the world as a pioneer in establishing a woman’s right to excel in an area of her own choosing.” —Cornelia Hodges, Zonta international President 1982-1984

Appeared in August 1983 letter to Sally Ride

1982

Teresa Albañez* (Colombia) was a regional director for UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean.

1973

Helvi Linnea Sipilä* (Finland) was the assistant secretary general of the UN for Social Development and Human Affairs and Past International President of Zonta International.



“... Helvi Sipilä is a ‘One World Zontian’ in all of the best senses. She has been an inspiration for Zontians; she has set examples of dedication and leadership for us all; she has ‘Widened Our Vistas in the Service of Mankind.’ As first President of Zonta International from outside North America, she nurtured our internationalism and during her team of office the first Zonta clubs were organized in Africa.” —Harriette Yeckel, Zonta International President 1972-1974

Appeared in September 1973 issue of The Zontian

1970

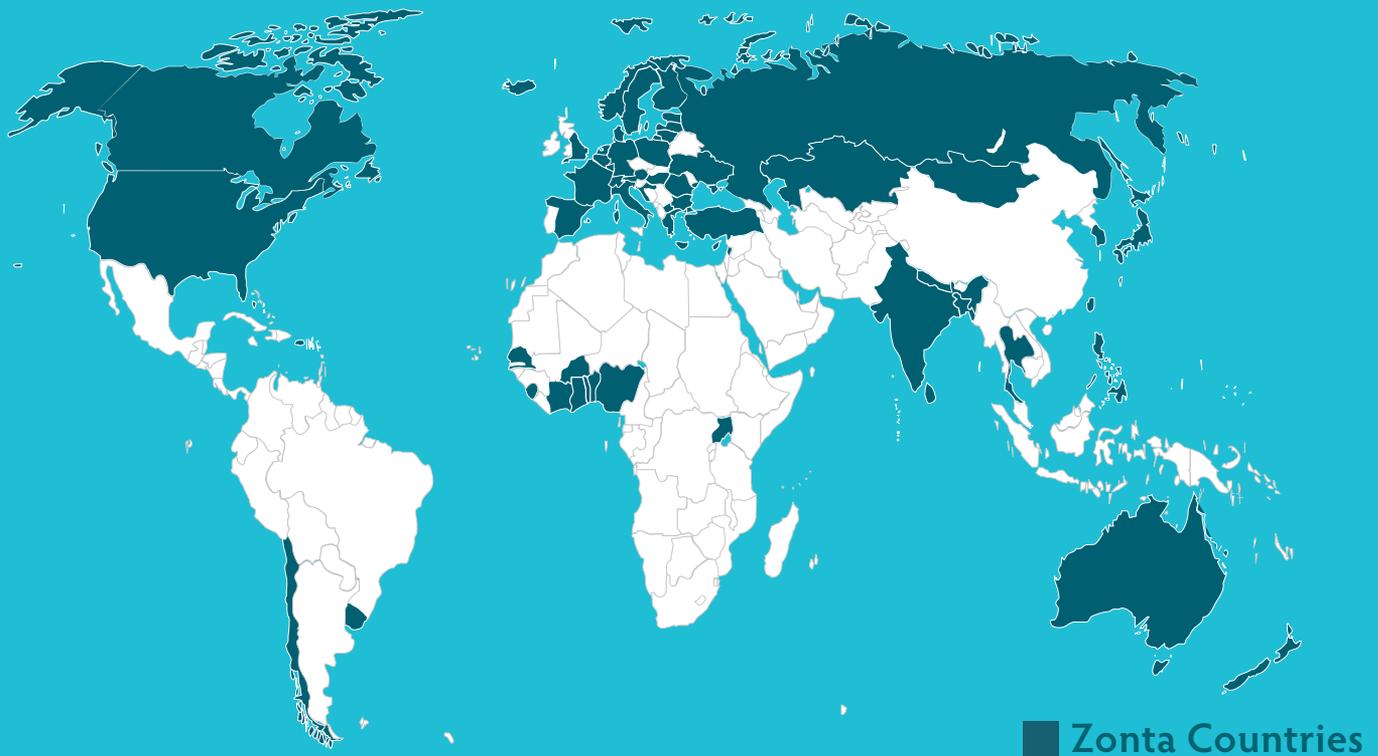
Angie Brooks-Randolph* (Liberia) was the president of the 24th United Nations Assembly.

