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Zonta News

Build a Better World for Women and Girls

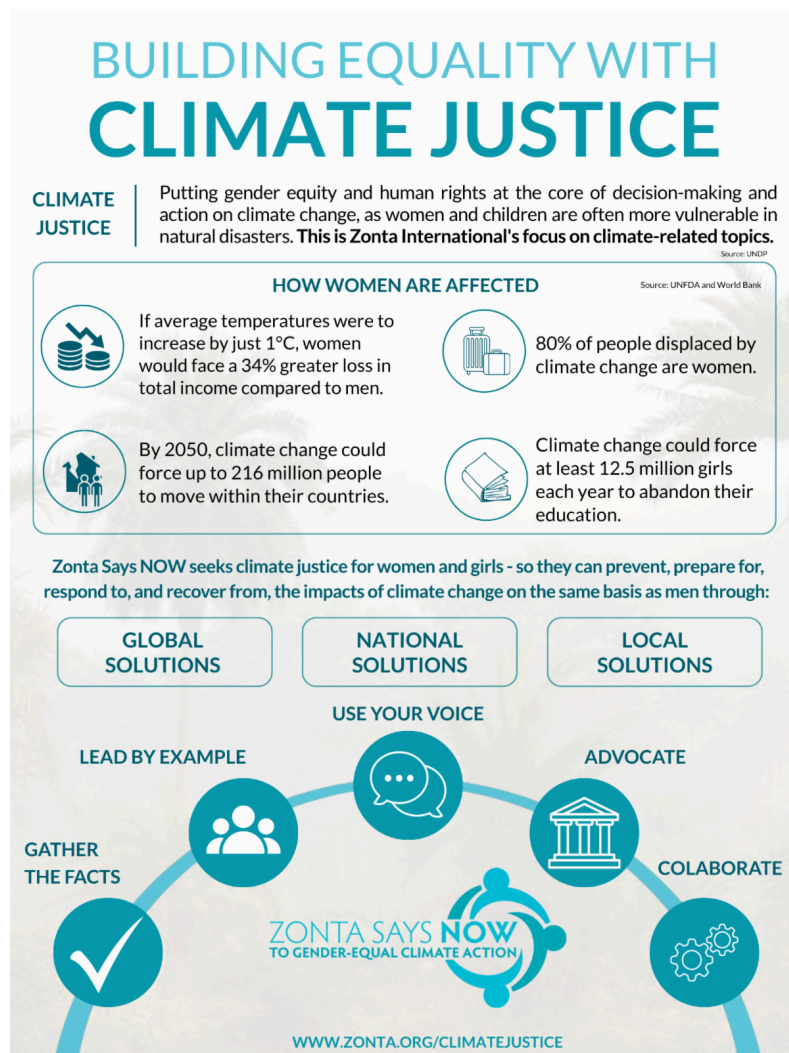


Greetings!

Happy Earth Day!

Today is a day to not only reflect on our connection to the environment, but also recognize how climate change is accelerating humanitarian crises worldwide and how women and girls are bearing the heaviest burden.

The United Nations highlights that women and children displaced by climate impacts now make up an estimated 80% of all people displaced, a figure that reflects both systematic inequality and the failure of governments to plan climate responses that protect those most at risk. Climate shocks worsen inequalities that drive gender-based violence and create barriers to opportunity.



As Zontians, we stand for climate justice, women in decision-making, education equality and ending violence against women. While it might be more obvious to say Earth Day is about climate justice, the facts prove that where climate change is prevalent, these other causes are also impacted. Take a look at the infographic above to see the connection between climate justice and human rights. [\[Full Graphic\]](#)

This Earth Day, Zonta International has partnered with other global organizations to call on governments, the private sector, civil society, and everyday citizens to [Step Forward for Equality](#). Climate action can no longer be delayed, diluted or discussed without those

most affected: women and girls, and the women leaders who must sit at every decision-making table where climate priorities are set. You can [read the full statement](#) online now at www.zonta.org/statements.

I urge you to take a step forward with me today. There are many actions you can take to become more aware of the connections between climate and our mission. Take a look at our toolkit at www.zonta.org/EarthDay.

Thank you for your continued dedication to building a better world for women and girls.

