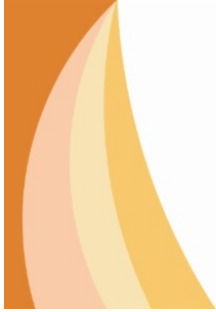


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Zonta News

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



Dear Megan,

In Zonta, we see firsthand how women are powerful leaders of change who inspire, advocate and empower their communities. However, we still face barriers to women's participation in decision-making roles. This is especially true for young women and girls, who are currently encountering unique roadblocks in their formative years due to gender norms and unjust laws and policies, which continue to restrict their movement, agency and ability to access education and make decisions about their rights.



Statistics worldwide have consistently shown that when women and girls have power over themselves and their futures, they can build a better world:

- **Equal employment means higher GDP.** World Bank data suggests that if women's employment was equal to men's, [GDP per capita would be almost 20% higher](#).
- **Women are key to a climate-just world.** According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, women are more likely than men to use [climate-smart agriculture techniques](#) to adapt to climate change. When more women are involved in group decisions about [land management](#), the group conserves more.
- **Women in decision-making positions can break the cycle of gender-based violence.** According to BioMed Central Public Health, women with no decision-making power in their relationships are [25.3% more likely](#) to experience physical violence in comparison to their counterparts who have decision-making power.

While Zonta is already laying the groundwork by backing more women in decision-making positions through our [projects](#), [education programs](#) and [club activities](#), it is equally important that we rally our communities to value women's and girls' experiences and encourage them to take on leadership positions.

As you read ahead, I urge everyone to contemplate how you or your Zonta club are championing young women and girls to assume leadership positions.

Ask yourself: Are you guaranteeing that their voices are being heard in your community or empowering them to take charge themselves?

Your actions will build a better world for women and girls.

Warm regards,



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

HEAR SALLA SPEAK ABOUT WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING ROLES ON A RECENT NGO CSW/NY PANEL

WATCH NOW

CSW69 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
MARCH 2025

Advocating for young women in decision-making roles!

Hear from the Young Professionals Sub-Committee and learn about the importance of young women in decision-making positions.



"The opportunity to contribute and implement my own ideas is an important motivating favor for me in both my professional and my personal life. I can best ensure this in a management position. That is why I'm always happy to accept leadership responsibility, as it opens up countless creative possibilities."

Berit Lindau

Chair, Zonta e-Club of Germany, Germany



"My advice to young women assuming leadership positions is to have confidence in their abilities that have gotten them to this point at all. To make the transition to leadership easier, consider connecting with a supportive mentor for guidance. Having Imposter Syndrome is a common but isolating experience, and can be made easier with community and peer support."

CJ Blake

Zonta Club of Ottawa, Canada



"The importance of young women taking part in the decision-making process enables the involvement of the focus and interests of the youth. I believe when one takes the risks to decide, responsibility and power come along. Moreover, having boardroom experience brings confidence to the young woman who decides and presents the possibility for other young women."

Ying-Wen "Sara" Chen

Golden Z Club of New Dawn, Taiwan



"Taking on leadership positions as a young Zontian not only empowered me, but also allowed me to bring a fresh perspective and vision to leadership decisions. Involving young women in the decision-making process is essential for creating a more inclusive and balanced world."

Claudia Gusmitta

Zonta Club of London, England

"Young women bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas that are crucial for addressing today's global challenges. Over the years, I have learned so deeply of the value of collaboration and listening



to diverse viewpoints. My advice to first-time young leaders is to trust your voice, stay open to learning, and don't shy away from taking on responsibility—you have the power to create real change."

Tehani Chandrasena Perera
Supporting member, USA

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 paving the way for young women leaders.

Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc launches young women's leadership program

The Zonta Club of Adelaide Inc, Australia, recognized that women face significant barriers to achieving leadership positions relative to their male counterparts. Despite increasing opportunities, women remain significantly underrepresented in senior leadership roles. The club continues to support scholarships for female high school students but wanted to explore how they could assist in providing leadership training.



