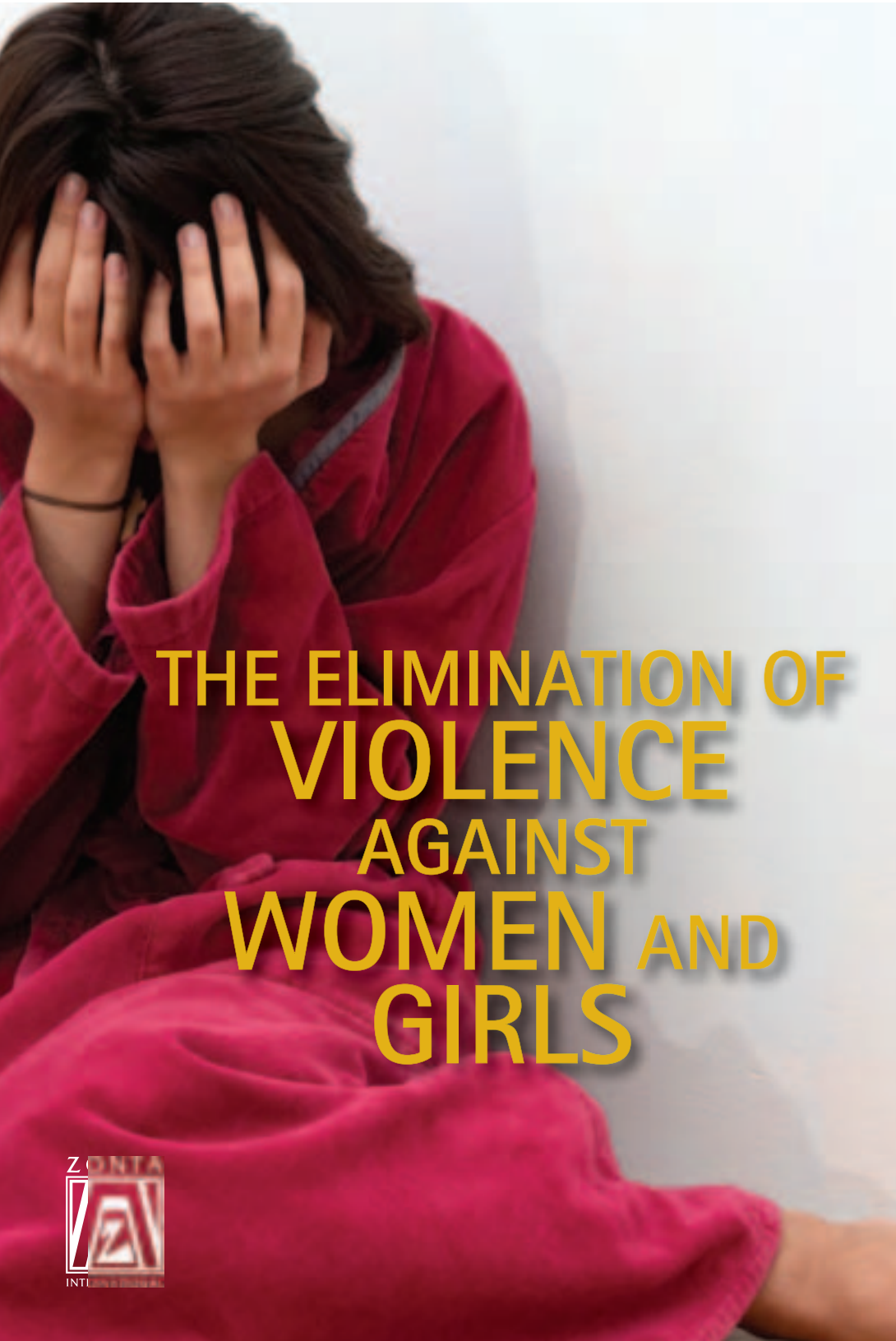


The
Membership Voice
of Zonta
International

ZONTIAN

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide



THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



THE ZONTIAN

2006-2008 Biennial Issue Five • July 2007

Volume 88 • Number 2

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DID YOU KNOW . . .

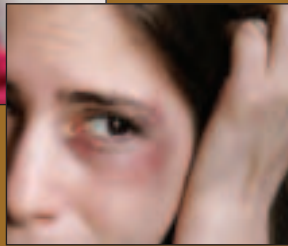
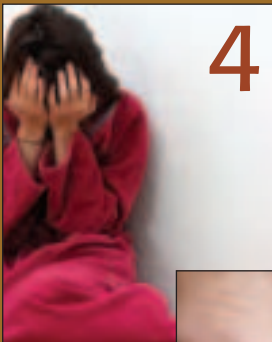
There is a world of Zonta opportunities available to you at www.zonta.org, especially when you have registered your personal Username and Password for access to members-only content. Have you registered? If not, what are you waiting for? Register now for access to these tools and benefits:

New PowerPoint Presentation Now Available

Zonta International now offers a new member orientation PowerPoint presentation, available to Web site registered members. **Welcome to Zonta** can serve as a useful reference tool for more experienced members, as well as orienting new members to the Zonta organization. The **Welcome to Zonta** presentation is available for download on the Zonta International Web site at: **Member Resources / Tool for Clubs/ Membership, Recruitment and Retention.**

Member Networking Directory

As a benefit of your Zonta membership, you may also access the online Member Networking Directory, the Directory of District Governors and the Directory of Club Presidents by logging on to the Zonta International Web site and clicking on **Member Resources** on the left side of your screen and then **Directories**. Let's make the Member Networking Directory a useful tool for everyone. By default every Zonta Club member's name, Zonta Club and country are displayed. It's up to you to visit the Member Networking Directory to subscribe and share your contact information with the Zonta World.



