

2014–2016 BIENNIUM • ISSUE TWO • MAY 2015

The Zontian

The Voice of Zonta International



LIVING UP TO OUR MISSION THROUGH SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

Conviction—Commitment—Courage



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

**ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS**

Welcome from the Staff

Zonta International Headquarters, located in Oak Brook, Illinois, is a staff of 14 full-time employees that manages the day-to-day operations of Zonta International and supports the Zonta International Board in implementing policies and programs to further the objectives of Zonta International.

Our friendly, capable staff is ready to assist you!

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If you are visiting the Chicago area, we invite you to visit Headquarters. Enjoy a tour of our offices and see artifacts from Zonta's 96-year history. To schedule a visit, please call 1.630.928.1400 or stop by our offices during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST.

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Above—After completing the Voices Against Violence curriculum, participants are expected to develop an advocacy campaign or community-based project to prevent a specific form of violence that they have identified as a priority. In this photo, girl guides from Nigeria learn how to develop an advocacy campaign using non-formal educational activities. Photo: UN Women/Urjasi Rudra

Cover—"Voices against Violence" curriculum training in India. Photo: UN Women/Urjasi Rudra

Allison Summers, Executive Director; Megan Radavich, Director of Programs and Advocacy; Sarah Stec, Graphic Designer

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Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard

When we all live out our mission through service and advocacy, we contribute to sustainable change for women and girls in our local communities and around the world.

A MESSAGE FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT MARIA JOSE LANDEIRA OESTERGAARD

Dear Zontians and Friends of Zonta,

Empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy—This is our mission!

A mission we share because we believe that women's rights are human rights and as such shall be acknowledged and respected. And because we are convinced that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to sustainable global change.

Yet, how do we live up to our mission in our districts, Zonta clubs and daily lives?

As President of Zonta International, I am encouraged and inspired by the actions I see taken by Zonta clubs and individual members. Last November, I joined more than 100 Zontians for the NGO CSW Forum in Geneva; and, this March, I attended the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, where more than 70 other Zontians participated. At both these events, Zonta's advocacy efforts were strong thanks to the collective action and participation of Zontians from around the globe. Our message was clear: of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Zonta International's focus is on **Goal no. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls** because achieving this goal is a prerequisite to achieve any other goal.

During the 16 Days of Activism, our focus this biennium on prevention of the root causes of gender inequality and violence against women was reinforced through the hundreds of actions and activities organized by Zonta clubs as part of the third year of the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. These actions have begun to move from awareness to advocacy, and I am looking forward to the next phase of the campaign later this year.

At the local level, our club members devote their time, financial resources and talents to projects addressing the needs of women and girls in their local communities. These efforts have an immediate and lasting impact, not only for the women and girls who directly benefit, but for the larger community. Our international programs empower women with the skills and resources to improve their lives and realize their dreams, and, thereby, improve the lives of their children and families.

The combination of service and advocacy, global and local, is one of our strengths, and makes Zonta International so special and unique. When we all live out our mission through service and advocacy, we contribute to sustainable change for women and girls in our local communities and around the world.

As we approach the end of the first year of the biennium, I thank you all for your conviction, commitment and courage in living up to Zonta's mission through service and advocacy. Together we are achieving more!

Warm regards,

Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard

Conviction—Commitment—Courage

Strengthening Our Organization



President Maria Jose working with Senior Membership Associate Makeysha Durham-Diouf

The 2014-2016 Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation Boards, International Committees and Headquarters teams have focused their efforts during the first year of this biennium on work that will improve Zonta's governance and operations and put Zonta on a solid path for the future.

"Working in the board is active participation in the strategic planning for the future. Before taking decisions, we are having thorough discussions based on reports from task forces or individuals. No decision is taken lightly—we have been given the responsibility by our members to act on their behalf and we must always be accountable to them."
—Sonja Hönig Schough, President-Elect

Here are a few highlights of this important work.

UPDATING GOVERNING DOCUMENTS, POLICIES AND OPERATIONAL MANUALS

The design and content of the Zonta International manuals are being updated with a focus on the user experience ensuring easy and rapid access to relevant information and guidance. Only the most relevant and essential information will be included with supporting visuals to help the user find the information they need quickly and easily.

All Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation policies are being reviewed. Changes are being made to simplify policies and ensure accuracy and consistency.

IDENTIFYING, MONITORING AND MITIGATING RISKS

The Zonta International Board appointed a Risk Manager to assist the Board in a comprehensive organizational risk evaluation. This evaluation is helping the Board identify, monitor and mitigate risks to the organization. Risks are being monitored on an on-going basis by the Board and Headquarters team.

STRENGTHENING ALL THE LINKS

As liaisons to districts and committees, board members maintain open communication lines with the governors and committee chairmen, participate in committee teleconferences and other forms of electronic communication, are their voices at the board meetings and provide them the support needed.

REFRESHING OUR BRAND

To better reflect Zonta's mission throughout the world, the Zonta International Board approved a new mission, vision and theme, followed by new logos for Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation, districts and clubs, and a refreshed

organizational brand identity, which were rolled out in January. This work will ensure a unified identity through the Zonta world and will be reinforced by new print-on-demand tools that will be available for districts and clubs later this year.

DEVELOPING ZONTA LEADERS

The Zonta International Leadership Development Committee is working hard to lay a solid foundation for leadership training. A new learning management platform is being developed with current leaders offering suggestions of what is needed and what would work best for future Zonta leaders.

Two workshops have already been developed and offered—the first at the European InterDistrict Seminar in Brugge in February and the second, which will take place at the North American Inter-District Meeting in June in Minneapolis. Future leadership workshops will be recorded and available for district and clubs on the Zonta International website.

CONVENTIONS

The Board is working on both the 2016 and 2018 Zonta International Conventions to ensure attractive programs where members' voices are heard and their active participation in the decision making process is paramount. See more about the 2016 Convention inside this issue of *The Zontian*.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

The Zonta International and Zonta International Foundation Boards undertook a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation and key competitors. The results of this SWOT analysis are being used to complete a multi-year business plan for Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation.

Watch for additional updates from the Board, International Committees and Headquarters in the monthly Zonta International e-Newsletter. Sign up to receive the e-Newsletter at <http://www.zonta.org/EnewsletterSignUp.aspx>. ■



From left: Lori Montigel, Lee Fogarty, Linda Hiltabrand, Britt Gustawsson and Executive Director Allison Summers in Times Square for UN Women's March for Gender Equality

Zonta's Top 5 Moments from the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59)

IN MARCH, THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AND MEN CAME TOGETHER AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK FOR THE 59TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

For two weeks, governments, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and individuals reviewed the progress made toward gender equality 20 years after the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted. They noted progress in certain areas, while noting that no country in the world has yet to achieve gender equality.

