



RESOLUTIONS APPROVED AT THE 2022 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The following resolutions were adopted by the delegates at the 2022 Zonta International Convention in Hamburg, Germany. These resolutions will stand until the 2024 Zonta International Convention begins in Brisbane, Australia.

RESOLUTION regarding a policy on women's reproductive health

Rationale:

Worldwide, 25 million unsafe abortions (45% of all abortions) occurred every year between 2010 and 2014, according to a study by WHO and the Guttmacher Institute published in 2017 in the medical journal *The Lancet*. The majority of unsafe abortions, or 97%, occurred in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Every year an estimated number of at least 22,800 women die from complications of unsafe abortions.

According to the above-mentioned study, restricting access to abortions does not reduce the number of abortions. However, restricting access to abortion causes a higher rate of unsafe abortions and a higher number of women injured or dead. In countries where abortion is completely banned or permitted only to save the woman's life or preserve her physical health, only 1 in 4 abortions were safe; whereas, in countries where abortion is legal on broader grounds, nearly 9 in 10 abortions were done safely.

According to WHO, the provision of safe, legal abortion is essential to fulfilling the global commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal of universal access to sexual and reproductive health (target 3.7).

Thus, District 21 proposes that Zonta International issues a *Women's Reproductive Health Policy* with the proposed wording so that Zonta International calls on governments to ensure access to safe, legal abortions.

Proposed wording:

POLICY STATEMENT

Zonta International is an organization pledged to improve the health status of women. Zonta International calls on governments to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women:

- the elimination of all child marriages and similar unions

- equal rights to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children and to have access to the information, education and means to exercise these rights
- access to health care services, including those services related to family planning
- the prevention of unwanted pregnancies
- access to safe, legal abortions

Supplemental Note: *Zonta International's current Statement on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health supports universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including for family planning, free of coercion, discrimination, and violence. This statement (adopted April 2019), together with Zonta International's Advocacy Policy, empower Zonta clubs to determine the best course of action for advocacy at the country level. This statement is printed below and can be found on www.zonta.org under Zonta Statements.*

Statement on Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health

Adopted by Zonta International Board April 2019

Equality and empowerment of women are global issues. Women's rights are human rights and a prerequisite for poverty eradication and for positive sustainable development. Reproductive rights are human rights.

Background

Zonta International is an organization pledged to empower women at the global and local levels, and to promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Zonta International, districts and clubs advocate at the international, national and local levels on issues related to human rights and gender equality. At the international level, Zonta International advocates primarily through the United Nations (UN) and the Council of Europe. At the national level, Zonta districts, areas and clubs take action in support of, or in opposition to, legislation on issues affecting women and girls. At the local level, Zonta clubs monitor laws and policies and their impact on women, participate in hearings and meetings with local politicians and administrators, and host speakers and panels to raise awareness about issues affecting women in their local communities.

In accordance with the UN Human Rights Commission statement reproductive rights are human rights and human rights are fundamental to women's reproductive health. Zonta International has longstanding relations with the UN and has been a steadfast partner to UN agencies. Zonta's support of UN projects and programs has been critical to their success.

The Statement

Zonta International endorses the values expressed in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and focusses on status of women issues according to Articles 1-16 of CEDAW, the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women.

Every person should have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and to safely and privately access healthcare.

Zonta International supports that each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is integral to sustainable development but promotes particularly Goal No. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Goal No. 5 seeks, among other things, to:

- eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and
- ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

Zonta International supports the agreed conclusions of CSW63, March 2019, whereby, among other things,

The Commission urges governments at all levels and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities,to take the following actions:

Strengthen women's and girls' access to social protection

uu. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes, and recognizing that the human rights of women include their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, as a contribution to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the realization of their human rights;

Additionally, ZI Bylaws Article III SECTION 2 states that districts and clubs may express themselves about and become involved in principles and public issues having a bearing on the Objects of Zonta International. This permits District 21 to adopt their proposed text as a policy at the district level if the text reflects the position and needs of its clubs and is adopted in accordance with district bylaws/rules of procedure.