World Headquarters
557 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661 USA
Telephone: +1 312-930-5848
Fax: +1 312-930-0951
www.zonta.org

Janet Halstead, Executive Director
Cathe Wood, Director of Development and Communications
Theresa Reynolds, Communications Manager

Photo Credits, Cover: Curt Camemark/The World Bank

The Zontian (ISSN 0279-3229) is published quarterly by Zonta International. As Zonta International's official publication, this magazine carries authorized articles regarding the organization's programs and activities. No responsibility is assumed for opinions of other authors. Annual subscription rate: \$8.50 (USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland) \$17 (individual airmail outside USA). Publication office address for the publication listed above. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois USA and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Zontian*, Zonta International, 557 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2202 USA.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Olivia Ferry

On this, our second year of the biennium, we take stock of what we have accomplished in the year just past, and note what needs our focus and attention in the next 10 to 12 months.

Let me cite a few:

- We completed our position paper on Trafficking of Women and Girls. Supplementary documents and an advocacy module are being crafted for the use of districts and clubs in their advocacy initiatives, due for release before the end of the calendar year. What else are we doing? We have started writing our second paper related to Education, with the aim of completing it by April 2008.
- Our International Service projects and ZISVAW projects are ongoing. As I write this, a site visit is planned to inspect the RAMP (Regional Anti-trafficking Mobilization for Prevention) project in August. This project is a cross-border expansion of our prior efforts in the Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, three new ZISVAW projects have just been approved by the ZI and ZIF Boards.
- We received a better-than- 30% response to the Member survey. The report is now being processed and will be released in July 2007.
- Some clubs have difficulty with the quarterly club reporting. Our response: we will be testing a simple web-based data collection method in the last quarter of 2007 for use next biennium. Meanwhile, the Board has approved minimum club reporting using the current method, and for the balance of the year a minimum of two reports are due covering the six-month periods ending 30 November 2007 and 31 May 2008.
- Early this biennium, we gave you tools for district workshops and leadership development. We recently published the “Welcome to Zonta” PowerPoint presentation to be used as a member-orientation tool and are developing a member recruitment PowerPoint tool. We will continue to offer resources to clubs and districts, which you may use and adapt as needed.
- The “Call to Convention” will be in the next issue of *The Zontian* magazine. Be sure to send in your registration early to take advantage of the discounted registration fee.

There is much to say about how clubs and districts spent the first year of this biennium, and I am sure you have shared or will be exchanging information and experiences at the 2007 District Conferences around the Zonta world. Please make it a point to be there to impart your stories and to renew friendships across your district.

The featured topic of this issue of *The Zontian* magazine is devoted to preventing and eliminating violence against women and the girl child, building off of the priority theme during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 51st Session held at the United Nations in New York from 26 February to 9 March 2007. The 51st Session succeeded in increasing awareness of the many dimensions of the vulnerabilities of girls while bringing focus to the need for increased prevention and protection of women and the girl child from discrimination and violence. Obviously, the active engagement and participation of women and girls in policy making and strategy development and the creation of gender-sensitive programmes are vital for the full attainment of the goals of gender equality, education, sustainable development and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and harmful practices against them.

Continued on page 13

THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Violence against women and girls: Persistent, Pervasive

“Violence against women persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality,” says the first-ever in-depth report on gender violence released in October 2006 by then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Such violence is unacceptable “whether perpetrated by the state and its agents or by family members or strangers, in the public or private sphere, in peacetime or in times of conflict.”

In her International Women’s Day (8 March 2007) message, Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UNIFEM, said, “...In the 12 years since the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, the signs of progress are many. There is global recognition that gender equality is central to human development and human security...The HIV/AIDS pandemic is now seen as a gender issue as well as a health issue; rape has been recognized as a weapon of war and a crime against humanity. Women’s human rights ... are now on every major agenda, national, regional and international. At the country level too, there is much to celebrate. ...

...But all of this progress can be destroyed through continuing violence against women. Violence against women is deeply rooted in structures of gender inequality. It fuels the spread of HIV/AIDS and destroys women’s ability to break through inter-generational cycles of poverty. Such violence, already horrific in times of peace, intensifies during armed conflict as legal and justice systems break down along with systems of social and community support. Whether in peace or in war, violence against women takes a huge toll – from individuals and societies both....”

The 1990 World Summit for Children put the survival, development and protection of the girl child on the international agenda. It acknowledged that equal rights for girls and the equal participation of women in the social, cultural, economic and political life of societies were essential for successful and sustainable development. Following this, the UN General Assembly, in a special session on children, recognized that achieving the development goals for children, particularly girls, was contingent upon women's empowerment.