In 2018, the club launched its Young Women's Leadership Program. Every year, the club holds a graduation ceremony, during which the groups present their projects and report on how their work has impacted the community or school. Each participant is awarded a certificate of participation. The ceremony is attended by the club, school staff, participants' families, community stakeholders from the council and state politicians whose portfolios are education or status of women-based. Graduates reported increased confidence and willingness to take on leadership positions, and some have since undertaken leadership roles in their schools.

The program won the Education Category Award and Overall Best Project at the Premier's Awards of the Service Clubs Association of South Australia in 2023.

Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley holds Leadership Retreat for Z and Golden Z clubs

The Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley, USA, hosted students from three local Z and Golden Z clubs for a Leadership Retreat event at Canyon High School. The students and advisors collaborated, brainstormed and planned for the upcoming year of service projects and advocacy spearheaded by the student clubs.



Share Your Story

Tell us how you are changing the world through service and advocacy by clicking on the button above to [share your story!](#)



We proudly highlight our
#ZontiansinAction.

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

WATCH NOW



11 OCTOBER
SAVE THE DATE!

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

GIRLS GET ENOUGH NEGATIVE MESSAGES
SHARE A MESSAGE OF HOPE!

Girls hear enough about how they should fit in. How about telling them that they are enough? This International Day of the Girl, submit a message of hope to girls worldwide:

- On one side of a paper, write a message you heard as a child that didn't empower you.
- Flip the paper, and on the other side, write an empowering message you wish you'd been told instead—something that counters negative thoughts that can hold girls back.
- Film yourself holding the paper for about 10 seconds on each side; there's no need to speak or smile, just be yourself.
- Please send your submissions to pr@zonta.org by **4 October**.

Webinar: The Role of Civil Society on the Monitoring of the Istanbul Convention. What can European Zontians do?



The Istanbul Convention is one of the most recognized legally binding conventions and is widely recognized as the role model for addressing violence against women and domestic violence. It is the most progressive and ambitious international human rights treaty tackling this serious violation. The Monitoring Mechanism through GREVIO, the Independent Group of Experts is a crucial part of the Istanbul Convention. It assesses how well the requirements and provisions of the Convention are put into practice by the states that have ratified the Convention.

Join the Zonta International Council of Europe Committee **on 23 October at 11 AM CDT** to learn how Zontians can participate in the Monitoring Mechanism and be instrumental in reporting on deficits and gaps in the application of the Convention on a national level.

Register Today



A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

REMARKABLE WOMEN POWERFUL STORIES

Meet September's Remarkable Woman: Stephanie Copus Campbell, AM

Stephanie has extensive experience working across the public, private, philanthropic and community sectors in Australia and the Indo-Pacific. She has served as head of Australia's bilateral aid programs with Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Tuvalu and Australia's Pacific Regional programs. Stephanie has also worked in senior executive roles with CARE Australia and the Oil Search Foundation.



Listen on demand 26 September | [Bio](#)

Celebrating our Zonta clubs around the world!

25
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ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
celebrates this month's
club anniversaries!

Congratulations to our club anniversaries this month:

Zonta Club of Mid-Ohio Valley
USA, District 5
65th anniversary

Zonta Club of Vichy
France, District 27
60th 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 September, visit [Zonta News](#).

WELCOME TO OUR
NEW ZONTA CLUBS



Join Zonta International in welcoming our newest club:

Zonta Club of Thonburi
District 17, Thailand

We look forward to seeing how the new club will embrace Zonta's mission and values in building a better world for women and girls.

Celebrating Zonta International Headquarters!

This month, we celebrate the work anniversaries of two staff members at Zonta International Headquarters!



Congratulations to Megan Radavich, CAE

Executive Director

15 years

Congratulations to Phyllis Rinck
Human Resources & Accounting Senior Coordinator
6 years

Important Dates

- 11 October: [International Day of the Girl](#)
 - 17 October: [Zonta New Member Orientation](#)
 - 23 October: [Zonta International Council of Europe Committee webinar](#)
 - 23 October: October Club Creators Event
 - 10 November: [Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank](#)
 - 21 November: [Zonta New Member Orientation](#)
 - 25 November: [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)
 - 25 November-10 December: [16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence](#)
-



www.zonta.org

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