“[Angie’s] dedication to the promotion of peace, progress and justice ... her personal accomplishments, which have enabled her to serve her own nation and the international community ... and the professional reputation she has achieved. —Leota Pekrul, Zonta international president 1970-1972

Appeared in Winter 1970-1971 issue of The Zontian

**deceased*

A gender equality advocate in every corner of the world



Zonta International is truly global. Since becoming international, our membership has taken on the mission of bringing equality to every woman in our global community.

1. Macau (2014)
2. Uganda (2014)
3. Lebanon (2013)
4. Nepal (2012)
5. British Virgin Islands (2010)
6. Romania (2006)
7. Spain (2005)
8. Mongolia (2004)
9. Macedonia (2004)
10. Benin (2000)
11. Ukraine (1997)
12. Bulgaria (1995)
13. Cyprus (1995)
14. Lithuania (1994)
15. Monaco (1994)
16. Croatia (1994)
17. Latvia (1993)
18. Luxembourg (1993)
19. Russia (1991)
20. Estonia (1991)
21. Turkey (1991)

22. Poland (1991)
23. Hungary (1991)
24. Burkina Faso (1990)
25. Togo (1988)
26. Liechtenstein (1985)
27. The Bahamas (1982)
28. Bangladesh (1971) (Pakistan 1968)
29. Singapore (1971)
30. Uruguay (1970)
31. Côte d'Ivoire (1970)
32. Senegal (1970)
33. Sierra Leone (1970)
34. Nigeria (1970)
35. Ghana (1970)
36. Thailand (1969)
37. Belgium (1967)
38. Puerto Rico (1966)
39. South Korea (1966)
40. Australia (1966)
41. Hong Kong (1966)
42. Sri Lanka (1966)

43. Greece (1966)
44. New Zealand (1965)
45. The Netherlands (1964)
46. Republic of China (Taiwan) (1964)
47. Italy (1964)
48. Japan (1962)
49. India (1960)
50. Philippines (1952)
51. France (1950)
52. England (1949)
53. Switzerland (1948)
54. Chile (1948)
55. Norway (1947)
56. Finland (1947)
57. Iceland (1941)
58. Sweden (1935)
59. Denmark (1935)
60. Germany (1931)
61. Austria (1930)
62. Canada (1927)
63. United States (1919)

**Zonta Countries in Chronological Order as of 1 June 2018*



CALL TO CONVENTION

4–8 July 2020



CHICAGO

convention.zonta.org





Dear friends,

We invite every Zontian to Chicago to celebrate the Zonta International Centennial Anniversary Biennium Convention. Join us 4–8 July 2020 and be inspired by the city, its beauty and the people who call this city by the lake, home. As the third largest city in the United States, Chicago offers two international airports as well as a renowned public transportation system. Experience the deep fabric of Chicago’s culture through a variety of tours or individual visits on your own.

This biennium, we celebrate 100 years of Zonta achievements and global impact and launch into the next century of empowering women and girls. This is the time to make new friends and to reconnect with Zontians from all over the world. This is the place to understand what Zonta offers to many women and of course, its members.

Next year, we are pleased to offer a special experience, Meet Chicago Women, where you can visit local organizations and meet their women leaders. We have also planned a very special opening ceremony with the colorful parade of flags and delightful entertainment followed by a reception. We are delighted to announce the iconic Navy Pier as the venue for the Centennial Anniversary Closing Dinner. There will be a variety of events each evening from which you may select to make this convention the most memorable ever.

Please join us in Chicago at the Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile for the 65th Zonta International Convention!

Cordially,

Susanne von Bassewitz

President, Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation

Sally Bean

2020 Convention Chairman





Meeting of Minds

While in Chicago, go beyond the business of convention. **MEETING OF MINDS** events feature networking luncheons, discussions and the recognition luncheon for membership awards (by invitation).

District Meetings — 5 July

District meetings are an opportunity to greet Zontians from your district/region while discussing district matters. Parallel to the meetings will be panel discussions and roundtables on women's issues, giving members the opportunity to participate in both activities. The meeting schedule will be posted online closer to the convention.