From official events inside the UN to the hundreds of parallel events organized by NGOs as part of the NGO CSW Forum,

Zonta International advocated for women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. Here are just five highlights from an inspirational week of events and experiences.

BIENNIAL GOALS BEING REALIZED

At the 2014 Zonta International Convention in Orlando, Florida, last July, the Convention unanimously approved the proposed goals for the 2014-2016 Biennium. Advocacy was one of the three main goals for the Biennium, specifically to increase Zonta's activity at

the United Nations and Council of Europe and to influence UN and Council of Europe documents and actions.

Thanks to the combined efforts of the UN Committee, International President, President-Elect, Advocacy Chairman and Headquarters staff, Zonta's presence and participation at the CSW59 was stronger than ever and progress has been made toward achieving Zonta's advocacy goals this biennium.

1. WORK AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

- Prepared a written statement to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), calling on the Commission to address the root causes of gender inequality and violence against women through education and urging the UN General Assembly to adopt a strong and sustainable post-2015 development framework.
- Sent a response to the proposed working methods for the CSW, in which Zonta demanded the inclusion of experts from NGOs in high-level



Zontians working together at the Zonta Orientation prior to the start of CSW59 in New York

discussions and strong collaboration with NGOs for priority themes, review themes and emerging issues.

- Reviewed and commented multiple drafts of the Political Declaration prepared by the Ministers.

2. VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE

For the first time, Zonta International organized a side event inside the UN. Partnering with the Danish Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York, UN Women and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), Zonta presented the Voices Against Violence curriculum to a packed audience in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, emphasizing the power of education in preventing violence against women and girls.

Zonta International President Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard was joined by Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri, and WAGGGS delegate, Hannah Stanton, for a panel discussion on addressing violence against women and girls through non-formal education and youth leadership.

3. "COMBINING SERVICE AND ADVOCACY...A WINNING CONCEPT"

Zonta International President-Elect Sonja Hönig Schough delivered an oral statement on behalf of Zonta International to the Commission during the general discussion. In her statement, Sonja highlighted the Zonta International Foundation, noting that Zonta raises 5 million USD every biennium for projects that support and empower women and that Zonta International is the largest NGO supporter of UN Women. After highlighting a few of Zonta's projects and educational scholarships, Sonja closed the statement, saying, "Combining service and advocacy is a winning concept."

4. CONVICTION, COMMITMENT AND COURAGE

More than 70 Zontians from 15 countries participated in the CSW59. The conviction, commitment and courage they demonstrated, both individually and as a group, was felt throughout the week from the Zonta orientation session before the CSW began to the President's Dinner the last evening. Zontians

exemplified conviction, commitment and courage as they attended events and advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment both among other NGOs, as well as in meetings with the representatives of their national governments. Every Zontian that attended the CSW was an active participant and ensured that Zonta's voice was heard loud and clear.

5. ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Zonta's No. 5 moment of the CSW is Goal No. 5 of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls. Before the CSW officially started, the UN Committee in New York organized an orientation session for all Zontians attending the CSW. At that session, the proposed Goal No. 5 was written on the Board in the front of the room, and President Maria Jose asked the Zontians in attendance to remember Goal No. 5 throughout the week. That message carried through all the activities that followed and was emphasized again and again by Zontians in presentations and casual conversations.

• • •

The 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women concluded on 20 March; however, it was only the beginning of Zonta's advocacy efforts this biennium. The UN Committee and the International Board, assisted by Headquarters staff, will continue working to ensure Zonta's priorities are included in the post-2015 agenda and that the proposed Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 is prioritized. Gender equality and women's empowerment must be an integral part of the post-2015 global development agenda.

Watch for further updates on the Zonta International website and visit www.zonta.org/csw59 to learn more about Zonta's participation in CSW59 and to find out how every Zontian can contribute to sustainable development. ■



District 30 Area 05 Zontians present President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria with Declaration from the Geneva Forum and recommendations for action on the Beijing+20 Platform

A Life Free of Violence— A Call for Zonta Action!

MARGIT WEBJÖRN, ZI ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
KARIN NORDMEYER, ZI COUNCIL OF EUROPE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN BECAUSE THEY ARE WOMEN.

It's a global issue and takes many forms, rooted in our different cultures of inequality. It's not a women's issue; it's a societal issue. It prevails regardless of race, religion, income and other conditions. It's about power and control.

It's a serious violation of women's human rights. It's a shame to mankind.

Zonta International Strategies to end Violence Against Women, **ZISVAW**, is a major focus of our organization and will continue to be so. As always, our tools are service and advocacy:

- We help women through our service projects, locally and internationally.
- To bring about real change, it is time to also develop our **advocacy** actions at international, national, and community levels!

ADVOCACY FRAMEWORK

The **United Nations** provide the basic **Human Rights Framework** including the

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1976

THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION
What can Zonta districts and clubs do?



EDUCATE OURSELVES



SIGN & RATIFY

- Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, 1979.

Regional organizations have taken further steps to eradicate violence against women.

- In 1994, the Organization of American States, **OAS**, adopted the **Belém do Pará Convention** on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.
- In 2003, the **African Union** adopted the **Maputo Protocol**, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.
- On 1 August 2014, the **Council of Europe "Istanbul Convention"** entered into effect.

The Istanbul Convention is the most far-reaching international treaty upon which we can base our actions. Let us utilize this opportunity!

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE?

The Council of Europe, CoE, is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states (28 of which are members of the European Union) and some 820 million people share the commitment. Observer status is given to Canada, Holy See, Israel, Japan, Mexico and the USA.

The Council of Europe aims to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law. Its work leads to European conventions and agreements. Some of them, such as the Istanbul Convention, are open for signature by non-member states.

The voice of civil society is heard at the CoE! The introduction of 'participatory status' has enabled International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs) to actively participate in the work of the CoE. INGOs

enjoying participatory status—including Zonta International—make up the Conference of INGOs. It is recognized as an institution of the Council of Europe—with the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

To learn more about the CoE, visit www.coe.int/en.

WHAT IS THE ISTANBUL CONVENTION?