In 1995, the Beijing Platform for Action recognized that discrimination and violence against girls begins at the earliest stages of life and continues through childhood into adult life. Fewer girls than boys survived into adulthood because of harmful attitudes and practices, such as son preference resulting in prenatal sex selection and female infanticide, female genital mutilation, early marriage including child marriage, violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, discriminatory food allocation and other practices related to health and well-being. ... Ten years later, a review of the Platform demonstrated that despite the achievements made, particularly in the enactment of legislation, the protection of the rights of the girl child had not been fully achieved. Harmful traditional practices persisted; girls were at continued high risk of sexual abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking.

In recent months, several studies have been released documenting and reinforcing what we already know – **worldwide there is much yet to be done to eradicate violence against women and girls.**

In September 2006, two studies were submitted to the UN General Assembly drawing further attention to violence faced by girls. The report of the independent expert for the United Nations study on violence against children notes that girls are still at greater risk than boys. The study calls on governments to ensure that anti-violence policies and programs

are designed and implemented with a gender perspective, taking into account the different risks facing boys and girls with respect to violence.

The UN Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women highlights that a woman may experience various forms of violence across her life cycle, and pointed out particular forms of violence against girls and young women. It also points

- 89 states have legislative provisions on domestic violence
- 104 countries have made marital rape a crime
- 98 states prohibit trafficking in human beings

What is urgently needed is implementation.

to sites where such violence occurs, for example within the family, in the community including schools, and in conflict settings. The study draws attention to new and emerging forms of violence including date rape.

At the 51st Session (26 February-9 March 2007) of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the priority theme was the *elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.*

The near-universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child – both of which provide the most comprehensive legal protection for the girl child – is a promising sign. However, there is an urgent need for States to incorporate the Conventions into domestic laws and to remove national laws that contradict the rights and obligations contained in these.

At the policy and programmatic levels, the needs of girls are often subsumed under the larger categories of “women” or “children.” As a result, the girl child often remains invisible, and her needs remain insufficiently addressed. In addition, groups of girls – such as adolescents aged 10 to 14, girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, and girls infected and affected by HIV/AIDS – are at

particular risk of discrimination and violence and often are the most underserved by policy interventions. Discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviors and harmful traditional practices continue to have a negative impact on the status and treatment of girls throughout the world.

The lack of data disaggregated by sex and age is a serious constraint to formulating and implementing effective and targeted policies and programs, as well as to monitoring progress in the elimination of discrimination and violence against the girl child. Existing national-level statistics often mask persistent discrimination and violence against girls at the sub-national or local level.

Girls in High-risk Situations

Some groups of girls are particularly disadvantaged and at greater risk of discrimination and violence, including adolescent girls, migrant girls, girls with disability or girls in detention. Poverty can be a major underlying factor in increased risk of some girls. Certain situations or threats, such as HIV/AIDS, conflict and its aftermath, foreign occupation, displacement and refugee situations also significantly increase the marginalization and exposure of girls to violence.

Girls aged 10 to 14 are particularly at risk of discrimination and violence. In many regions of the world, societies begin to place restrictions on girls'

movement and behavior with the onset of adolescence. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that between 100 and 140 million women and girls alive today have experienced female genital mutilation, and each year a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure. Systemic gender-based discrimination inhibits the ability of girls to protect themselves from HIV infection or to respond fully to the consequences of infection. Worldwide 17.3 million women and girls aged 15 years and older are living with HIV, 48 percent of the global total. More than 60 percent of 15 to 25 year olds living with HIV/AIDS are female. Girls are particularly at risk of HIV/AIDS because of poverty, lack of education and economic independence, early marriage, limited negotiating power and sexual exploitation and rape. Girls who are victims of trafficking are in high-risk situations where they are not able to negotiate safe sex or protect themselves from violence, increasing their risk of HIV.



Curt Camemark/The World Bank



An estimated 3.6 million people have been affected by the ongoing crisis in Darfur. Some 1.8 million children have been affected by the conflict, some of them displaced multiple times through repeated attacks.

Girls are subjected to discrimination and violence during conflict and post-conflict situations. An estimated 40 percent of child soldiers are girls who were forcibly or coercively recruited. Others are forced to participate in economic activities related to the conflict. They are exposed to abuse, exploitation and sexual violence. Rape, including of very young girls, has been used widely as a weapon of war in recent conflicts. In conflict and post-conflict situations, girl-headed households increase.

Girls in early marriages also face the dangers of repeated pregnancies and childbirth. Adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth as women in their twenties. For those under 15, the risks are five times higher. For every girl who dies in childbirth, many more will suffer injuries, infections and lingering disabilities, such as obstetric fistula. Despite being at greater risk, adolescent married and unmarried girls in the 10 to 14 age group are among the most underserved groups. Greater efforts are needed to reach girls aged 10 to 14, especially those living outside the protective structures of family and schools, girls heading households, girls at risk of early marriage and married adolescent girls.

THE FACTS

Violence against women and girls is an epidemic that must end

- Almost 100 million girls "disappear" each year, killed in the womb or as babies.¹
- 2 million girls a year still suffer genital mutilation.¹
- Half a million girls die during pregnancy – the leading killer among 15 to 19-year-olds – every 12 months.¹
- An estimated 7.3 million girls are living with HIV/AIDS compared with 4.5 million young men.¹
- Almost a million girls fall victim to child traffickers each year compared with a quarter that number of boys.¹
- One in three women worldwide will be beaten, raped, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.²
- Worldwide, one in four pregnant women is physically or sexually abused, usually by her partner.³
- Worldwide, an estimated 5,000 women are murdered by family members each year in "honor killings."⁴

¹ Plan International, *Because I am a Girl: The State of the World's Girls 2007*.