Ending Child Marriage Panel Discussion — 5 July

This biennium, Zonta International has launched ending child marriage as a major project. Learn more about this topic at a panel discussion that will be offered twice alongside the district meetings, enabling all to attend. It will run from 12:15 – 1:45 PM and from 2:15 – 3:45 PM.

Networking Luncheon — 5, 6 or 7 July

Connect with Zontians who share your passion in the same profession or in the same function in Zonta over a lunch set just for you. You are encouraged to register early, but please choose only one date as space is limited.

Note: 5 July is concurrent with district meetings. Anyone who registers for this luncheon whose district meeting ends up being scheduled for 12 or 1 PM will be notified and other arrangements will be made.

Equality Today Discussions — 5 & 7 July

Informative discussions will be offered at different times throughout the program to help our members and clubs gain knowledge, skills and expertise to make an impact for gender equality. Please watch your email or follow **convention.zonta.org** for updates on topics and speakers.

Celebrating Membership Achievements — 6 July (by invitation)

The Membership Achievement Awards will be presented at a special luncheon hosted by the Zonta International President. Invitations will be extended near the convention date to individuals, clubs and districts who qualify under the Membership Recognition Awards program (see **convention.zonta.org**).





Experience Convention

CONVENTION EVENTS IN BRIEF

Leadership Seminars — 3 July

These sessions will focus on advancing leadership skills with various methods and resources. This will be held prior to opening ceremonies; please make travel arrangements accordingly.

Summer Splash Mixer — 3 July

All first-time attendees are encouraged to mix and mingle with fellow Zontians before the official opening of convention. We also invite our seasoned convention goers to welcome them and offer a friendly Zonta smile. Your advance ticket will include one glass of Summer Splash punch, with a cash bar available for other options. **Note:** First-Timers' Orientation will be held preconvention via webinar.

Awardee Program — 4 July

Past recipients of Amelia Earhart Fellowships, Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships, and Young Women in Public Affairs Awards are invited to come together for a half-day event prior to the Opening Ceremony. This is an opportunity for our Zonta awardees, from the district and international levels, to connect and extend their professional network.

Open Forum — 4 July

All members are invited to attend the Open Forum prior to the Opening Ceremony for a conversation with your Zonta International Board members. Key topics will be announced closer to convention.

Opening Ceremony — 4 July

Convention officially opens with our traditional flag procession and colorful native dress. Join us for these festivities plus entertainment and keynote speakers. Your convention committee promises they have special plans in store for you in honor of centennial celebrations — you will not want to miss it.

Toast to 100 Years — 4 July

Follow up the Opening Ceremony by raising a glass to honor the Zontians who have come before us. Join us for a celebratory Centennial Toast and reception before enjoying the sights and sounds of a Chicago Fourth of July. Your advance ticket includes one glass of sparkling wine or a non-alcoholic beverage and light hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar will be available for other options. Registration is required.

Friendship Dinners — 4 & 6 July

Are you looking to experience the diversity of Chicago's restaurants? Relax and enjoy the company of fellow Zontians and we will take care of the reservations. Friendship Dinners are secured restaurant spaces chosen by your preferred fare. Select your choice for these ticketed dinners during registration.

Delegates Training — 5 July

All delegates and alternates must attend this training to learn their responsibilities during convention and to familiarize themselves with the voting process.

Candidate Speeches/Meet the Candidates — 5 July

Hear candidates' presentations and follow up with "Meet the Candidates," where Zontians can personally speak with those running for international leadership positions.

Celebrate on the Lake — 5 July

Nothing could be finer than dining on a cruise ship on Lake Michigan on a summer night. Enjoy views of the best skyline in the world while enjoying dinner, a DJ and fireworks on a multi-story luxury ship with an open rooftop deck. Seats are available for 1,200 guests. This event will sell out so register early to reserve your spot.

Elections — 6 July

Elections are a delegates-only event. Delegates and proxies will be sent all the details related to the election process in the months leading up to convention from the Elections Committee.