The CoE Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, CETS 210, adopted in Istanbul, is the first **legally binding instrument** in the world creating a comprehensive framework to **prevent violence**, to **protect victims**, to **prosecute perpetrators** and to implement state-wide **"integrated policies"** that are effective in preventing and combating all forms of violence against women.

The Convention also establishes a **mechanism to monitor its implementation** in each country. There will be a group of independent experts (GREVIO) and the Committee of the Parties, representing the countries that have become party to the Convention. On the basis of reports and country visits, the experts will monitor compliance with the Convention and, where necessary, help governments to improve its implementation. The Committee of the Parties can issue recommendations to the parties under review.

The Convention consists of 81 articles. For the first time, it defines various forms of violence against women, including forced marriage, female genital mutilation, forced abortions, sexual harassment, stalking, physical and psychological violence and sexual violence.

The Convention covers and criminalises all these forms of violence against women.

It shall apply in times of peace, and in situations of armed conflict.

Victims shall have access to information and support services.

Parties to the Convention shall also promote awareness-raising, education, and training of professionals dealing with violence against women and domestic violence.

"Added values" of the Istanbul Convention include:

- States are required to implement gender equality policies and to actively empower women;
- States are obliged to change laws, introduce practical measures, and allocate resources needed to comply with the convention.

At www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/convention-violence, you can find the entire convention text and other materials, including an informative leaflet available in various languages.

CAN A NON-EUROPEAN COUNTRY JOIN THE CONVENTION?

Yes! The Convention is now in force and open to accession by any country in the world, provided that the country has been formally invited to accede by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The procedure for the accession of a non-member state can be summarised as follows: it is customary for the non-member state to request accession in a letter addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe. Prior to acceding, the state has to take the necessary measures to ensure that its domestic law allows the Convention to be implemented. The Committee of Ministers will ask for contributions to finance the follow-up mechanism.

For details, visit www.conventions.coe.int/?pg=/general/IntroAccessNMS_en.asp.



EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICTS/AREAS SIGN AND RATIFY



NON-EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICTS/AREAS ACCEDE TO THE CONVENTION



ADVOCATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

ZONTA'S ROLE

Zonta International is proud to be an active participant in the work of the Council of Europe. **Note:** On behalf of the Conference of INGOs, Zonta's representative Karin Nordmeyer was on the committee preparing the text for the Istanbul Convention and following the monitoring process.

WHAT CAN ZONTA CLUBS AND DISTRICTS DO?

The Istanbul Convention is not an end in itself. It is a call to action, also by civil society. It offers a solid basis for Zonta advocacy. Suggested steps for actions:

1. Educate ourselves about the content of the Istanbul Convention.

Club boards and advocacy committees are advised to organize education/discussion at club meetings. Excellent materials are on the CoE website. See also the CoE page on the ZI website.

Districts boards are encouraged to take the lead and include training on the Istanbul Convention at area meetings and district conferences. Invite experts as speakers and organize workshops. Involve district advocacy committees and area directors in training.

Print out CoE information leaflets in applicable language. If needed, have the leaflet translated into your own language.

2. Signing/ratification

2a European Zonta districts/areas

Check if your country has signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention. If not, advocate to make this happen. You can find lists of countries on the CoE website.

2b Non-European Zonta districts/areas

Discuss how your country can accede to the Convention.

Advocate to make your country request accession.

2a and 2b

Utilize the expertise of district advocacy committees, and of other Zontians with legal knowledge, in planning your advocacy actions. National procedures before ratification differ, depending on legal systems. Letters/petitions must be sent to people who are in the right positions to handle the matter; otherwise, they are likely to be ignored.

Publish statements in important media to influence public opinion.

Cooperate with like-minded organizations when effective.

3. Advocate for implementation

Making the Istanbul Convention a reality requires a sustained effort to implement its provisions. Governments need not only to change laws and to strengthen law enforcement agencies. They also need to design and implement the policies required by the Convention, and tackle social and cultural patterns of behaviour that tolerate and deny violence against women.

Zontians should make plans to follow and actively monitor the process.

Again, cooperation with like-minded organizations may be effective.

Districts/Areas should act at **national level**.

First, use your communication channels to governments and point out the national problems and needs they need to address.

Later, monitor the implementation process and note its successes, failures and shortcomings. A country visit by the GREVIO will be known in advance and is a good time for Zontians to be active. The CoE implementation process is an open one. NGOs can complement information provided to the GREVIO by the states themselves. Ask the Zonta International CoE Subcommittee for information and advice as needed.

Clubs should monitor the process at

community level, where important parts of implementation take place. Clubs may also suggest coordinated Zonta efforts at district or area levels.

When planning for advocacy, involve members from different fields and invite experts to share the knowledge and experience needed.

THE 2015 ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CAMPAIGN

Hopefully, many clubs will engage in the campaign also in 2015. After a period of increased visibility and awareness-raising, some clubs have already taken the next steps and conducted excellent advocacy actions that will contribute to real change.

In the 2015 campaign, we take our advocacy actions to the next level: Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women—and **we know what to do about it!**

Whether you live in Europe or not, study the Istanbul Convention and use it as a basis for your advocacy actions. Women's and girls' conditions vary in the Zonta world. Clubs can identify the most important issues in their communities. The separate ZI campaign website gives ideas for advocacy actions and content, and more materials will be added as the 16 Days of Activism come closer.

Let's find more ways to advocate for **Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.**

Our aim for the 2015 campaign should be **Zonta Gets Results with Conviction—Commitment—Courage. ■**



MAKE PLANS,
FOLLOW AND
MONITOR PROCESS



DISTRICTS AND
AREAS ACT AT A
NATIONAL LEVEL



CLUBS MONITOR
PROCESS AT COM-
MUNITY LEVEL



Since 1923, Zonta International has contributed more than US\$16.5 million to international projects to empower women and girls and improve their lives, their families' lives, and the communities in which they live. This biennium alone, Zonta has committed US\$4.03 million to efforts to prevent the root causes of gender inequality and violence against women and girls through education. See how Zonta International is making a difference globally through its International Service Projects and Zonta International Strategies to end Violence against Women.

ZONTA DELIVERS: Empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy



Eliminating Obstetric Fistula in Liberia

Planned activities for the Liberia Fistula Project were suspended in the second half of 2014 due to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa; however, in December, the Liberia Fistula Project resumed full operations. Since then, two fistula patients were recruited, screened and surgically treated, joining the more than 1,000 women and girls who had already received treatment for obstetric fistula in Liberia, thanks to the partnership between Zonta International and UNFPA.