² L. Heise, M. Ellsberg and M. Gottemoeller, "Ending Violence Against Women," *Population Reports*, Series L, No. 11, 1999.

³ Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2004.

⁴ UNFPA



Curt Camemark/The World Bank

Empowerment of Girls

The empowerment of girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and protecting and promoting their human rights, and empowerment efforts during adolescence are critical. Full implementation of existing international legal and policy frameworks is the basis for the empowerment of the girl child. Families and communities play a key role in protecting and empowering. Regular attendance of girls in girls' clubs, integrated girl-friendly centers or youth clubs, over an extended period of time, has a positive impact on their welfare in the long term. Personal safety and security is essential for the empowerment of girls. School and education contribute positively to empowerment and girls should be encouraged to pursue disciplines traditionally dominated by men, such as science, engineering and technology. Assisting girls to secure economic independence, particularly girls heading households, is also critical. Income-generating activities, facilitated by the provision of credit have also been successful.

Conclusions

Awareness-raising, community mobilization, and education and training are needed to ensure that all key actors – government officials, educators, employers, media, parents, families and communities – work to eliminate attitudes and practices which

negatively affect girls. The active engagement of men and boys in this work is critical.

No single intervention will end violence against women and girls. This requires a holistic approach, with interlinked strategies, including:

- Revised legal and policy frameworks
- Strengthening institutional accountability
- Changing public awareness through advocacy campaigns
- Working with community leaders and partnering with men and youth
- Strengthening social support services and
- Supporting research and data to empower women advocates



Curt Camemark/The World Bank

UNIFEM

What we have learned:

- Ending violence against women requires multiple strategies working across sectors and at different levels.
- Laws must be accompanied by resource allocations, institutional regulations and guidelines and systematic training for officials who will monitor and enforce them – including police and judiciary, health and social service providers.
- Ending violence against women also requires changing public perceptions and breaking through barriers of culture and tradition to find non-violent ways to resolve conflicts in personal and public life.

Together these strategies can significantly reduce violence and its consequences. For them to succeed in addressing violence at its roots, however, violence against women and girls must be seen for what it is – a gross violation of their human rights, and totally unacceptable, in all contexts and situations. Together, we must commit to ensure that no woman is ever invisible. ☒

Sources for this article include:

- UNFPA
- UNICEF
- UNIFEM
- UN Millennium Project
- UN Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of Violence Against Women
- Commission on the Status of Women 51st Session documents



For more information, visit www.zonta.org.

WELCOME

NEW ZONTA INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORS



First row (seated, left to right): Treasurer/ Secretary Gloria Stootman Wristen; President Olivia Ferry; President-Elect Beryl Sten; Vice President Dianne K. Curtis

Second row (seated, left to right): Directors Dilruba Ahmed, Alicia Sirtori

Third row (standing, left to right): Parliamentarian Patricia Palm; Directors Ragna Karlsdóttir, Karin Nordmeyer, Kerry Dixon-Fox, Bonny Schumacher, Kika Ziti, Executive Director Janet Halstead

The Zonta International Board welcomes new directors Dilruba Ahmed, Kerry Dixon-Fox, and Ragna Karlsdóttir, who will take office 30 June, serving from 2007 to 2009. A special thank you to A.O. Omotayo Morgan, María José Landeira Østergård and Simone Ovar-Bruno who served from 2005-2007.

Dilruba Ahmed (*Zonta Club of Chittagong, Bangladesh*)

Dilruba has been involved with numerous professional and service organizations – holding key positions both nationally and internationally. Since joining Zonta in 1992, Dilruba has served as District 25 Governor and Club President. “As Zonta leader I’m involved in planning, providing direction, organizing, mentoring, and encouraging. Discipline, honesty, self-determination, fairness, and commitment are my strengths,” she said. Dilruba is founder of Little Jewels School, the first English Medium School in Chittagong, Bangladesh, where she currently serves as principal and administrator.

Kerry Dixon-Fox (*Zonta Club of Mankato, USA*)

A Zontian since 1989, Kerry has previously served as Coordinator of the ZI VI Local Service Subcommittee, District 7 Governor, and Club President. Professionally Kerry is Project Manager/Facilities Planning and Management for Iowa State University. While serving as District Governor, Kerry had her first child, accepted a position as the only woman in the planning and construction division of a major university and spearheaded the first North American Inter-District Seminar – demonstrating her ability to balance multiple priorities. “I believe I can show our members that one can balance work, family and service – all very important to younger members.”

Ragna Karlsdóttir (*Zonta Club of Embla, Iceland*)

Ragna has been a Zontian since 1991 and has served as District 13 Governor and Club President. “For me Zonta is all about cooperation and I would love to continue working with Zontians on Zonta objects and be part of bringing Zonta into the future,” said Ragna. She is a Senior Geophysicist for Iceland GeoSurvey and is actively involved with the Geothermal Association of Iceland, Geological Society of Iceland, Iceland Glaciological Society, and the International Geothermal Association. ☒



For a complete list of Directors, visit www.zonta.org

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Anne Silvester

Dear Zontians and Friends

As we end the first year of the 2006-2008 Biennium, our total fundraising has progressed slowly towards our goal of US\$3.8 million as revealed in the accompanying Table of Funds. We are grateful for your support but we need the continuing support and generosity by Zontians and their Clubs, individual and corporate donors if we are going to reach the fundraising target of this Biennium to fund projects for women in education, health, economic well being and the prevention of violence against women.