Governors Homecoming Reunion — 6 July

All governors past and present are invited to register for this homecoming event at the Union League Club of Chicago. For 140 years, this exclusive club has been a catalyst for action in nonpartisan political, economic and social arenas, so it is the perfect spot to honor the tireless work of our governors. Include your biennium of service when you register so you can be seated with your class and remember to pack your class pins.

Note: Transportation to the Union League Club is on your own.

Meet Chicago Women — 6 & 7 July

Meet Chicago Women is your opportunity to visit with women leaders of Chicago in various realms of work. Enjoy an evening of networking while learning about outstanding business and civic organizations. A final list of participating organizations will be issued closer to convention so indicate on your registration if you are interested in reserving a spot. Light food and transportation will be included for all locations. Due to the nature of this event and anticipated interest, this opportunity is only open to Zontians.

Memorial Service — 7 July

This solemn ceremony pays tribute to the Zontians who have passed during the biennium. Governors will learn how to submit the names of all Zontians in good standing who are to be recognized at convention.zonta.org. All members are welcome to attend.

Foundation Centennial Anniversary Celebration — 7 July

It will be our privilege to show appreciation for the generosity of our Zonta International Foundation donors with an invitation only event at the spectacular Chicago Cultural Center. This historic, landmark building showcases the world's largest Tiffany dome and will serve as a stunning backdrop as we recognize districts, clubs and individuals for their unwavering support of our programs and also as the platform to thank those who joined the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign by making a significant gift to the endowment funds. Invitations will be issued closer to convention.

2020-2022 Team Luncheon — 8 July

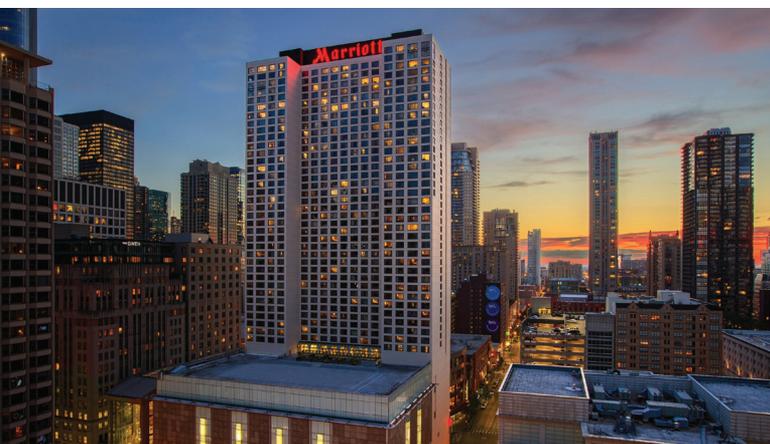
Our organization is nothing without our leaders. This luncheon serves as a time for our 2020 – 2022 International Board, governors and international committee chairmen to come together for introductions and inspiration.

Centennial Anniversary Closing Dinner — 8 July

Celebrate the closing of the Centennial Anniversary Biennium with a memorable evening at the jewel of Chicago — the Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. Seen in countless movies and recognized for its impressive dome, this venue offers unique views of Lake Michigan and the city. After dinner, stay for the entertainment and fireworks and make memories to carry you until next convention. Seating is limited to 1,400 and it will be based on first come, first served.

Tours

Tours before and after convention are being developed to highlight memorable experiences of the city. Registration will be open for attendees and their guests. Further details will be released on convention.zonta.org.



Courtesy of Marriott

Venue Information

Chicago welcomes you with open arms, big shoulders and a spirit deeply rooted in its history, culture and people. You will experience this the moment you check in to our official convention hotel, the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

Situated on Michigan Avenue north of "the loop," nestled amongst skyscrapers and shopping, our venue is in the heart of Chicago. This 4-star hotel features a modern look with exceptional views of the city and Lake Michigan. Doubling as the convention center, you will have convenient access to the daily events and activities, while still being just steps away from taking in the best that Chicago has to offer you.

Our goal is to welcome as many Zontians as we can at the Marriott so that you can make meaningful connections and easily partner up to explore, relax and experience the city together. After business sessions you can meet in the lobby and plan your adventure to wander the gardens in Millennium Park, discover treasures in the Art Institute and Field Museum, or venture further to the rich history that awaits in each of Chicago's 77 unique neighborhoods.