Advocacy work has also continued. The Liberia Fistula Project team trained 20 fistula survivors in advocacy, communication and counseling skills to serve as advocates themselves for fistula prevention sensitization and identification of new cases during and after the Ebola epidemic. These advocates reach out to their communities to help prevent fistula, thereby saving other women and girls from suffering the same fate. A community outreach and sensitization campaign reached more than 10,000 community members in three counties, supporting efforts to prevent fistula and identify women and girls for treatment.

The Liberia Fistula Project is a success story; however, there are approximately 600-1,000 new cases of obstetric fistula in Liberia every year and a backlog of more than 5,000 women and girls awaiting treatment and care. The support of Zonta clubs and Zontians around the globe ensures that UNFPA can continue this life-changing work in Liberia.



Delaying Early Marriage in Niger

Zonta International is partnering with UNFPA to delay early marriage and reduce early pregnancy in Niger as part of UNFPA's global five-year Adolescent Girls Initiative. The project will reach 25,000 adolescent girls this biennium with 400,000 members of their communities also benefiting from increased awareness.

The Adolescent Girls Initiative in Niger consists of six steps.

1. Identify priority areas where child marriage rate is high and contraception rate is low.
2. Select beneficiaries, girls aged 10-19, who have never been to school or dropped out, and/or are vulnerable to forced marriage, early pregnancy and violence.
3. Define a safe space where the girls are welcome to receive the non-formal education sessions.



“I decided to return to school so I can have the knowledge that I lost or that I never had, because I was removed from school and forced into marriage. I would like to be a nurse so I can treat people who are suffering.”

—Layla Gouzae, 19 years old

4. Identify and train mentors to train and follow the adolescents as their role models.
5. Offer a holistic package of activities, including life skills lessons, literacy classes, health check-ups, birth certificates, home visits and community dialogues.
6. Ensure monitoring and evaluation of the program.

A pilot phase of the program conducted last year targeted 1,557 girls in four regions, of whom 1,469 completed the program. The girls attended life skills sessions and literacy classes, and 65 percent of the girls received health checks. As a result of these activities, girls improved their health knowledge and financial literacy and are more confident and better able to resist early and forced marriage. Their parents also changed their perceptions of the girls, and communities have started a dialogue on early marriage, which is normally a taboo subject.

Lessons learned and challenges identified during this pilot phase, including targeting of communities and recruitment of girls, selection and training of staff, community mobilization and involvement of men, coordination between different program actors, and strengthening of the monitoring system, are being used now to make improvements for the program's scale-up.



“As a peer educator, I was introduced to a pregnant woman who had just received a positive HIV test... She kept saying she had no wish to live... It was really hard but as I continued visiting her and sharing my own experience, she started responding positively and agreed to go back to the health center and to start her medication.”

—Christine, Peer Educator

Achieving an HIV-free Generation in Rwanda

Efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV and gender-based violence in Rwanda have been very successful, thanks to the partnership between Zonta International and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. With Zonta's support, UNICEF has trained community health care workers, produced program tools and community mobilization techniques and supported HIV testing and counseling, reaching young people and families with HIV prevention messages and services and improving awareness around elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

As a result of this work, 97 percent of health facilities now provide antenatal retroviral treatment for PMTCT (an increase of 5 percent from the previous year) and more than 13,000 women and partners are enrolled in PMTCT services. Eighty-nine (89) percent of HIV-infected mothers are receiving antenatal retroviral treatment (up from 62 percent the previous year), and more than 440 health facilities can now collect blood samples for early infant diagnosis for children born to HIV-positive mothers. All of these efforts have resulted in a reduction in new pediatric HIV infections, putting Rwanda on track to reach the national target of less than 2 percent HIV transmission at 18 months of age this year. With an eye to the future, adolescent friendly services are now also a key component of the program with more than 7,000 beneficiaries, aged 10 to 19 years.

Prevention of gender-based violence is the other primary focus of Zonta's support of UNICEF in Rwanda. Over the last two years, Zonta has enabled UNICEF to support the Government of Rwanda's efforts to improve services to victims of gender-based violence by strengthening the quality of services provided through the One Stop Center (OSC) model and implementing the National Scale Up strategy. The OSC model was established to provide free services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. They operate a free 24-hour hotline for help, protection from further violence, investigation of crimes, collection of forensic evidence, and medical and psychosocial care and support. Based on the success of the OSC pilot models supported by Zonta International, the Government of Rwanda will establish 40 new OSCs in province and district hospitals, providing full coverage to the country.





Students in Le Loi secondary school participating in the game "Ring the Golden Bell" answering questions related to the Gender Responsive School Model Project.

"I am glad to see Nu accepted my consultation with a constructive attitude. Three weeks after Nu's incident, Nu came to me to return the books. She said that she was more relieved and dared to face Hai. She no longer had the thought of giving up school. Other teachers also informed us that Nu became more concentrated on studying. In the latest meeting with Nu, I found Nu was very open and happy. She said she had talked to her classmates about the advantages of sharing their worries to the school-counsellor. In the position of a counselor, there is no better reward for us than seeing and hearing such things."

—A psycho-social counsellor at the Phuong-Trung Secondary School

Supporting Gender Responsive Schools in Vietnam

Gender-based violence in and around schools is highly prevalent in Vietnam and is one of the main barriers to girls' empowerment and gender equality. In order to prevent violence, Plan Vietnam, a UN Trust Fund grantee, with the support of Zonta International, is promoting a model of safe, accountable and child-friendly schools where adolescent girls and boys receive a quality education in an environment free of gender-based violence. Working in 20 lower and upper secondary schools across Hanoi, the Gender Responsive School Pilot Model project aims to create a school environment for adolescent girls and boys that ensures that they feel safe and able to realize their full potential.

Plan Vietnam engages youth using a gender transformative approach to enable them to recognize and challenge inequitable gender norms and the use of violence in their everyday lives. The curriculum is developed with the active and meaningful involvement of students. To date, Plan Vietnam has trained 450 youth leaders on leadership and innovative communication skills. As a result, 20 school-wide events were successfully initiated on school-related gender-based violence that were covered by 36 local newspapers and radio programs.