Now, for some changes to the Foundation Board. Since the terms of the Board of Directors are staggered to ensure the continuity of the Foundation's work, Directors take office on 1 June of the year ending with an odd number for four year terms of office.

According to these rules four of us leave the Foundation Board at the end of May: Irene Wiese-von Ofen, Vice President; Jacquelyn Sammons, Chairman of the Finance Committee; Amy Lai and myself. The continuing Directors are Betty Jane Bourdon, Lollie Harper and Kirsten Theisen. I thank each of you for your commitment, dedication, warmth and good humour as we all worked hard strengthening and delivering funding for the many worthy Zonta programs.

We welcome four new Foundation Directors: Carol Borecky (USA), Mineko Hariu (Japan), Tora Wigstrand (Sweden) and Caroline Wilkins (USA). The new Foundation Board covers cultural diversity of the Zonta world with members from Europe, Asia and North America.

My personal journey on the Foundation Board has been just under six years: two years as Director, another two years as Vice President and my final two years as President.

During these periods, the Foundation's fundraising goals have risen from US\$2.3 million in the 2000-2002 Biennium to US\$3.8 million in the 2006-2008 Biennium. During this time the work of the Foundation has increased with more information on service projects to the membership; and growth in funding of the Zonta International service programs, awards and scholarships; the Foundation's transparency has been enhanced into the Zonta membership and we have had positive feedback from membership on this score as well as on the important role of the District Foundation Ambassador in each Zonta District. Through all our efforts the Foundation has benefited from growth in donations and is in a sound financial position.

For me personally, it has been a privilege to give my services to Zonta. You may ask what it is that makes us "a Zontian" and invariably there are many different answers but we Zontians do come together internationally to do the right thing for a good purpose – to help and touch the lives of many women and girls in different parts of the world.

Thank you! We could not have come this far without your support.

My best wishes to you all.

Fund	Goal	Actual 31 May 2007	Actual as % of Goal
Amelia Earhart Fund	US\$650,000	US\$214,015	33%
Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Fund	\$125,000	\$56,444	45%
YWPA Fund	\$150,000	\$67,079	45%
International Service Fund	\$1,500,000	\$550,040	37%
ZISVAW Fund	\$550,000	\$231,128	42%
Rose Fund	\$800,000	\$333,996	42%
WHPPPI Fund	\$30,000	\$10,089	34%
Total	US\$3,805,000	US\$1,462,791	38%
Endowment		\$191,974	
Total All		US\$1,654,765	



PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women is vastly under-funded for the size of the problem.

Anika Rahman, President, Americans for UNFPA

Zonta's Response: ZISVAW, Zonta International Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Women.

Since 1999 the Zonta International Foundation has provided more than US\$900,000 for projects designed to prevent violence against women.

Today, contributions to the Foundation ZISVAW Fund, provide support to:


- STAR Network of World Learning Regional Anti-trafficking Mobilization for Prevention (RAMP), Prevention of Cross-border Regional Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro

- United Nations Population Fund, Support to Prevent and Manage the Consequences of Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka

And the

- **UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.** Since its establishment 10 years ago, the UN Trust Fund has awarded over US\$13 million to 226 initiatives in over 100 countries. Resources have quadrupled – from US\$800,000 in 2004 to US\$3.5 million in 2006 – but the demand for Trust Fund support continues to greatly exceed available funds. Trust Fund grantees address the

multiple forms of violence that women and girls experience and focus on prevention and protection, strengthening systems of criminal justice, health care and social services to respond to women survivors and provide needed support.

ZISVAW grant support to the UN Trust Fund has provided for the creation of women friendly police and judicial procedures in Bhutan and the implementation of laws, policies and action plans on violence against women in Niger. 



For more information, visit www.zonta.org.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD

The Foundation Executive Committee joined the Zonta International Board at its April 2007 meeting to elect four new Foundation Board Directors. The Directors began their four-year terms on 1 June.



Carol Borecky
(Zonta Club of Springfield, IL, USA)

Carol most recently served on the Zonta International Foundation Finance Committee. She has also served as Club President and Club Treasurer. Carol is a Certified Public Accountant and owner/controller of Carol E. Borecky, CPA and Controller of the Youth Service Bureau. She joined Zonta in 1973.

She has also served on the International Status of Women Service, United Nations and International Relations Committees. In addition she has served as Centurion, Area Director and Club President. Mineko, a physician, is President of the Research Center of Kampo Medicine and Hariu Clinic of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She joined Zonta in 1990.



Tora Wigstrand
(Zonta Club of Jonkoping, Sweden)

Tora currently serves on the Legislative Awareness and Advocacy Subcommittee of the International Status of Women Service Committee. She previously served as member of the International United Nations

Committee, District 21 Governor, Area Director and Club President. Tora is Director of International Relations for the Ministry of Justice of Sweden. She joined Zonta in 1980.



Caroline Wilkins
(Zonta Club of Corvallis, Oregon, USA)

Caroline currently serves as District Parliamentarian. She previously served as District 8 Centurion, Area Director, District International Relations Committee member, District Bylaws Committee member and as Club President. Caroline is owner and chief executive officer of Wilkins Associates. She joined Zonta in 1982.



