



## **Advocacy Definition and Policy**

### **Bylaws of Zonta International - Article III Policy**

Section 1. Nonpartisan and Nonsectarian. Zonta International, its districts and its clubs shall be nonpartisan and non-sectarian.

Section 2. Principles and Public Issues. Zonta International, its districts and its clubs may express themselves about, and become involved in, principles and public issues having a bearing on the Objects of Zonta International, following the policies established by the Zonta International Board.

Pursuant to Article III, Sections 1 and 2 of the *Zonta International Bylaws*, the Zonta International Board, at its February 2000 meeting, adopted the following definition and policy.

### **Advocacy Definition**

*Advocacy is the expression of support for, or opposition to a cause, argument, or proposal. Advocacy may include influencing laws, legislation or attitudes. Zonta advocacy is an action taken in the public interest or for the greater good with respect to advancing the status of women and girls and their human rights.*

### **Advocacy Policy**

Zonta International, its districts and its clubs are urged to express themselves about and become involved in issues that:

- Improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women.
- Advance understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions.  
Promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

They are encouraged to support proposed or introduced legislation that advances the implementation of the Objects and resolutions of Zonta International, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, CEDAW - The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals and their updates, as well as other United Nations and Council of Europe conventions.

They will cooperate with likeminded organizations or individuals researching issues regarding the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women, as appropriate.

- Whenever it is effective to do so, Zonta International, its districts and its clubs will work in cooperation with other organizations or individuals to raise awareness about these issues and the actions we must initiate to effect positive change.
- When Zonta International and/or its districts and/or clubs host or sponsor educational activities, every effort should be made for a well-balanced presentation of facts and viewpoints.

They do not advocate on behalf of or endorse a partisan candidate, a political party, or any religion or religious denomination.

They may endorse qualified individuals for nonpartisan positions.

The convention may express opinions on issues on behalf of Zonta International. Between conventions, only the Zonta International Board may express opinions on issues on behalf of Zonta International.

Zonta clubs may express their opinion on issues only as clubs. Zonta districts may express their opinions only as districts.

Districts may include guidelines for the process of determining their advocacy activity, providing that such guidelines conform to this *Zonta International Advocacy Policy*.

Zonta International, its districts and its clubs may register protests concerning violation of human rights with the Zonta International Advocacy Committee and the executive director. The Advocacy Committee chairman will address the issue in consultation with the UN and Council of Europe chairmen and the international president. The international president may issue a statement in response to the issue and may formally advise districts and clubs of any action they may take in response to the issue.

Districts, clubs and individual Zontians shall not otherwise express positions on issues involving a country other than their own, except with the prior approval of the international president through the International Advocacy Committee chair.

Club members may express their personal views on issues as private citizens and in doing so must not attribute their personal views to a Zonta club, district or Zonta International.

Clubs within a country that is spread across multiple districts or clubs in several areas within one country may petition the international president to grant special provision for the

clubs to work together as a country to advocate on national issue(s). Should the clubs require visual representation of their actions online or in printed materials, the clubs may request a special Zonta country logo to be used to represent the clubs in their advocacy action(s).

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