In each school, the project also trained teachers to build their perspectives on gender and violence, providing them with skills and resources needed to prevent and respond to violence in their school. The trainings equipped nearly 500 teachers with knowledge on gender and gender-based violence enabling them to deliver participatory classroom sessions on key project themes. Post-training test results found an increase in the teachers' knowledge of up to 30 percent. Plan Vietnam also developed comprehensive teacher manuals covering a range of issues concerning school-related gender-based violence. By September 2014, the teacher manuals were being used in the project's 20 target schools and rolled out in classroom sessions to over 16,000 adolescent girls and boys.

Plan Vietnam has also started to roll out a response mechanism on school-related gender-based violence by establishing school counseling services in 20 schools. The project worked with the Faculty of Psychology at the Hanoi Teacher University to develop guidance on setting up the school-based counseling services and 20 school counselors were equipped with knowledge and counseling skills. To date, 366 students including 196 girls have visited the school counseling offices to seek psycho-social support and assistance.



Amplifying Voices Against Violence

A new partnership between Zonta International, UN Women and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is engaging youth through Voices Against Violence, a non-formal education programme for young people, ages 5 to 25, to prevent and address gender discrimination and violence against women and girls. Zonta International's support of this project will fund four regional training workshops, the first of which was held in Pune, India in December 2014 and the second, which was held in Zambia in April 2015.

Forty-six (46) trainers from seven countries (Fiji, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines and Sri Lanka) participated in the first workshop in India, and another 46 trainers from Denmark, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa and Zambia attended the second workshop in Zambia. Each of those trainers, in turn, is expected to run national trainings that will train at least 30 additional leaders to deliver the Voices against Violence curriculum to young people in their home countries. Zonta International is supporting 12 countries in particular in their roll-out efforts, namely Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malawi, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, the United States and Zambia.



Photo: UN Women/Ujasi Rudra

What constitutes a healthy or an unhealthy relationship? Participants examine photos, interpret the stories behind them, and hang them on the clothesline to demonstrate and discuss the spectrum.

For more of Edith's story, visit:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/4/in-the-words-of-edith-chukwu-i-want-to-see-a-world-free-of-violence-against-women-and-girls>

Your gifts to the Zonta International Foundation support Zonta's work to empower women and girls worldwide. Make a donation today at zonta.org/donate

The five-day long training consisted of the following sessions:

- Exploring gender-based violence
- WAGGGS' Stop the Violence: speak out for girls' rights campaign
- The Voices against Violence curriculum
- Facilitation skills and group dynamics
- Myths, harmful beliefs and diversity
- Child Protection and handling disclosures
- Advocacy
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- National planning

Now that I have been trained to deliver the Voices against Violence curriculum, I can pass on the knowledge that I've gained to others. When I return to my country after this workshop, I will train 13 national trainers who represent the 13 districts in my State. Through the non-formal education activities provided by this curriculum, by the end of next year I will be able to inform and empower some 1,500 girls between the ages of 6 to 25, some of whom may not even be able to attend school, to learn about their rights and break the silence about violence. It's the first step towards ending violence against women and girls.

—Edith Chukwu, 29 years old, a Girl Guide from Ebonyi, Nigeria

A post-workshop survey from the first training event indicated that at least 40 of the 45 participants who completed the survey (89 percent) showed improved knowledge, awareness and attitudes. The survey results suggest that participants specifically improved their perception and understanding of violence against women and girls, gender discrimination, gender stereotypes and gender inequality. They also exhibited positive attitudes in seeing men and boys as being part of the solution.

Past International Director Dilruba Ahmed participated in an expert panel, and District 25 Governor Mahazaver Dalaal and members from Zonta clubs in Mumbai also attended as observers. Watch for additional updates on the second workshop in Zambia on the Zonta International website and in the Zonta International e-Newsletter. ■



Conviction Commitment Courage



Attracting New Members with Conviction, Commitment and Courage

ANNETTE BINDER, CHAIRMAN,
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Zonta Club of Punta del Este-Maldonado

was chartered in 1990 with 25 members and in 2014 they had 63 members and are still growing. They had and have very enthusiastic members that work with deep conviction that Zonta's work makes the difference in the lives of women in their community. That enthusiasm is contagious. The club has important service and advocacy projects focused in issues relevant to society. The Zonta Center for legal and psychological support to women victims of domestic violence has given high visibility and local authorities gives them support and encourage their actions. In every Zonta club activity there is always written or oral press and it is also important the fact that other social organizations are linked. People like to support successful, visible and enthusiastic organizations.

—Adriana Otero

Representative Region South America

WHAT ATTRACTS NEW MEMBERS? WHY DO THEY JOIN ZONTA? IS THERE THE ONE AND ONLY RECIPE? CLEARLY NOT, BUT THERE ARE SOME MAJOR AND PRACTICAL INGREDIENTS FOR EVERYBODY'S USE.

Why a new member joins Zonta depends on the person's situation in life, and on expectations and emotions. For instance, how welcomed the person feels in a Zonta club. In our surveys, new members reported back that when entering Zonta they especially appreciated informational meetings in a smaller or private setting, a club handbook with facts regarding the Zonta organization, including information about the club's members and its traditions. And one other note: to have a Zontian mentor assigned also after admission to the club! No magic formula here!

We asked our 36 successful clubs that had gained more than 10 members since May 2014: What is your key to success? The answers circled around attractive public events for visibility, the club offering a broad variety of professions and ages for networking, involving the new members in work from the beginning and offering inspiring club meetings. For fundraising, some clubs have been performing regular seminars for women on topics supporting their professional or personal development ("Empowering women"). Everybody can participate, and some of the participants became new Zontians! No magic either!

We are attracting and keeping new members when they feel accepted in our circle

of friends, when we show our confidence by giving them responsibility and by showing our appreciation for their work.

In the International Membership Committee we are now at 17 members from the three large regions in Zonta: Europe and Africa; North and South America; and Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Varying interactive teams of these regions have been working closely together on several topics.

For instance, we have been working on a new Membership Recognition Program including recognition at Convention in Nice! This program is to acknowledge those Zontians, clubs and districts that will have achieved striking success this biennium in attracting new members. Just to thank them on behalf of all of us!

The International Membership Committee works together with Headquarters and the district membership committees, and cooperates with other Zonta International committees. We altogether strive to facilitate the work of our members and clubs. We have been preparing specific membership data, made evaluations and revisions, a guideline to create district membership plans, a tool to assess the vitality of clubs for specific support, performed district reviews with Governors and Lt. Governors, and more.

This kind of work you mostly cannot see and it does not directly attract one single new member. However, it has to be done to facilitate functioning of our organization, to keep Zonta up to date and attractive and to focus input of time, energy and finances of our volunteer officers and members.