Mineko Hariu
(Zonta Club of Akita, Japan)

Mineko most recently served on the International OMC Committee.



For officer election results, visit www.zonta.org/zif_home.



THE ZONTA INTERNATIONAL SURVEY
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WHAT WE LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS

Jackie Shapiro, Chairman, United Nations Committee

At the beginning of the Biennium, Zonta clubs worldwide were asked to tell us about their resources and activities to address violence against women (VAW) – one of Zonta International’s ongoing priority issues.

Over 325 clubs responded to the survey, which statistically is well above average, but is even more impressive considering that 12 Zonta districts (six in North America) did not return any surveys. Two Districts – 4 and 26 – had 100% participation – District 26 had to cope with the additional challenge of translating the questionnaire into Japanese and then translating the responses back to English so they could be included in the results. District 17 also deserves special mention for creating a bound volume of its responses.

The first question asking clubs if they have “a project or projects related to the elimination of violence against women” highlights one of the problems of survey taking. Overall 50% of the clubs responded “no.” Some clubs took this to mean direct service activities, so answered “no;” while other clubs indicated financial contributions and answered “yes.” Far more than 50% of clubs have projects that address violence against women directly if financial support is included.

Less than 50% of clubs that are engaged in anti-violence efforts noted that they receive recognition outside Zonta for their work. This certainly suggests that we need to do much more vigorous public relations to promote the VAW programs of our clubs in the community.

The purpose of the survey was to prepare Zonta clubs throughout the world to strengthen their violence

against women efforts, following up on the UN Secretary General’s in-depth study on VAW. The Secretary General’s eagerly anticipated study, released in October 2006, has indeed given added impetus to efforts to eliminate violence against women. (The Executive Summary of the Study and accompanying Fact Sheets are posted on the Zonta International Web site, www.zonta.org. The complete text is available through the Web site of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women.) As part of the Biennial goals of the ZI UN Committee, clubs have been asked to widely publicize the findings of this study in their communities.

Zonta clubs are also encouraged to partner with other community organizations, such as our Project Five-O partners – the International Council

of Women, Business and Professional Women International, International Federation of University Women and Soroptimist International – to educate and engage greater numbers of people in advocacy and programs that have an increased impact on the elimination of violence against women. The ZI UN Committee survey found that while many clubs do work with other service organizations, a large number do not, but wished to. There was wide enthusiasm for using the opportunity of moving to a new level of joint advocacy with other like-minded service groups, using the findings of the Secretary General’s study.

Now is the time for your club or district to move forward with the UN study to contribute to the elimination of violence against women. ☺

RESOURCES

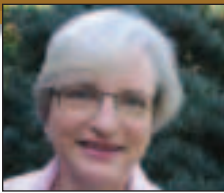
UN Secretary-General’s in-depth study on all forms of Violence Against Women (9 October 2006)

- Executive Summary
- Fact Sheets
- Violence against women:
 - Forms, consequences and costs
 - Unmet needs, broken promises
 - Fighting violence against women: what works
- Full text, Secretary-General’s in-depth study on all forms of violence against women

Visit:

www.zonta.org, About Zonta / Zonta International and The United Nations

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/



USING OUR CONNECTIONS TO BUILD ZONTA THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



*Annette Binder, International Organization, Membership and Classification Committee,
New Countries Sub-Committee; Africa and South America Liaison*

Portugal – unbelievable that there is not yet a Zonta club! Still there are so many countries in the world with the potential to become a “Zonta Country.” What about Armenia, Botswana, Costa Rica, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Panama, Slovenia, Trinidad-Tobago, or Tunisia? What about the former Zonta countries Colombia, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Israel, Guinea – can we revive them?

Let us use our own member network to grow Zonta worldwide! Do you know someone in any of these countries (or others) where there are no clubs? If so, send Zonta International the addresses of women you know – your friends, family

members or business partners – who may be qualified for membership and interested in helping to start a Zonta club in a new country!

Visit the Zonta Web site (www.zonta.org), **Member Resources, Tools for Clubs** and click on the **Membership Recruitment and Retention** link. Here you can learn more about how to Use Your **Connections to Grow Zonta Worldwide**. This includes a link to a form asking you for information about the prospective member. When submitted this form will be sent to me immediately!

Please remember that before you begin searching for potential Zonta members, the Zonta International Board must authorize the new country.

We do not want to disappoint women who are waiting to become Zonta members! The first step is to evaluate the country along criteria such as the government’s philosophy relative to Zonta’s mission, public safety and civic stability within the country, financial status of the country, currency exchange, opportunities for more than one club, distance between the sponsoring club and the new club, number and types of other service organizations, and the ability of the potential club to be financially self-supporting.

Do network for Zonta and help other women join us – help Zonta grow in our existing Clubs and countries and into new countries! 🌐

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH – IDEAS FROM ZONTA CLUBS AND DISTRICTS

While membership numbers are important, it is quality service programs and the Zonta experience that inspire new members to join. In a recent review of Zonta club and district newsletters and Web sites, it’s evident that if you build quality programs into your club’s recruitment efforts – the members will come.