Kind regards,



Salla Tuominen
President 2024-2026
Zonta International and
Zonta Foundation for Women

Zontians in Action

Zontians are taking action to build a better world for women and girls! Read how Zonta clubs are taking steps forward for gender equality through climate justice actions in their communities and beyond.

Zonta Club I of Colombo, Sri Lanka, mobilized emergency relief efforts following Cyclone Ditwah in December, which displaced thousands of families and destroyed homes and livelihoods, disproportionately affecting women. Beyond addressing urgent needs, the club has also begun recovery support for women entrepreneurs affected by the disaster. [Read more.](#)



District 25, Area 2, Z and Youth Club highlighted the connection between gender equality and climate justice through creative and awareness-based initiatives, such as Zonta's "Pairing Gender Equality with Climate Justice" activity. The activities encouraged participants to consider how climate challenges disproportionately affect women and girls, while emphasizing the need for equitable approaches to environmental action. [Read more.](#)



Click the buttons below to be inspired by Zontians taking action within their own communities. Then, tell us how you are changing the world by sharing your story!

Local Service &
Advocacy

Zonta Says NO
Actions

Share Your Story
Today



We proudly highlight our [#ZontiansinAction](#). See the steps our members have taken to make a difference around the world.

WATCH NOW



Step Forward for Equality

While climate justice is a new and challenging topic, Zontians have always been quick to see and understand how women are disproportionately affected by climate crises. By focusing on gender equality in climate policies and taking local actions, we know that we will be taking a "Step Forward for Equality."



Three actions you can take this **Earth Day, 22 April 2026**:

- 1. Bring the Step Forward Activity to your club meeting.**
Through this physical activity, members will gain an understanding of how climate change affects everyone across the globe. Climate-related questions will be asked one at a time and members will be asked to **"take a step forward if"** that event has occurred in their lifetime.
- 2. Pair Gender Equality with Climate Justice with this hands-on activity.** Just as our shoes are a pair, so are the issues of gender equality and climate justice. Using a template included in the toolkit, draw or write about why gender equality is important to you on the right footprint (gender RIGHTS). On the left footprint, draw or write about what impact you want to make on the globe to secure climate justice (what will be LEFT?). Please send the final image to Zonta International at pr@zonta.org for us to share within our social media and publications. And, be inspired by the [work of the youth members in District 25](#).
- 3. Share our International Statement.** Send the Zonta International statement linked above to your networks to show how we are taking a [step forward for equality](#).

Find all materials for the above steps and climate justice campaign in [the Step Forward for Equality campaign toolkit](#).



Join the Think Tank

Come share your ideas and gather inspiration on how we can address gender-equal climate action NOW at the next Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank on [10 May](#) 2026.



Come see the Virtual Art Gallery

Through the arts, we can connect with our feelings and emotions to better understand the problems and the possible futures we can create. Be inspired by messages of hope and thought-provoking art at: zontasaysnowvirtualartgallery.org.

Congratulations to our club anniversaries this month!



Zonta Club of Trenton/Mercer
Zonta Club of Westchester
United States, District 3
95th anniversary

Zonta Club of Bochum
Germany, District 29
65th anniversary

Zonta Club of Makati and Environs
Philippines, District 17
55th anniversary

We applaud your efforts in advocating for the women and girls in your community and beyond. To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in April, visit [Zonta News](#).

Important Dates and Events

- 1 April-31 May: [Add Your Voice Campaign](#)
 - 22 April: [Step Forward for Equality on Earth Day](#)
 - 27 April-1 May: [International elections open](#)
 - 1 May: Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Award district recipients due to Headquarters
 - 7 May: [International election results announced](#)
 - 10 May: [Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank](#)
 - 15 May: [Last day for discounted registration rates for Convention](#)
 - 18 May: [Council of Europe Ensuring women's empowerment and gender equality in relation to global and geopolitical challenges](#)
 - 21 May: [New Member Orientation](#)
 - 26 May: [Zonta Advocacy Series - Cybersecurity for Women and Girls](#)
 - 11-14 July: [2026 Zonta International Convention](#) in Vancouver, Canada
 - 16 July: [New Member Orientation](#)
 - 30 July: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
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www.zonta.org

[Zonta International](#) is a global organization based in 65 countries building a better world for women and girls. 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. In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.

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