The hotel is pleased to offer the following special rates for the Zonta International 2020 Convention:

Single or Double: \$189

Triple: \$219

Quad: \$249

Your special link to book the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile at the convention rate will be sent to you in your registration confirmation email. For any questions, please contact zonta@conferencedirect.com and our housing committee will reach back out to you.

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60611 USA



Set sail for a celebration on the lake

See the city of Chicago sparkle as you have never seen it before! Join your fellow Zontians for a private dinner cruise on Lake Michigan aboard the Spirit of Chicago and Odyssey yachts. Known for their elegant fine dining and fun atmospheres, these ships give you a private getaway with the most stunning views of the Chicago skyline. After dinner, enjoy an exclusive firework show and a live DJ. This will be a night to remember — reserve your spot now.

These popular ships have been reserved for you to have your best Chicago experience; however, seats are limited, and we expect to sell out fast. Reserve your spot.



Stepping out into the future

No trip to the city would be complete without a visit to Navy Pier. Seen in nearly every photo of the city's lakefront, this iconic landmark gives you views of Chicago that cannot be missed.

To cap off a "history in the making" Convention, the Centennial Anniversary Closing Dinner will be held at the Aon Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. The Ballroom embodies the magnificence of the past with all the amenities and services of the present. This makes for the perfect venue as Zonta transitions from our celebrated past 100 years to our bold, bright future. Come dine and unwind as we celebrate our past while ringing in the future under a sky of fireworks!

Registration Fee Schedule

| Registration | Before 12 February | 13 February–03 May | 04 May–15 June | Onsite |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|
| Zontian—full rate | US\$410 | US\$470 | US\$530 | US\$590 |
| Zontian—single day | US\$185 | US\$195 | US\$205 | US\$215 |
| Non-Zontian/Guest | US\$150 | US\$165 | US\$175 | US\$185 |
| Golden Z member/Student | US\$75 | | | US\$85 |

Cancellations, refunds, name changes: Cancellations received by 12 February will receive a refund of registration fees, less an administrative charge of US\$100. Cancellations thereafter received by 18 May will receive a refund of half the registration fee, less an administrative charge of US\$100. Guests, non-Zontians and single day registrations will receive a full refund, less a charge of US\$25 for cancellations by 12 February and half refund less US\$50 processing fee by 18 May. Students cancelling will receive a full refund less US\$25. All cancellations after 30 June will not be refundable.

Change of a name will result in an additional fee of US\$50 for Zontians. Change of a name for non-Zontians/guests and single-day registrations will result in an additional fee of US\$25.

Guests are welcome to attend the opening ceremony and register for tours and special events, unless otherwise noted.

Registration Support

Our convention management team will be happy to respond to questions and concerns during standard business hours: 8 AM–6 PM EST