Smaller clubs that have bolstered their membership this Biennium have done so because of interesting local service projects that accomplish the Zonta mission while providing fellowship and fun for their members. One club doubled its membership by inviting prospective members to Birthing Kit Assembly Days (see also

page 14) and another by inviting women professionals to a domestic violence White Ribbon Day that raised money for a local women’s shelter. The message here is that clubs don’t necessarily need to plan for a separate “membership event,” rather clubs can benefit from inviting prospective members to a local service day that is already planned. When prospects have the opportunity to see your club in action, chances are you will see the membership growth you planned for!

Prospective members are also interested in hearing from current Zontians about why they joined and what their membership means to them. For example, District 16

Governor Lynette Grave put together a professional presentation for prospective members. Following the program, current members talked about why they had joined Zonta and how Zonta has enriched their lives. While the presentation was informative, the deciding factors for those who joined were the testimonials from the members.

One benefit of your Zonta membership is the opportunity to grow and learn from your Zonta peers. Incorporate ideas from your fellow Zontians into your club’s membership recruitment plans. 🌐



ZONTA'S IMPACT – THE TRUE PICTURE

*Lynn McKenzie, Chairman, Status of Women Service Committee;
Jacqueline Beaudry, Coordinator, Local Service Subcommittee;
Olivia Ferry, President Zonta International*

As a Zontian you have contributed your time and energy toward advancing the status of women worldwide through service, advocacy and fundraising. Over the years, your efforts have provided more than US\$22 million to the Zonta International Foundation for programs and projects benefiting more than 8 million women in over 60 countries.

Equally important but harder to measure is Zonta's influence locally. We all know that Zontians' service at the local level is significant. However, the data we have to demonstrate this on a global level is incomplete – we do not have the complete story, and so the public does not have a true and total picture of Zonta's achievements.

That is why this Biennium, we are seeking a more realistic picture of *all* of Zonta's efforts by asking all of our Zonta Clubs to report on their activities. Measuring this information enables us to:

- increase our credibility and visibility as an international service organization,
- attract and retain membership,
- provide easily accessible information to districts and clubs for their planning, and ultimately achieving our mission.

In the 2004-2006 Biennium Zontians around the world reported

raising and expending more than US\$3.8 million toward local service efforts and contributing more than 228,000 service hours. These figures represent only the 24% of clubs that reported in the last biennium. Many regions of the Zonta world were under-reported. Imagine the impact if 100% of our clubs submitted reports!

Thus far in the 2006-2008 Biennium we've had a 42% reporting rate by our Zonta Clubs. These clubs report that they have raised more than US\$2 million for local service efforts and contributed 123,441 volunteer hours in just the first nine months of the Biennium. Higher reporting levels could result in much higher totals – and would tell the *true* Zonta story!

Last Biennium, the largest percentage of club service hours and funds among participating clubs went to women's education. In this Biennium, we encourage clubs to

2006-2008 BIENNIUM		
	Reported 1 June 2006 – 28 February 2007	Per Reporting Club
Donated Local Service Hours	123,441 hours	236 hours
Advocacy Hours	3,965 hours	8 hours
Funds Raised for Local Service	US\$2,012,077	US\$3,855
Clubs providing data	522 clubs, or 42%	
*Total clubs at February 2007: 1,231 (100%)		

FOCUS OF ZONTA CLUB SERVICE HOURS REPORTED		
	1 June 2006 – 28 February 2007 % of Total	1 June 2004 – 28 February 2006 % of Total
Other	26%	17%
Education	24%	36%
Health	19%	23%
Self Esteem	10%	na
Economic Status	9%	10%
Preventing Violence against Women	9%	14%
Legal Rights	3%	na

reflect on the focus of current projects and Zonta's mission, and to consider directing more time and funds to those activities that will in fact advance the status of women.

Zontians, your work is valued. Tell us what your club has achieved so we can truly represent Zonta's full impact in the world community. 🌐



Visit the Zonta International Web site, www.zonta.org, for more information for use by clubs and members in your publicity material, newsletters and promotion activities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 3

This second year of the biennium will also see three new ZI Directors and four new ZIF Directors take office. It gives me great pleasure to welcome them to the ZI and ZIF Boards and to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing directors.

I hope you like the new design of *The Zontian* that is the result of the work of three women whose fresh and professional approach to the re-design of the magazine offers a crisp, visual experience in style and graphic design. We hope that our readers are as thrilled

as we are with the potentially exciting landscape of upcoming issues of our magazine. Cheers!



Zonta Club of Laramie, Wyoming, USA, distributes 100 birthing kits to a clinic in Freetown, Sierra Leone



Zonta Club of Laramie, Wyoming, USA Adopts Birthing Kit Project

District 12 members attending the Zonta International Convention in Melbourne, Australia last June were inspired by the Birthing Kit Project initiated by Zonta Clubs in Australia. "I became personally excited about the project and after reading the extensive information provided by the Zonta Club of Adelaide Hills, Australia, I presented the idea for initiating a Birthing Kit Project in the Zonta Club of Laramie," said Evelyn Haskell, Chairman of the Birthing Kit Project for Zonta Club of Laramie and Past District Governor.

The project was approved by the Club's Board in September 2006 and the first Birthing Kit Assembly Day took place 27 January 2007. The Club invited members of other local organizations to participate and together nearly 1,000 kits were assembled in less than three hours. Kits include a plastic sheet, a piece of soap, two gloves, three gauze squares, three cord ties, and a sterile blade scalpel – all contained in a small press seal plastic bag. Like their Australian counterparts, Zontians in Laramie received donations for all supplies.

