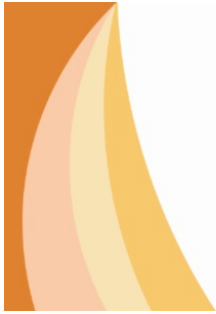


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# Zonta News

Build a Better World for Women and Girls



Dear Greetings!

Like many of my fellow members, Zonta has inspired me to embrace new leadership opportunities. Through my membership and alongside those who have led before and with me, I have gained invaluable experiences. For over a century, Zonta has empowered women and girls, fostering self-confidence and providing opportunities to develop and grow leadership skills. With my mom's encouragement, I stepped into my first Zonta event, feeling a bit intimidated by the vibrant and professional women surrounding me. Yet, their warm support ignited my confidence and empowered me to learn and grow alongside them. It was their encouragement that helped me discover my bravery and realize my potential as a leader.



President Salla Tuominen (center), then president-elect, being lifted by her class of governors and Past International President Maria-Jose Landeira Oestergaard (right) at the 2024 Brisbane Convention in Australia.

Recognizing the vital role of women in decision-making not only advances gender equality but also encourages women to participate in decisions at all levels, from local communities to global arenas. Numerous studies have shown that when women are involved in decision making, there are:

- **Improved returns.** Over a 10-year span, [women-led companies have demonstrated a 223% return on equity](#), compared to 130% for men-led companies.
- **Enhanced innovation.** The diverse perspectives women bring to leadership often lead to [greater creativity and innovation](#) within an organization.
- **Greater resilience.** Women leaders frequently adopt transformational leadership styles that [foster stronger organizational cultures and facilitate effective crisis management](#).

These statistics clearly indicate that everyone benefits when women are included. Zonta is already leading the way for women to pursue leadership opportunities, advocate for their rights and influence the policies that shape their lives and those around them. Through multiple programs and initiatives, including advocacy for women in decision-making, scholarships, service projects and mentorship, Zonta helps every woman and girl reach her full potential. These programs and advocacy not only provide practical skills but also foster a profound sense of self-worth and confidence, empowering women and girls to take decisive action in their communities.

By inspiring women and girls to embrace leadership roles, Zonta emphasizes the vital

importance of their voices in discussions and decision-making. This, in turn, creates a more equitable society that celebrates diverse perspectives and uplifts us all.

As we strive to build a better world for women and girls, one that champions inclusive leadership and decision-making, I thank you all for your continued support.

Kind regards,



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

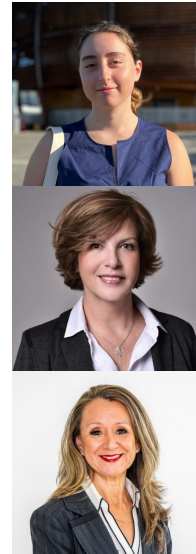
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## Zonta inspires women to rise as leaders and decision-makers

Women and girls often navigate significant barriers that limit their potential and hinder society's progress. Zonta is dedicated to breaking these obstacles by elevating women's roles in decision-making, amplifying the power of diverse perspectives.

Through generous scholarships and meaningful community engagement, Zonta empowers women and girls to become champions for themselves and others, igniting the path toward a brighter, more equitable future.

[Read more](#)



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## Zonta Foundation for Women's Endowment Fund reaches \$10 million milestone

Zonta Foundation for Women, a leader in advancing women's rights and gender equality, has surpassed US\$10 million in its Endowment Fund thanks to dedicated fundraising and support from donors worldwide. This milestone enhances the organization's ability to promote education, economic empowerment, leadership and the protection of women's rights, ensuring long-term sustainability for its programs.

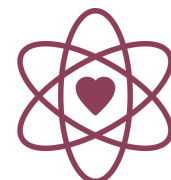


[Read more](#)

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## New Core Values and Code of Conduct

Zonta International embraces a renewed set of [Core Values](#) and a [Code of Conduct](#) that reflect our aspirations as a global community. Our values—Integrity, Friendship, Respect, Global Community, Equality & Inclusion—guide our actions and relationships. Together, we strive to create an organization where every member feels valued, fostering connections and amplifying our impact in advocating for women's rights and gender equity worldwide.



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## Zontians in Action

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

## People's Select Committee on pay equity

The Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand, supported the People's Select Committee on pay equity, a historic citizen-led initiative formed to scrutinize urgent changes to New Zealand's pay equity laws.



## Zontians in the News

Zontians are making headlines in their local news. Learn how their initiatives are inspiring their communities and beyond.

