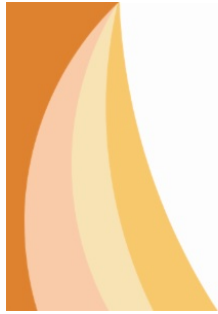


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# Zonta News

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



Dear Megan,

For more than a century, Zonta has proudly championed the belief that women's rights are human rights. We have joined forces with visionary advocates for gender equity to turn this dream into reality. Yet, despite our strides, we are still years away from a truly gender-equal society.

In fact, statistics from the [World Bank](#) and [Focus 2030](#) paint a rather grim outlook for gender equality:

- Nearly 2.4 billion women across the world still do not have the same economic rights as men.
- Globally, women still have only three-quarters of the legal rights afforded to men.
- [One in three countries](#) has made no progress on gender equality since 2015, and the situation of women has even deteriorated in 18 countries.



Zontians and Z club members at CSW68 in New York City.

Moreover, recent “developments” in many countries have raised significant concerns. There has been a troubling rise in anti-DEI and anti-gender movements, which threaten to roll back the hard-won gains in gender equality. These movements undermine the progress we have made and pose a serious challenge to achieving a just and equitable society. Please read our statement on this matter here: [Zonta International remains steadfast in mission to build a better world for women and girls.](#)

For Zontians and our supporters who are working to build a better world for women and girls, we must recognize the global threats to women. This is why I invite you to participate in the [69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW69\)](#).

Each year, thousands of gender advocates gather at the United Nations in New York for the CSW, the largest global event focused on women's rights. It stands as the premier intergovernmental body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and empowering women. By joining us at CSW, you can become a vital force in advancing women's rights by validating the realities of women's lives around the world and shaping global standards on gender equality and women's empowerment alongside Zontians. Please note that you can also participate virtually to in many online or hybrid webinars and events.

As you read further, learn more about what awaits you at CSW69 and within the future we envision for women and girls. Together, by combining our resources and voices, we can build a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to Zonta's mission and goals.

Warm regards,



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

## Attending CSW69/ Beijing + 30?

The next Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place **10-21 March 2025** - that is approximately two weeks away!



Let us know if you are participating and be included in [all our communications about the events.](#)

**On Monday, 24 February**, all Zonta members who are participating in CSW69, both in-person and virtually, are invited to join Zonta's CSW Orientation. [Register today.](#)

Please note that the final date for the [Virtual Parallel Event applications](#) is **Friday, 21 February**.

## Zonta at CSW

Join us in celebrating **four decades** of impact that our donors have made for women and girls around the world.

 **ZONTA**  
FOUNDATION  
FOR WOMEN  
**40 YEARS**  
[www.zonta.org/Foundation40](http://www.zonta.org/Foundation40)

**BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

2023-2024  
Zonta Foundation for Women Annual Report is now available.

Available for download at [www.zonta.org/annualreport](http://www.zonta.org/annualreport)

[Read now](#)



## Zontians in Action

Zontians are taking action to create a better world for women and girls! Read the stories below highlighting how Zonta clubs and student clubs are making an impact in their communities and beyond.

### Zonta Club of Gawler Inc holds TechnoGirls event

The Zonta Club of Gawler Inc, Australia, recently held its TechnoGirls event, with 15 girls aged 7 to 12 participating in the STEM-focused school holiday program at the local children's center in Gawler.



TechnoGirls aims to address the gender

gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by sparking girls' interest in these fields. This mission is particularly significant in the Gawler region, where female participation in STEM is well below the national average.

The session was sponsored by QuantX Labs, a local tech company that contributed not only financial support but also mentorship by sending three female staff members to inspire the participants. Among them was a rocket scientist, a highlight for the girls. The hands-on activities included building and launching bottle rockets and flying drones while learning about their applications in various industries.

### **Z clubs in Sofia honor women in aviation and science**

The Z Club Saint Sofia – Next Generation and Z Club Darbi Sofia held their first joint event on 25 January, at the Faculty of Physics, Saint Kliment Ohridski Sofia University. Dedicated to Amelia Earhart, the event featured a presentation on Raina Kasabova, the first woman to participate in a military flight, and a lecture on Bulgarian physicists' contributions to science by Assistant Engineer-Physicist Stoil Ivanov.



The event opened with remarks from Albena Dimitrova, mentor of Z Club Saint Sofia – Next Generation, who welcomed guests and members of Zonta Club Saint Sofia, Bulgaria, and Zonta Club of Sofia, Bulgaria.

The event celebrated women in aviation and science, while strengthening the partnership between the two Z clubs and reinforcing their commitment to education, empowerment and advocacy.

Click on 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](#)

[Share Your Story](#)



We proudly highlight our [#ZontiansinAction](#).

See the steps our members have taken to make a difference around the world.

[WATCH NOW](#)



## Advocacy Webinar Series: A Closer Look at Zonta Says NOW

Join the Zonta International Advocacy Committee and Zonta Says NOW Working Group for an inspiring webinar: A Closer Look at Zonta Says NOW.



Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action is a movement to focus on climate justice at international, national and local levels. Have you wondered how Zonta Says NOW aligns with Zonta International's Strategic Plan and biennial goals? Join us for a panel discussion with the Zonta Says NOW Working Group to learn more.

**Tuesday, 25 February | 12:00 PM CST**

[Register](#)

## Ring in International Women's Day and Strike the Pose to #AccelerateAction

International Women's Day is a special day to discuss Zonta's aim for reaching gender equality, advocate for women in decision-making positions, and emphasize Zonta's commitments and activity in the United Nations and Council of Europe.



President Salla will be front and center at the NASDAQ in Helsinki to ring the opening bell in honor of gender equality. You too can herald in the day by joining in on the action by following us on social media and adding your own post!

This year's International Women's Day **Global Theme is #AccelerateAction**. To take part:

1. **Strike The Pose** and snap a picture!
2. **Post it on social media** and tag us at @ZontaIntl or send it to us at [pr@zonta.org](mailto:pr@zonta.org).
3. Be sure to include how you **#AdvanceYourAdvocacy** through Zonta International in your message! **Share what advocacy actions you have taken** either personally or with your club to make a difference within your community.
4. **Include the hashtags: #AccelerateAction #ZontiansInAction #AdvanceYourAdvocacy #IWD**
5. **Share Your Story on the website** – if you have not already shared your advocacy action, today is the day to do it! Stories about club or individual actions are welcome.

8 MARCH

# Strike the Pose!

INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY



#AccelerateAction

## Learn more about the Council of Europe

### Webinar: Being a women's rights advocate – what you should know about the Council of Europe, the continent's leading human rights organization

The Zonta International CoE Committee is pleased to invite you to a webinar to enhance members' knowledge on the relevance of the CoE in the field of international standards of human rights, specifically women's rights and gender equality. Focus will also be on structure and functioning of the CoE as an intergovernmental organization as well as on Zonta's active role through its participatory status granted in 2003.

**Wednesday, 26 March**  
12:00 PM CDT

[Register](#)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

### Zonta Essentials: Gender Equality—a cross-cutting topic and an important policy goal of the Council of Europe

Through Zonta's CoE Committee, Zonta holds participatory status at the CoE, Europe's leading human rights organization. The committee will provide regular updates to enhance members' understanding of Zonta's role with CoE.

[Click here](#) to read Part 4: Gender Equality – a cross-cutting topic and an important policy goal of the CoE

## Elevate Equality on Earth Day!



This Earth Day, **on 22 April**, we are taking strides to address gender equity within climate justice.

This year's plans include:

- Learning how you can partner with local sustainable groups and businesses.
- Taking action to ensure your community addresses gender needs within their disaster-ready plans.
- Leading the conversation on how Earth Day is about gender equality.
- Continuing to support the Zonta

## Start the celebrations early

# VIRTUAL ART GALLERY



SUBMIT YOUR ART TO  
EXPRESS GENDER-EQUAL  
CLIMATE ACTION

NOW TO 28 FEBRUARY

[www.zonta.org/zontasaysnow](http://www.zonta.org/zontasaysnow)



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## Meet this month's Remarkable Woman: Joanna Maranhão



**Joanna Maranhão** is the coordinator of the Athletes Network for Safer Sports and a professional swimmer who specializes in individual medley and distance events. She competed in four Olympic Games and won eight medals at the Pan-American Games.



At the Sport and Rights Alliance, Joanna fosters global connections among athletes and allies affected by abuse in sports. She previously campaigned to extend Brazil's statute of limitations for survivors of child sexual abuse, leading to the creation of the Joanna Maranhão Law.

Joanna met with Lynne Foley OAM, host of the Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories podcast, to share her journey after her Olympic career. At a critical juncture, she bravely confronted the abuse she endured from her childhood coach. Now, she stands as a fierce advocate for the protection of athletes and tirelessly seeks justice for survivors, inspiring others to find their voices.

Listen to Joanna's story on the go | [Spotify](#) | [YouTube](#)

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## Congratulations to our club anniversaries this month!



**Zonta Club of Ottawa**  
Canada, District 2  
**95th anniversary**

**Zonta Club of Riverside**  
USA, District 9  
**95th anniversary**

**Zonta Club of Bangor**  
USA, District 1  
**95th 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 February, visit [Zonta News](#).

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## Important Dates and Events

- 20 February: [World Day of Social Justice](#)
- 25 February: [Advocacy Webinar Series - A closer look at Zonta Says NOW](#)
- 28 February: Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery submission deadline
- 8 March: [International Women's Day](#)
- 10-21 March: [CSW69](#)
- 26 March: [Council of Europe Webinar: Being a women's rights advocate - What you should know about the CoE, the continent's leading human rights organization](#)
- 4-6 April: [Asian Interdistrict Meeting](#)
- 22 April: [Earth Day](#)
- 2-4 May: [European Interdistrict Seminar](#)
- 20-22 June: [North American Interdistrict Meeting](#)



BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS



[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)

**Zonta International** is a global organization based in 64 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.

Zonta International | 1200 Harger Road Suite 330 | Oak Brook, IL 60523-1817 US

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