Email Support: zonta@conferencedirect.com

North American Callers: +1.833.556.5514

International Callers: +1.980.321.0806

Schedule-at-a-Glance

| | FRIDAY 3 JULY | SATURDAY 4 JULY | SUNDAY 5 JULY | MONDAY 6 JULY | TUESDAY 7 JULY | WEDNESDAY 8 JULY | |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| Registration, Credential and Foundation Booths will open 3 July. Times coming soon! | | | | | | | |
| 8:00 | <i>Preconvention Leadership Seminars</i> <i>Time TBD</i> | | Delegates Training 8–8:45 AM | Elections 8–9:30 AM | Memorial Service 8–8:30 AM | Business Session 8–10 AM | |
| 8:30 | | Rehearsal: Flag Ceremony 8:30–10 AM | | | | | |
| 9:00 | | Committee Leadership Workshops 9–11 AM | Business Session 9–10:15 AM | | | | |
| 9:30 | | | | | | | |
| 10:00 | | Rehearsal: Opening Ceremony 10–11 AM | Candidate Speeches 10:15–11:45 AM | Business Session 10 AM–12:15 PM | Business Session 8:45–11:45 AM | 2020-2022 Business Session 10 AM–12 PM | |
| 10:30 | | Awardee Program 10 AM–1 PM | | | | | |
| 11:00 | | Open Forum 11:30 AM–12:30 PM | | | | | |
| 11:30 | | | Networking Lunch (Ticketed event) 12–1:30 PM | | Networking Lunch (Ticketed event) 12–1:15 PM | | |
| 12:00 | | | | | | | |
| 12:30 | | | | | | | |
| 1:00 | | | | | | | |
| 1:30 | | | | | Membership Award Celebration (By invitation only) 12:30–2 PM | | 2020–2022 Team Luncheon 12:30–2:30 PM |
| 2:00 | | | | District Meetings & Equality Today Discussions 12–4 PM | | Business Session 1:30–3:15 PM | |
| 2:30 | | | | | | | |
| 3:00 | | | Opening Ceremony with Flag Parade 2–5 PM | | Business Session 2:15–5 PM | Committee Leadership Workshops & Equality Today Discussions 3:30–5 PM | Closing Ceremony with 2020-2022 Leadership Installation 3–5 PM |
| 3:30 | | | | | | | |
| 4:00 | | | | Meet the Candidates 4:15–5:30 PM | | | |
| 4:30 | | | | | | | |
| 5:00 | | | | Rehearsal: Memorial Service 5–6 PM | Rehearsal: Installation 5:15–6 PM | | |
| 5:30 | Summer Splash Mixer 5:30–6:30 PM | | | | | | |
| 6:00 | | Toast to 100 Years 6–7 PM | | | | | |
| 6:30 | | | | | | | |
| 7:00 | President's Appreciation Dinner (By invitation only) 7 PM | Honoring Past International Presidents (By invitation only) 7 PM Friendship Dinners 7 PM | Celebrate on the Lake 7 PM | Governors Homecoming Reunion (By invitation only) 7 PM Meet Chicago Women 7 PM Friendship Dinners 7 PM | Foundation Centennial Anniversary Celebration (By invitation only) 7 PM Meet Chicago Women 7 PM | Centennial Anniversary Closing Dinner (Ticketed event) 7 PM | |

Schedule subject to change.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION:

Students take next step in Zonta

Right now on campuses around the world, high school and college students are planning their futures and the future they want for women everywhere by participating in Z and Golden Z clubs. But what happens to those students and their commitment to women of the world when they graduate? We talked to former student club members who are now active as Zonta club members.

Julie Stackhaus—Shreveport, Louisiana, USA

“I want you be to be in Z club when you’re older ... they do so many good things,” Julie Stackhaus recalls her mom saying of the high school students they saw each day as she waited to get dropped off at preschool.

Julie took her mother’s advice. She was a member of the Trinity Heights Christian Academy Z Club for two years and started the Golden Z Club at Louisiana State University-Shreveport, USA. A decade after graduating, with her career underway, she returned to Zonta to give back to the women and girls in her community as a member of the Zonta Club of Shreveport.

It was easy for Julie to say “yes” to joining a Zonta club, as the organization had already been a large part of her life. Now, as her club’s president, she is actively encouraging young women to start and join these same student clubs. She also thinks about the best way to show that Zonta can meet everyone’s needs—even younger women and those with small children.

“Zonta seems to attract a certain type of woman: driven, yet others centered, and completely humble no matter what they accomplish,” Julie says. “They have a heart for mentoring.”





Adun Okupe—Surulere, Lagos, Nigeria

A strong sisterhood committed to change is also what drew Adun Okupe (left in photo) to Zonta.

“It was nice to meet women in many cities in Africa who provided me with company, showed me amazing hospitality and invited me to their homes,” she says.

Adun was the president of the Queens College Z Club in Nigeria. After graduating, her career took her to Europe for nearly two decades. When she moved back to Nigeria last year, she knew she had to join a Zonta club and found the Zonta e-Club of West Africa fit her life and her needs.

“I am excited about the opportunity to be part of a global organization, continuing the mission of societal change and to, in some way, add joy to life’s experience for others,” Adun says.

Adun believes it is important to demonstrate Zonta’s commitment to change and clubs should highlight younger members who do amazing things around the globe, which she says is attractive to young women. Adun notes one of the best benefits of being a Zontian is that e-clubs allow younger women to participate despite their hectic schedules.



