



Dear Friend,

I say NO to Violence Against Women!

I am greatly encouraged by the fact that even in such challenging times, Zonta has not backed down from our efforts to stand against gender-based violence.

Even though our traditional advocacy actions may not take place this year, we cannot waver from our mission, especially now. As the world faces the COVID-19 pandemic, instances of violence against women and girls are on the rise. Now, more than ever, it is essential that we work together, with our communities, partners and future generations, to end gender-based violence.

Through the [Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women](#) campaign, Zonta clubs and members around the world are uniting to raise their voices to bring awareness to this issue and advocate on behalf of gender-based violence survivors and victims. Our campaign, which started nine years ago, continues to grow and evolve every year. It is amazing how much of a difference each and every action has made for a community, a family, a woman. I look forward to seeing the innovations you take on in these challenging times to say NO.

Each of our [International Service Projects](#) addresses gender-based violence and offers opportunities to educate women and girls on their rights. Participating in Giving Tuesday on 1 December is one way to show your support of our four initiatives.

Zontians will not back down. Zontians say NO to Violence Against Women.

With warm regards,

Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D.  
President



**16 Days of Activism: 25 November - 10 December**

[www.zontasaysno.com](http://www.zontasaysno.com)

**COVID-19 intensifies need for response to gender-based violence**



Violence against women and girls has long been one of the most widespread violations of human rights.

It knows no national or cultural barriers; it takes place at home, in the workplace and in open spaces, and affects millions of women and girls in peacetime and in conflict.



Prior to COVID-19, one in three women worldwide experienced physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. According to UN Women, since the onset of COVID-19 and lockdowns to prevent the spread of the virus, calls to domestic violence helplines increased up to fivefold in the first few weeks of the pandemic. For every three months the lockdowns continued, an additional 15 million women were estimated to be affected by violence within their homes.

Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, has become even more urgent and needs to be part of national response plans to address COVID-19. The UN-Secretary General urged governments earlier this year to do exactly that. [One hundred and thirty-five \(135\) countries responded and adopted measures](#) to prevent or respond to violence against women during this global crisis; however, very few are adequately funding these measures.

Zontians remain steadfast in their efforts to end violence against women and girls despite the challenges presented by COVID-19. The Zonta Club of East Auckland, New Zealand, donated the money they would normally spend at their club meetings to their local women's refuge while the Zonta Club of London, England, donated their dinner fees to a local organization to enhance their online response and purchase secret phones for women experiencing violence at home, enabling them to reach out and get the help they need. There are many more examples like these across the Zonta world.

As Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign and the 16 Days of Activism, begin, watch the [Zonta Says NO website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more inspiring actions from across the Zonta world.

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## Addressing gender-based violence through education



## How child marriage impacts education

Education can be one of the most powerful tools to enable girls to avoid child marriage and fulfill their potential.



Girls with little to no education are **three times** as likely to marry by 18 as those with a secondary or higher education.



More than **60%** of women (ages 20-24) with little to no education were married before 18.

#ZontaSaysNO | #EndChildMarriage | #16Days  
www.ZontaSaysNO.com



Data from Girls Not Brides

Women and girls today are at an alarming risk of violence in almost every space—at school and work, in the home and community, and even online. All of these have physical, psychological and social consequences.

Education has been shown to have a largely positive impact on reducing gender-based violence. Women with at least a secondary-level education are not as likely as their less-educated peers to experience violence. In addition, men with at least secondary education are not as likely as their less-educated peers to perpetrate violence.

Zonta believes education has the power to save and improve the lives of women and girls, which leads to healthier families and stronger communities. Through our international service projects, Zonta International is working to end gender-based violence (GBV) and bring education to women and girls in 16 countries.

[— Want to know how we do this? Click to read more. —](#)

## Creating a future free of violence



Z club and Golden Z club students are laying the groundwork for a safer and empowered future that they themselves will own. Since the launch of the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, Zonta student clubs have been partnering with their sponsor clubs and the impact of the actions is seen within the larger community. Through these student ambassadors, the message of Zonta Says NO reaches larger groups of youth who may not know the signs of violence, their rights to say no and the resources to get help and get out of a violent situation.

[— Click to read how student clubs have engaged their community —](#)

## Share Your Story



Every action counts and makes a difference in ending violence against women and girls.

Share your story at [zontasaysno.com](https://zontasaysno.com) and let the world know that we will not rest until no woman lives in fear of violence.

[Share Your Story](https://zontasaysno.com)

## Make a greater difference this Giving Tuesday

**ZONTA SAYS NO**  
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



To assist our clubs and members in maximizing their efforts, we have combined our Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women and Every Member Every November District Challenge campaigns to make a greater impact through our Zonta Foundation for Women on Giving Tuesday

When you make a gift this Giving Tuesday, 1 December, your donation will go to the International Service Project Fund to support efforts to end gender-based violence and child, early and forced marriage.

[Bookmark the Every Member Every November District Challenge site and make your donation 1 December.](#)



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

Keep your network informed on how Zonta International is putting our mission to work by sharing this message to your social feeds.



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