**District 12** was recently featured in the local press for its advocacy on climate justice and its ties to social justice, particularly regarding gender-based violence and poverty. Read their coverage here: [Zonta District 12 Press Release: What is Climate Justice and Why Should We Care?](#).


**Zonta Club of Manawatū, New Zealand**, celebrated 50 years of empowering women and girls in their community. Read their coverage here: [Back Issues: Zonta Club of Manawatū marks 50 years.](#)

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



Local Zonta Says NO Actions

Submit a Share Your Story




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


[WATCH NOW](#)



Make a gift in honor of our projects and friendships!



[www.zonta.org/Foundation40](http://www.zonta.org/Foundation40)



## Zonta & UNICEF Virtual Experience

On **6 October**, join Zonta International and UNICEF for a special webinar highlighting the 2024 Annual Results Report of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage and what action is needed to end child marriage by 2030.

[Register](#)



**ZONTA** INTERNATIONAL IN SUPPORT OF **unicef** **USA**

Save the Date  
**Global Programme to End Child Marriage Webinar**

Join us for a special webinar highlighting the 2024 Annual Results Report of the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

Together, we'll reflect on lessons learned, celebrate successes, and look ahead to the bold action needed to end child marriage by 2030.

October 6, 2025  
11:00 AM CT

## "Audit the World" for International Day of the Girl

Girls face numerous barriers like limited education, unequal

opportunities, unsafe environments and harmful stereotypes. This International Day of the Girl, **11 October**, Zonta International invites you to take action for a brighter future for girls everywhere. Partner with Z and Golden Z clubs or young people to spotlight challenges, raise awareness and hold leaders accountable. Check out the photos on the right for inspiration.

**How to participate:**

1. **Share a problem.** Describe one issue affecting girls in your community and send a summary and photo to [pr@zonta.org](mailto:pr@zonta.org).
2. **Tag and share.** Post on social media, tagging @zontaintl and local leaders who can help.
3. **Take it further.** Request meetings, interview leaders, create posters, or write an op-ed.
4. **Show the impact.** Send us a photo of you advocating for your issue.
5. Submit your entry to [pr@zonta.org](mailto:pr@zonta.org) by **3 October 2025**.



## Watch on demand now

### Share your Story Festival



We thank everyone who was able to attend the virtual festival and appreciate their patience during our technical difficulties. Please watch the recording in its entirety.

Watch now

### Zonta & UNICEF Virtual Experience



Learn from UNICEF staff about the impact of Laaha: A safe space for women and girls and the lifesaving resources available to women and girls in conflict areas.

Watch Session

1

Watch Session 2



**Congratulations to the 2025 Add Your Voice**

## Winners

The efforts of our members during the Add Your Voice membership campaign demonstrate the incredible power of diverse perspectives in advocating for meaningful change. By uniting our voices and sharing our stories, we amplify our collective mission to empower women and girls. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's membership campaign!



Meet the winners

## CSW70 Orientation Session

Join Zonta's UN Committee Chair, Pamela Morgan, on 9 October 2025 to learn about how the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) operates, what you should know before the event, how to participate as a Zontian and what to expect at CSW70, which will take place 9-20 March 2026.

Register



### STAY CONNECTED ABOUT CSW!



JOIN THE MAILING LIST



## Meet this month's Remarkable Woman: Shonda Rushing



**Shonda Rushing** met with Lynne Foley OAM, host of the Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories podcast, to share that no matter where you live, the values you carry with you are what shape your life. Through her experiences, Shonda continues to thrive and inspire by leading with respect, embracing forgiveness and treating others with the love they deserve.



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

## Congratulations to our club anniversaries this month!



**Zonta Club of Hilo**  
USA, District 9  
**75th anniversary**

**Zonta Club of Dakar**  
Senegal, District 18  
**55th anniversary**

**Zonta Club of Rheingau-Rheinessen Area**  
Germany, District 28  
**45th 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](#).

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## 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  
16 years

**Congratulations to Phyllis Rinck**  
Human Resources & Accounting  
Senior Coordinator  
7 years

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## Important Dates and Events

- 18 September: [International Equal Pay Day](#)
  - 6 October: [Zonta + UNICEF Virtual Experience](#)
  - 9 October: CSW70 Orientation Session
  - 11 October: [International Day of the Girl](#)
  - 15 October: Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award International Deadline
  - 24 October: [UN Day](#)
  - 8 November: Happy 106th Birthday, Zonta!
  - 9 November: [Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tank](#)
  - 15 November: Amelia Earhart Fellowship application deadline.
  - 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
  - 25 November - 10 December: [Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women/ 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence](#)
  - 10 December: [Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Online Summit](#)
- 



[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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