New members are finally attracted and kept in Zonta by the way we deal with them individually and how we present ourselves to them. Note: to them, we are Zonta! Meaning that as Zontians we are authentic to others by showing:

- our Conviction toward Zonta's mission,
- our Commitment for Zonta's projects,
- our Courage when taking up new challenges that are difficult or topics that can be unpleasant,
- our Pride in belonging to Zonta!

New challenges: we are striving to found E-Clubs around the world in order to overcome geographic distances but also to attract and bind younger women who cannot regularly attend club meetings. There are several initiatives for E-Clubs in our organization in all regions. Should you know a woman who is interested to join a Zonta E-Club, please inform us—maybe a former awardee, Golden Z Club member or a Zontian's relative?

Another challenge is building new clubs in new countries (or former Zonta countries), presently in Israel (Jerusalem), Tunisia, Mexico (Mexico City), and Peru. Again, should you know potential members in these countries, please turn to us.

The same is true for the more than 20 new clubs in formation—please look at zonta.org under Membership Tools. Maybe you know somebody who would like to join these initiatives?

What makes Zonta especially attractive as compared to other service organizations? The secret is in our closeness, our short communication lines, the experience of Zonta's internationality at district level. Moreover, our clubs vote directly at Zonta business meetings: area meetings, district conferences, and conventions. Zonta is a small and direct democracy which is unique among all service organizations!

In a democracy, however, new ideas and changes are subject to discussion and reflection taking our time and energy. Think of the bylaws sessions at conferences or conventions... However, building a modern service organization, attractive for new members sharing our Conviction, Commitment and Courage is a great opportunity to achieve together for the women of the world! ■



Lahti Zonta Club has new, active members in our group. We pay attention to the atmosphere of our monthly meetings and rise up interesting themes concerning girls and women. We have noticed that when club members feel the Zonta work both important and enjoyable, they are willing to invite also new members to the club.

One of our main fundraising means is seminars, that we organize twice a year. Several women who have taken part in these seminars, have there also got a touch of Zonta-spirit, and have later wanted to join the club.

The Club starts each new Zonta year with a special meeting where all the members wear hats.

—Marja Kijärvi-Pihkala, President,
Zonta Club of Lahti

Transferring the Zonta Spirit to the Next Generation



What started almost two years ago as a small idea among Victoria Habel and her friends turned into a reality when, in May 2014, the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse, Germany, chartered, becoming the first Golden Z Club in Germany since the Z and Golden Z Club Program's inception in 1948.

"My friends and I thought it was time to expand and build young clubs in Europe and transfer the Zonta spirit into the next generation," says Habel, founding president of the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse.

"It was essential to find motivated, dedicated and creative companions who were committed to giving women worldwide a brighter future," explains Habel.

Meet the 11 members of the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse, Germany

Annelie Siemsen, Current President

Annelie is studying at the Bucerius Law School and preparing for the first State Examination. During her semester abroad, she spent five months in Shanghai visiting

Fudan University. Besides studying, she enjoys sailing.

Victoria Habel, Founding President

Victoria is a student at Asklepios Campus Hamburg of the Semmelweis University, studying human medicine with a specialty in surgery. Here, she is the student president representing her fellow students in matters of improving the state of the university.

Zoë Andreae

Zoë studies at EBS University. During her studies, she spent a semester abroad in Paris, worked at a logistics company in Shanghai, and was engaged in a local German association for elderly people. In her free time, she enjoys taking photographs of urban scenes, landscapes and interesting structures.

Jana Bartels

Jana is a student of the molecular life sciences at the University in Hamburg. Her passion is philosophy and she spends her free time reading philosophy books. When she is not

reading, she is outside exploring hidden places, meeting people and stories—not only in Hamburg, but around the world.

Annett Frömelt

Annett Frömelt is a student at the academy of management and economic at VWA Aktuell in Hamburg. In addition to her studies, Annett works as a buyer for home textiles.

Maria Hübener

Maria Hübener graduated from Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen, Germany receiving a bachelor's degree in Corporate Management and Economics. In the fall of 2015, Maria is planning to begin a master's program in management. In her free time, Maria is passionate about running and has a great interest in English literature.

Hannah Modi

Hannah studies at Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany. In her free time she enjoys playing sports, especially running and volleyball.



Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse member Zoë Andreae (right) and club sponsor Dr. Ingke Andreae at the club's charter ceremony.

GOLDEN Z CLUB SPONSOR MAKES AN IMPACT

"Without the help and mentoring of our club sponsor, Dr. Ingke Andreae, none of our achievements, and our club's mere existence would have been possible. We are deeply thankful for her constant assistance and motivation, and her innovative and future-oriented mindset, as well as her inspiring vision for the interaction of Z clubs, Golden Z clubs and Zonta clubs worldwide."

—Zoë Andreae, member of the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse, and Victoria Habel, Founding President of the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse

Sophia Ruiz

Sophia is studying law at Bucerius Law School. She loves to travel and has studied in Israel, Bangladesh and Australia. She is the student coordinator of the voluntary legal consulting at her church, where people in need can ask lawyers for legal advice.

Larissa Skarke

Larissa is a student at Bucerius Law School. Her studies have included an internship and a semester abroad in New York and New Orleans. Besides studying, Larissa enjoys participating in track and field.

Laura Szlang

Laura Szlang is a second-year medicine student at the Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Poland. Laura spent four months in Oxford, U.K. to improve her English skills and then completed a three-month internship in Hamburg, Germany to get experience prior to her medical studies. Laura enjoys playing the piano and running in the countryside.

Clara Volwahn

Clara is a graduate of the Ludwig-Maximilians University Law School in Munich, Germany and the Tulane University Law School in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. She is currently undergoing two years of training as a lawyer at the Higher Regional Court in Hamburg.

SERVICE AND ADVOCACY PROJECTS AT-A-GLANCE

In line with Zonta International's mission of empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy, the purpose of the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse is to give young female academics the opportunity to exchange their experiences, to broaden their horizons and to build a strong network for themselves.

Since November 2013, members have been meeting every month to provide a platform for this exchange. Inspired by Zonta International's global service projects, members contribute to giving women in Hamburg a brighter future by implementing several short-term, as well as long-term, projects in cooperation with various institutions.