Joselyn Socorro H. Acierto—San Pedro, Laguna, Philippines

Joselyn Socorro H. Acierto saw a global purpose when she joined the Saint Michael’s College of Laguna Golden Z Club, Philippines, because of its goal to help eradicate violence against women and pursue gender equality.

Since 2011, Joselyn has been a member of the Zonta Club of Laguna, where she is happy to work with Zontians who share her passion of service and supporting advocacy efforts to help women and girls.

A member of her club’s Z and Golden Z club committee, Joselyn thinks the best way to encourage students to join Zonta clubs is leading by example.

“They can see in me the passion, the commitment and the dedication to conduct activities and pursue advocacies to empower women and girls,” she says. “I hope I can inspire them enough.” ■

Enhance global mindset—Start a student club

Improving the future begins with igniting the passion within the next generation of Zontians, today. Student clubs are sponsored by Zonta clubs and they are simple to get started.

- A Z club/Golden Z club charter fee is only US\$25.
- Clubs can be aligned with a specific school or draw from multiple schools in the community.
- Student clubs often partner with Zonta clubs for community activities.
- Projects can align to Zonta International programs or focus on local challenges.
- Graduating Golden Z club members can easily transition to a young professional membership, continuing their opportunities to better their world through Zonta’s mission.

Find out more about how to charter a student club on [Zonta.org](https://www.zonta.org)

From the Past to the Future: A Conversation About Zonta's Membership Path

Claudia Exenberger, Golden Z club president, and Olivia Ferry, past Zonta International president, discuss the status and challenges of membership in Zonta today.



Left: Claudia Exenberger, president of the Vienna Golden Z Club, leads a discussion at a recent ending child marriage seminar.

Right: Olivia "Livie" Ferry, Zonta International President 2006–2008, shares her insight with members at an event.



Claudia How many members did Zonta have when you were president in 2006-2008?

Olivia "Livie" Zonta had approximately 32,500 members in about 1,200 clubs in more than 65 countries in the world. This, however, had followed a decline since the turn of the century, which is still ongoing.

Claudia Do you think that it is more difficult to be a member today than 10, 20 or even 30 years ago?

Livie Many international service organizations are facing declines in their membership, which could be due to a more stressful, fast-paced and competitive environment. Consequently, for many young women, joining nonprofits may take a back seat to career development, family and parental concerns, mobility and travel, and other priorities. Therefore, it is going to be very challenging to get the younger generation of executives and professionals, on which the future of nonprofit organizations like Zonta depends, engaged and committed to efforts of service.

That is why we have to make sure that the fire in the belly of the youth is not diminished. The emotions of the young are expressed not only in protests and rhetoric, but also in actions to demonstrate the need for social change.

Claudia But has the Fridays for Future movement not shown us that many young people are willing to get engaged and stand up for their rights and the future? Therefore, they put their own needs aside and demonstrate for others.

Livie That is why we have to make sure that the fire in the belly of the youth is not diminished. The emotions of the young are expressed not only in protests and rhetoric, but also in actions to demonstrate the need for social change. I was once a student leader in the forefront of burning issues of the times. But in my life, as in the life of many cause-oriented young people, there comes a time when our passion or idealism is overtaken by the need to address our personal and professional development. So much so that the attraction offered by membership in nonprofits as a way to give back is relegated to the back burner until the right time comes back to reignite our zeal.

Claudia Coming back to why there is a decline and how Zonta is managed. When I first joined Zonta, I found it quite difficult to understand the structure and hierarchies. It has for sure grown over the past 50 years, but do you think this could be a problem for new members especially with social movements, which use media to connect people?

Livie The need to understand and respect organizational structures is inherent in the need for efficiency and discipline in the organization. Processes and strategic approaches have to be adopted to the needs of the members. The use of newer modes of communication, for example, can help reach and stay in touch with younger members. The tricky part is keeping them constantly updated and interested and making sure the older generation feels comfortable with the new medium for interaction. Younger generations may also not be impressed by pomp and circumstance. Some traditions are important and necessary, but too much time spent on rituals may turn off a younger audience. It is on the club as well as the international level to change the image from stuffy and formal to interesting and fun. What about your point of view?