This same Article and the Zonta International Glossary define that only the Zonta International Board may adopt or change operating policies outside of the Zonta International Bylaws. General

policies (overall principles) found in ZI Bylaws Article III may be adopted or changed by convention which would require a bylaws amendment. Therefore, if this Resolution were to be approved it cannot be a policy but only a statement. In that case, Zonta International would have two statements on the same topic for the two years this resolution would be in effect, which would be confusing to the Zonta membership.

RESOLUTION on continuing an overall review of Zonta International

The Zonta International Board proposes that the overall review of Zonta International which commenced in the 2020 – 2022 biennium based on the resolution adopted by the voting members in 2020 be continued in the 2022 – 2024 biennium where it left off at the end of biennium 2020 – 2022.

During the 2020 – 2022 biennium the Zonta International Board has been undertaking a study of Zonta International to ensure the organization is fit-for-the future and able to meet the challenges of change. The study focused on strategy, governance, membership, and advocacy. The current state has been assessed, input has been sought from members, and external practices have been researched. A report on the results of the work completed is presented at the 2022 Convention. The report also identifies areas where further work is required and areas such as programs, fundraising and operations not yet thoroughly worked to complete the study also for these areas of Zonta's business and to ensure Zonta International is sustainable in the long term and set up for success.

Continuing evaluation is needed. In addition to developing a strategic plan to meet the needs of members and stakeholders while opening new pathways as described in the proposed Biennial Goals 2022 – 2024, special attention should be put in the 2022 – 2024 continued review on the possibilities to simplify the frameworks for membership, governance and operations. The evaluation and work done for the overall review during 2020 – 2022 together with the continued review during 2022 – 2024 would serve as a basis for drafting the business plan as proposed in the Biennial Goals 2022 – 2024.

The continued review requires the involvement and support of the membership so that all aspects of Zonta can be considered and potential recommended changes can be prepared and presented latest at the 2024 Zonta International Convention in Brisbane, Australia.

Rationale:

In 2020 97% of delegates voted for Resolution on conducting an overall review of Zonta International.

The 2020 – 2022 Zonta International Board established a Working Group to undertake a study of Zonta International to ensure it is fit-for-the-future. The scope of the review included all aspects of the governance and operations of the organization with a prioritized focus on the fields of strategy, governance, membership and advocacy. The study is based on the comprehensive terms of reference which were put together by the Zonta International Board defining the scope for the overall review, its approach and key milestones during the 2020 – 2022 biennium. The study was a significant effort carried out by all members of the Zonta International Board, after

consultation of the members as described in the report on the work to the 2022 Convention, in addition to the Board's fiduciary duties, duties for supervision of implementation of the biennial goals and the customary Board duties.

During the 2020 – 2022 biennium the Working Group focused on four areas: strategy, governance, membership and advocacy. For each area the review involved understanding the current state, seeking input from members through a survey undertaken in 2021 and engagement with a range of stakeholders including members, club presidents, Governors, Past International Presidents and relevant International Committees as well as headquarters' staff. Research was also undertaken to understand external practices, including other international membership organizations. An external advisor assisted in the work in order to have an experienced external view on the matters and to help with the extensive project and its management. The work completed to date is presented in a report to the 2022 Convention. The report includes a number of proposals for change, some of which require changes to Zonta International Bylaws.

As reflected in the report to the 2022 Convention there are recommendations for the fields of strategy, governance, membership and advocacy that could be implemented in the next biennium (some of which require changes to bylaws) taking into account the feedback from the members and the status of Zonta International in the post-pandemic environment. In addition, further work is required to evaluate Zonta's programs, fundraising, support operations etc. so that they are fully evaluated and the study completed.

In order to ensure that the momentum for this work is maintained, without loss of continuity, the Zonta International Board is proposing this resolution to ensure that the work can continue in 2022 – 2024 biennium and would assist in drafting the strategic and business plans for Zonta as proposed in the Biennial Goals 2022 – 2024.