Turning the Streets of Hamburg Orange

In partnership with the Zonta Club of Hamburg-Hanse, Germany, the Golden Z club members participated in a Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign flash mob. Members of the Golden Z Club of Hamburg-Hanse and various Zonta clubs carried orange umbrellas and opened them up at noon at a specified point in Hamburg's city center, where they caught the attention of many people and tourists.

Golden Z Club member Zoë Andreae says, "Afterward, we had tables where we provided information about Zonta and the Zonta Say NO to Violence Against Women campaign to anyone interested. It was a great atmosphere!"

Empowering Young Girls Through Education

Golden Z club members knew right away that empowering young girls was something everyone was passionate about. After learning about Mädchentreff Ottensen, a center for young girls that offers open and supervised care, they decided to organize a bake sale to raise funds for an educational trip that will inspire, educate and empower the girls from the center.

Looking to the Future

One of the long-term goals of the Golden Z club members is to develop a project that connects students with professional women in their prospective career fields. Their hope is to create an inter-generational exchange through idea sharing. This exchange would involve educational, career and life advice.

"With this project, we want to activate the potential currently not used and, moreover, give socially disadvantaged children, or children whose parents work full time, the access to a higher-level education", explains Golden Z Club member Zoë Andreae. ■



1920

1929

1939

1949

1959

Only 4 Years to Our Centennial Anniversary!

IT SEEMS FITTING THAT THE PROPOSED THEME FOR OUR CENTENNIAL IS "100 YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN".

The Cover Story Our journey in Zonta can be found in exquisite detail in issues of 'The Zontian' Magazine, which was first published in June 1920. Issues from 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 and 2009.

The history of Zonta is rich in stories of our service and advocacy. Since the very first meeting in Buffalo, New York, our leaders and members have pursued a wide yet focused program to empower women worldwide.

We have supported women in impoverished circumstances, giving them hope of a better life. We have provided award and scholarship funds for women of extraordinary potential, enabling them to realize their ambitions and benefit humanity.





100 TOP IDEAS FOR 2019

Eighty-eight ideas to promote and celebrate our centennial year were generated during a brief 'brainstorming' session at ZI Headquarters; with your help we would like to make that 100!

We're considering celebrations internally, externally and globally if possible, through partnerships, advocacy, events, public relations and marketing. Could we, for instance, set a World Record or have Zonta Day declared in all our major cities where Zonta thrives? Create a list of the top 100 influential women of the last 100 years, globally?

We know that some clubs and districts have already planned special events. Please share your plans and top ideas with us through centennial@zonta.org. We are eager to hear from you!

OUR ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

Thanks to our archivists and historians in clubs and districts worldwide, volunteers and staff at Headquarters, we are on target to have archival materials ready for the Zonta history.

If you would like to nominate qualified researchers, authors or publishers for consideration, please provide their contact details to Executive Director Allison Summers at asummers@zonta.org as soon as possible. Thank you. ■



THE AMY LAI ZONTA BROOCH COLLECTION

The very first donation to our centennial celebrations is unique. The Amy Lai Zonta Brooch Collection is at Headquarters, awaiting display and further items from Amy through to 2019.

Many of our readers will know Amy, but may not be aware of her devotion to Zonta. Amy joined the Zonta Club of Taipei 1 in District 26 in 1978, served as District 26 Governor 1996-1998, served five years as a member of the ZIF Board and has since contributed to Zonta's international committees for many biennia. A five-diamond pin level donor, Amy understands how important contributions are, from districts and individuals, to accomplish Zonta's biennial goals.

Amy owns a horticultural company focusing on importing and exporting seeds, seedlings and plants to countries in Asia, Europe and America. With her Zonta Brooch Collection, Amy has sown the seeds for our anniversary celebrations in 2019. Thank you, Amy!

"I started to collect Zonta brooches in 1990. When I attend District 26 and District 31 conferences and area meetings I will buy brooches ... I would like to donate the most beautiful ones to Zonta so that Zontians can also enjoy the Collection when they visit Headquarters."

—Amy Lai

International Honorary Members are invited in recognition of achievement to advance the status of women, beyond the national level. We hope that their names will provide increased visibility and credibility to Zonta. Can they help Zonta more actively?

International Honorary Member **CAROLYN HANNAN** agreed to discuss this topic with Past International President Margit Webjörn. This biennium, Carolyn has given valuable information to Zonta regarding United Nations processes.

How Do International Honorary Members Help Us Fulfill the Zonta Mission?

"The prevalence of stereotypes hinders the effective implementation of many good laws and curtails the structural changes required for gender equality. There are serious and increasing threats to women's rights in many parts of the world. We must continue to be vigilant to ensure that we do not go backwards and face a reversal of what we achieved in Beijing."

Margit Webjörn (MW): ZI Honorary Members have a wealth of knowledge and experience. We may have been shy to ask for their support. What are your comments?

Carolyn Hannan (CH): It is a privilege to be invited to Honorary Membership of Zonta International. Zonta obviously selects Honorary Members on the basis of their knowledge, experience, capacity and commitment and should therefore not hesitate to try to take advantage of this whenever possible. I believe that Honorary Members would accept and even expect that their knowledge and experience would be utilized.

MW: In what contexts do you think the expertise of Honorary Members can improve Zonta's work?

CH: Honorary Members come with a wide range of knowledge and skills. They can presumably be mobilized to support Zonta in all areas of its work, in advocacy as well as service. What exactly different Honorary Members can do will depend on their specific knowledge, experience and capacities.

They could be called on for support at different levels—for example, supporting the international president but also where possible supporting the work of districts and individual clubs.

Honorary Members can be enlisted to provide comments on documents; they can give information on critical issues; they can make presentations at international conventions and also where feasible at district conferences and club meetings; they can write articles for the magazine; and support Zonta in its work in the UN.

MW: You know NGOs and you know Zonta well. What would be your advice on how to focus our work?

CH: Zonta can play a key role in keeping the spotlight on critical issues such as violence against women. Also important is keeping the link between international issues and the local level.

NGOs play an important role in holding governments accountable for the commitments they make internationally. This does not need to be costly—local bureaucrats and/or politicians can be invited to regular meetings to provide briefings.

Zonta clubs could take more advantage of the expertise available, not least in cities with universities. Clubs can also create fora for discussions on women's issues, for example, open public seminars at the local library to which researchers are invited. There are not many opportunities for interested citizens to take part in such discussions.

Internal education is important. Groups of members who have more time could take responsibility for developing knowledge on relevant issues and feeding this back to the full

membership. This would be useful also to develop more in-depth knowledge of international service projects and programs for which clubs raise funds.