Claudia I agree. Such a big organization needs certain structures and has traditions, which should be honored and there is always room for improvements. In my experience, as the president of the Vienna Golden Z Club, it is very important to get members involved. Is more responsibility an opportunity for members to become more active?

Livie For sure. It is important that everyone gives input and that we take appropriate action on suggestions.

Claudia Recently, we hosted the Early Child Marriage Conference in Vienna and not only Zontians attended, but young people also participated. Such conferences could be a good opportunity to bring generations as well as members and non-members together.

If you even go one step further and create cross-generational programs, different generations can learn from each other and friendships across generations are enhanced.

Livie Yes, organizing interesting meetings creates a unique experience for attracting a younger demographic and cementing friendships among club members. If you even go one step further and create cross-generational programs, different generations can learn from each other and friendships across generations are enhanced.

Claudia I think this is something younger people could also benefit from. After all, Zonta has a huge international network and young women should be encouraged to make use of it. This brings me to another important part of Zonta. Namely, the awards and especially the awardees. Is there any process of involving awardees in the local Z or Golden Z club or later on in a Zonta club? And what has your experience been with former award winners?

Livie Nothing beats getting awardees to participate as speakers, mentors and role models in the Z and Golden Z club environment. Clubs must also ensure that awardees stay connected. Invite them to Zonta club activities and send them club newsletters. I am not aware of an awardee transitioning into membership in our district, but I would welcome that.

Claudia One last question: In your part of the world, there are many Z and Golden Z clubs – meaning young people are joining to empower women. How do you explain this success?

Livie We have a long history of District 17 governors putting an emphasis on the Z and Golden Z club program by including it in their goals. Mentoring and sharing the Zonta experience sustains the interest of Z and Golden Z club members. Success is also more forthcoming when our youth clubs are connected to schools and universities. Furthermore, many schools in our district are run by missionaries who instill in their students discipline and the interest to provide service. Even in public schools, a community-based project is an important part of the curriculum. This exposure to social service is a great motivator for students to join a Z or Golden Z club and to commit to the social causes that Zonta supports.

What is the situation in Europe and how could we promote more Z and Golden Z clubs?

Claudia The main challenge is that, in Europe, the clubs are not a part of school and university activities. This makes it harder to establish a club, as you usually would not have the support of a teacher or lecturer. However, I believe it is important to found Golden Z clubs, as they give young people the framework to work on projects and they can become the future members of Zonta. Thank you for the conversation!

GIVE NOW FOR THE FUTURE

Fund the seeds of change and see what your investment will grow.

A gift to the Endowment Fund ensures your deep-rooted passion for women's rights will continue. The interest from the endowment funds will be used to support future projects and programs, while the principal remains intact.

Zonta's next era of women's empowerment starts now.

Visit zontaendowmentcampaign.org to believe, invest and empower.



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Actual growth of endowment funds



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ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



WELCOME TO THE ZONTA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY!

ZONTA CLUBS

Invercargill
District 16, Area 05

Makati Legaspi
District 17, Area 05

Nueva Vizcaya
District 17, Area 04

Pokhara
District 25, Area 02

Whakatane
District 16, Area 04

GOLDEN Z CLUBS

Birmingham
District 11, Area 01

Cleveland
District 05, Area 03

Gent II
District 27, Area 05

Greater Rizal II
District 17, Area 01

Ilocos Norte
District 17, Area 04

Las Pinas
District 17, Area 05

Lome-Millennium
District 18, Area 02

Makati-Paseo de Roxas
District 17, Area 05

St. Louis
District 07, Area 02

Z CLUBS

Aparri
District 17, Area 04

Birmingham
District 11, Area 01

Fukui Fine
District 26, Area 03

Hong Kong East
District 17, Area 02

Ilocos Norte
District 17, Area 04

Laguna
District 17, Area 05

Las Pinas
District 17, Area 05

Lviv
District 27, Area 04

Makati-Paseo de Roxas
District 17, Area 05

Melbourne
District 11, Area 04

Muntinlupa and Environs
District 17, Area 05

Above: Members of District 7 show their Zonta spirit during their district conference.

Below: The Zonta Club of Montgomery-Fulton received a proclamation from the Assembly of New York in celebration of Zonta's 100th anniversary.