Recommended for adoption by the Zonta International Board

RESOLUTION regarding the “Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women” Campaign

The campaign “Zonta says NO to violence against women” shall be continued in the biennium 2022 – 2024.

Rationale: “Zonta says No” was developed in 2012 to promote Zonta's credibility and visibility, according to the goals of the biennium 2012-2014 and was successfully continued in the following biennia. The need to attract attention for Zonta's mission is an ongoing demand and should not be ended. Therefore, it is proposed that the campaign should be continued, since it helps to bring Zonta into the public consciousness and raises awareness for Zonta's mission. Besides, the campaign has a strong impact within the Zonta world. It shall be continued for the following reasons:

1. The campaign “Zonta Says No to violence against women” is a Zonta-owned instrument that will further enhance Zonta's credibility and visibility.

2. Also, it is a tool that helps all clubs to work on Zonta's mission. It combines local action with the International Service Projects run by ZI. "Zonta says No to violence against women" links the local work to ZI and helps to promote at a wider range.
3. The campaign involves all main Zonta fields of activities (Advocacy, Service, PR & Communication, UN and Council of Europe, Membership). Furthermore, it helps Zontians on all levels to get connected and work together. Consequently, the campaign supports the exchange and networking of all members within the Zonta world.
4. Many Zonta Clubs around the world already take part in "Zonta says No to violence against women". This can be seen at "zontasaysno.com". This fruitful work should not be jeopardized by discontinuing the campaign. All clubs should have the opportunity to benefit from lessons already learned.

Recommended for adoption by the Zonta International Board.

RESOLUTION to extend WIT Scholarship for another biennium with a slight modification.

The WIT Scholarship should be continued as a third pilot cycle on club, district, and international level for women in all STEM fields. A final comparison and evaluation shall be presented at the 2024 Convention.

Rationale: *The Women in Technology Scholarship was set up as a pilot program for two biennia because women are still largely underrepresented in information technology and other STEM fields. To give women equal opportunities as men in technological developments, Zonta launched this pilot scholarship program in 2018. In 2020 the Scholarship was limited to international applications only.*

Women are still underrepresented in all engineering and STEM fields. Therefore, WIT scholarship could have the effect of empowering women not only in IT but also in engineering. Furthermore, it will encourage young women to work in these areas. This will be the perfect counterpart to woman in business scholarship (JMK).

Not recommended by the Zonta International Board

The Women in Technology (WIT) scholarship pilot program was a great idea. After extensive review of available funding and sustainability of programs, it was determined that it is not practical to continue the WIT Scholarship for the 2022-2024 biennium.

It is a priority for the Zonta International Board and the Zonta Foundation for Women Board to appropriate resources and funds to standing programs ahead of pilot programs.

Overall contributions have not kept pace with fundraising goals for the last two biennia. The Zonta International Board also recognizes the pressure on clubs and individuals during the current economic environment and has scaled back the spending proposal for international service projects and Amelia Earhart fellowships.

Accumulated reserves for JMK provides an opportunity to increase scholarships and restructure the JMK Scholarship to include business technology and information technology in business studies to acknowledge these fields where female students are underrepresented.

The process of the overall review of Zonta International could not be finished in this biennium, especially with regards to the topics 'programs' and 'fundraising'. If this process continues in 2022-2024 (see proposed Biennial Goals 2022-2024 and Resolution #2), the programs workstream will study the education programs and will make recommendations for a future-oriented conception of the programs.

RESOLUTION regarding age of young professional

That Zonta International raise the age of Young Professional status from 30 to 35.

Rationale: Changing the age offers the opportunity for more young professionals to take advantage of reduced membership fees, in order to enhance club efforts to increase membership recruitment

Not recommended by the Zonta International Board

Rationale from Zonta International Board: The Young Professional membership fee was introduced as a pilot project 2016 and was then meant to attract mainly, but not only, former members of the Z and Golden Z clubs and awardees of Zonta International educational programs. With many of them still studying, they might not have the financial resources to become club members. Most young professional are expected to have started their careers at 30 and can then afford to pay full dues.