MW: You have special expertise in the work of the UN. There is a very large number of NGOs, trying to influence that work. Can an individual NGO make a difference?

CH: On their own, organizations have only a small voice. Zonta should be an active member of relevant networks and coalitions, for example, to contribute to and influence the development of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

However, there is a lot Zonta can do on its own to get the most out of the consultative status with ECOSOC (the UN Economic and Social Council).

Zonta can continue submitting written statements in advance to CSW, the Commission on the Status of Women, for its annual session. Such statements should be clear and concise. They are translated into the six UN languages.

Zontians attending the CSW should be well prepared. During negotiations, Zonta can seek out key allies among States and provide key points in written form. Interesting parallel events can be fruitful, especially if organized inside the UN building. At events, we should try not only to describe our own work but to encourage exchange of ideas and raise the level of debate.

A good opportunity for Zonta is also utilizing the process with CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. States which have ratified the Convention submit a report every four years. This is reviewed by the independent CEDAW Committee of experts and the results are made publically available. Zontians in respective countries can follow this process, discuss the government reports as well as NGO shadow reports, and then discuss the outcome of the Committee's review. Open public meetings on this can then be organized—this could be outstanding advocacy work.

continued ...



Born and educated in Australia, **Carolyn Hannan** went to work as a volunteer with women's groups in Tanzania in the early 1970s. She then moved to Sweden, where she researched women and development and received her Ph.D. in Social and Economic Geography at the University of Lund.

Carolyn went back to Africa and worked on women and development at the University of Dar es Salaam before joining the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and working as a Gender Equality Officer in the Dar es Salaam office. On return to Sweden, she was Senior Policy Adviser at Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Stockholm and was also a member of an expert group on the gender mainstreaming strategy advising the Ministry of Gender Equality. Carolyn was Chairperson of the Working Group on Gender Equality at the OECD/DAC in Paris in the mid 1990s. She then moved to New York to work on gender mainstreaming at the United Nations. In 2001, she was appointed Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women (now merged with other bodies into UN Women) with responsibility for support to policy work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the human rights work of the CEDAW Committee. She held that post until her retirement in 2009. Her experience covers advocacy and policy development for gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment, as well as methodology and competence development for gender mainstreaming.

Carolyn took an active part in UN World Conferences on Women in Copenhagen, Nairobi and Beijing. She is currently working as Associate Professor at the University of Lund. Carolyn Hannan accepted Honorary Membership of Zonta International in 2010.

MW: This year, the CSW gathered on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. NGOs were disappointed with the adopted Political Declaration. What are your comments?

CH: The adoption in 1995 of the Beijing Platform for Action was a major step forward and there was great optimism for the future. Unfortunately, a very conservative global political environment developed shortly afterwards. There have been no negotiations of a new action plan. Rather than risk losing what we gained in Beijing, the focus of the CSW over the past two decades has been on following up and reviewing implementation and sharing experiences and good practice. There has been a commitment among progressive Member States not to lose anything achieved and this has resulted in keeping to 'agreed language' from Beijing, especially on sensitive issues such as reproductive health and rights.

As a result, the outcome this year was another Political Declaration, basically requesting States to re-commit to what they agreed 20 years ago.

Gender equality has not been achieved by any country today. There has been progress, but it has been slow and uneven, across issues and across regions. Serious challenges exist in the low participation of women in parliaments, the persistence of violence against women, the unequal sharing of unpaid work and inequality in employment. The prevalence of stereotypes hinders the effective implementation of many good laws and curtails the structural changes required for gender equality. There are serious and increasing threats to women's rights in many parts of the world. We must continue to be vigilant to ensure that we do not go backwards and face a reversal of what we achieved in Beijing.

MW: We thank Carolyn Hannan for sharing her thoughts with us. Let's strengthen our efforts to empower women through service and advocacy. ■

MEMBERSHIP



Embrace your Conviction of Zonta values, share your Commitment to empower women worldwide, and gain the Courage to ask peers to join our mission.

The new **CONVICTION—COMMITMENT—COURAGE** Membership Recognition Program distinguishes members, clubs and districts that successfully recruit and maintain membership.

Individual Zontians, clubs and districts, who take on this challenge, will be recognized and rewarded for their successful achievement of the 2014-2016 Zonta International membership goals at the 2016 Convention in Nice, France.



Learn more at: www.zonta.org/ClubsLeadership/Tools/MembershipTools.aspx

63RD ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Bienvenue à Nice.

Empowering Women—
TOGETHER!



2–6 July 2016

Nice is a beautiful and vibrant city, the perfect venue for a Zonta International Convention. Come to Nice to:

- **CELEBRATE** Zonta's successes
- **HAVE A VOICE** in Zonta's decision-making process
- **PARTICIPATE** in workshops about Zonta's future
- **BENEFIT** from leadership training opportunities

ENJOY ZONTA FELLOWSHIP • EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE • EXPLORE NICE





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DONATE NOW!



zonta.org

Welcome to the Zonta International family!

The Zonta International Community extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta clubs and Z and Golden Z clubs, chartered since September 2014.

ZONTA CLUBS

4 new clubs

- Zonta Club of Landshut
District 14, Area 3
- Zonta Club of Cotonou Amazone
District 18, Area 3
- Zonta Club of Bangkok X
District 17, Area 6
- Zonta Club of Nurmijarvi
District 20, Area 5

Z CLUBS

13 new Z clubs

- Malden Z Club, District 1, Area 4
- Stephen Lewis Secondary
School Z Club, District 4, Area 2

- Olean High School, District 4, Area 5
- Saugus High School, District 9, Area 3
- Young Women in Leadership
District 9, Area 6
- Godley ROAR, District 10, Area 1
- Traverse City Central Z Club
District 15, Area 1
- Northville High School CSFP
District 17, Area 1
- Heep Yunn School, District 17, Area 2
- Las Pinas East National High School
District 17, Area 5
- Quezon National High School
District 17, Area 5

- Asa Wittthaya School, District 17, Area 6

- Zarina, District 22, Area 5

GOLDEN Z CLUBS

6 new Golden Z clubs

- UH Hilo Golden Z Club
District 9, Area 1
- Bangkok University, District 17, Area 6
- Golden Z Club of Khon Kaen
District 17, Area 6
- Sacred Heart College
District 17, Area 5
- Takamatsu University
District 26, Area 4
- Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar
Golden Z Club, District 30, Area 2