With the help of Dr. Susan McKay, University of Wyoming Women's Studies and International Programs Professor, the Zonta Club of Laramie coordinated agreements with several organizations for distribution, and personally deliver about 100 Birthing Kits to a clinic in Freetown, Sierra Leone (pictured). The Zonta Club of Laramie currently has agreements with partner organizations to provide 2,000 kits over the next two years.

The Zonta Clubs of Sarasota and Bonita Springs, both in Florida, USA, have also begun Birthing Kit Assembly Days and recently sent 1,000 kits to Guatemala.

Zonta Clubs Honor Women on Rose Day (International Women's Day, 8 March)

The Zonta Club of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy celebrated Rose Day by organizing a charity dinner. The proceeds contributed to the building of a maternity clinic in Burkina Faso. ... *The Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand* helped organize the 2007 annual International Women's Day Breakfast hosted by the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, the Honorable Luamanuvao Winnie Laban, member of the Zonta Club of Mana Area, New Zealand. Guests celebrated the day with an early breakfast followed by a presentation by Rosslyn Noonan, Chief Commissioner of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission.



The Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand, celebrates Rose Day with its annual International Women's Day Breakfast

Amelia Earhart Luncheon: The Sky is the Limit



The Zonta Club of Greater Queens, New York, USA, presents its Club Amelia Earhart awards to three Vaughn College Students

The Zonta Club of Greater Queens, New York, USA held its 4th Annual Amelia Earhart Event and Luncheon on 27 January at Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology in New York, USA. Club President Mary Loughrey and Vice President Sharon Perry presented the Club's Amelia Earhart awards to three Vaughn College students: Jade Kukula, Shauna Lang and Taniesha Blackella. Guests included Marion Andrews of the Ninety Nines, District 3 Governor Mary Ann Tarantula and Mario Brienza, Director of Aircraft Maintenance Training at Vaughn College. Presentations were given by Professor Lou Scala, State University of New York-Farmingdale and Carol Froleigh, female aviator and aerial photographer. ☺



For more information on these stories and more stories, go to www.zonta.org, Zonta Action.

The Zontian is looking for local service related to the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Awards. If your club has a local young women project, send us your stories – through Share Your Story on www.zonta.org or E-mail zontian@zonta.org.

Join us in Rotterdam 28 June – 3 July 2008



Global Empowerment Through Local Action

Rotterdam is a city of contrasts. Rotterdam is ... dynamic ... sparkling ... multicultural ... global. It's a wonderful place for our 59th Convention. Join us as we ... Tackle serious Zonta business ... Network ... Enjoy fellowship and fun.

Olivia Ferry, 2006-2008 President
Zonta International



www.zonta2008.com



The 59th Zonta International Convention will be held in the Rotterdam Concert and Congress building de Doelen. It is the ultimate location for a wide range of events. Set in the heart of dynamic Rotterdam this attractive and multifunctional building is home to many cultural, professional and educational activities.



Because it houses both a concert hall and a congress centre, de Doelen is exceptionally attractive. The building combines functional architecture with a typical 1960s style for a modern congress complex.



The congress centre is opposite the central railway station and is easy to reach via Rotterdam Airport, Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport only forty minutes away, or by using the high-speed rail link from Brussels, London or Paris. A covered skywalk links de Doelen to The Westin Rotterdam Hotel.



*Photo: ICC-CPI/
Wim Van Cappellen,
ICC-CPI/Hans Horstijk*

Opening Ceremony

Professor Akua Kuenyehia, First Vice President of the International Criminal Court and member of the Zonta Club of Accra (Ghana), will make the keynote address at the 2008 Convention Opening Ceremony.

Prior to her election as judge of the International Criminal Court Professor Kuenyehia was Dean, Faculty of Law of the University of Ghana. During her time at the University, she taught criminal law, gender and the law, international human rights law and public international law. She was coordinator of a research project entitled "Women and Law in Anglophone West Africa," which covered Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. She has written three books and numerous academic publications on gender and the law, family law and international human rights. Judge Kuenyehia is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Ghana.





Zonta International

Advancing the Status of Women Worldwide

557 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661 USA
Telephone: +1 312-930-5848
Fax: +1 312-930-0951
www.zonta.org



Member Networking Directory

Follow these steps to take advantage of the Member Networking Directory and to maximize its usefulness for the organization:

1. If you have not done so, register a username and password at www.zonta.org/register.
2. If you have already registered a username and password, log onto www.zonta.org.
3. Select the Member Resources link on the left side of your screen.
4. Select the Directories link under Member Resources on the left side of your screen.
5. If this is your first visit you will be asked to read the Networking Policy and subscribe to the Directory by checking the box at the bottom of the policy and selecting Submit.

WELCOME NEW ZONTA CLUBS

The Zonta International "family" around the world extends a warm welcome to our new Zonta Clubs. We rejoice in the experience you will share with us and with those you serve!

Hanalei, Hawaii, USA
District 9, Area 7

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
District 29, Area 4

Yamagata, Japan
District 26, Area 1

Bohol, Philippines
District 17, Area 3

North Sydney Breakfast, Australia
District 24, Area 1

As of 1 May 2007, Zonta International has 1,234 clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas.



Zonta Clubs
Members of Zonta International