In 1919, a group of forward-thinking executive women came together in Buffalo, New York, to use their combined expertise in service to their community. Not satisfied with the predominantly social nature of many women’s organizations at the time, the women who founded Zonta envisioned a new kind of service organization – one that would promote professionalism among its executive members while serving the needs of girls and young women in the community.

One hundred years later, the legacy of Zonta’s early members can be seen and felt through more than 1,100 Zonta clubs in 62 countries across the globe. While the world has changed dramatically over the last century, more than 26,000 Zontians today remain committed to the professionalism, fellowship and service that led Zonta’s visionary founders to come together.

Today, Zonta’s history extends beyond the community service of each individual Zonta club. Zonta International has provided more than US$50.1 million through the Zonta Foundation for Women to empower women and girls and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities and safe living conditions.

Zonta’s vision will not be achieved by monetary donations alone. At the local, national and regional levels, Zonta clubs and individual Zontians are advocating for laws and policies that ensure gender equality and help every woman and girl realize her full potential.

“Zonta, with its members and partners, is a strong, committed community working together to fight for gender equity at the local and global levels. We will build a better world for women and girls by standing out for gender equity, representing global citizenship, developing future leaders, celebrating ourselves and positioning Zonta for the future.”

—Ute Scholz, International President 2022-2024

www.zonta.org
Education Programs

Zonta International’s education programs enable women to continue making great strides and overcome gender barriers in the pursuit of education, careers and leadership roles. Zonta has awarded more than 3,000 fellowships, scholarships and awards through donations made to the Zonta Foundation for Women.

The Amelia Earhart Fellowship supports women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. Zonta has awarded more than 1,700 Amelia Earhart Fellowships, totaling more than US$11.3 million, to more than 1,200 women representing more than 75 countries.

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship is awarded annually to women pursuing undergraduate or master’s degrees in business management. Zonta has awarded almost 700 scholarships, totaling more than US$1.6 million, to more than 600 women representing more than 65 countries.

The Young Women in Public Affairs Award honors young women who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in public policy, government and volunteer organizations. Zonta has given more than 1,000 awards, totaling more than US$1.3 million, to almost 900 young women from 60 countries.

The Zonta International Women in STEM Scholarship encourages women to pursue education and career opportunities in STEM fields. This pilot program, launched in 2019, awarded US$268,000 to 50 scholars from 29 countries.

International Service Project History

Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US$32.7 million to projects benefiting women in 69 countries.

2022-2024
- Adolescent Girls’ Health and Protection in Peru with UNICEF USA
- Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority: Strengthening services for survivors of gender-based violence: Phase II with UNFPA
- Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar with UNICEF USA
- Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action: Phase II with UNICEF USA and UNFPA

2020-2024
- Adolescent Girls’ Health and Protection in Peru with UNICEF USA
- Delivering Survivor-Centered Response to Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste with UNFPA
- Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA
- Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action: Phase II with UNICEF USA and UNFPA

2016-2018
- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Liberia with UNFPA
- Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA
- Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger with UNFPA*
- The Future We Want: Creating Sustainable Foundations for Addressing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration of Women and Girls in Nepal with UN Women*
- End Violence Against Women
- Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger with UNFPA*
- Voices Against Violence: Non-Formal Education Curriculum for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts on Ending Violence against Women and Girls in 12 countries with UN Women*

2012-2014
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF
- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA
- Safe Cities for Women in Honduras with UN Women*
- Mass Communication with a Purpose: Global Partnership on Education for Social Change in 12 countries with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UN Women*
- Empowering Women in Rural Samoa to Combat Violence with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UN Women*

2010-2012
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF USA
- Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador with UN Women
- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA
- Towards a Comprehensive Strategy to End Burns Violence Against Women in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Security and Empowerment for Women and their Families: Ensuring a Gender-Responsive Humanitarian and Early Recovery Response in Haiti with UNIFEM*
2008-2010
- Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador with UNIFEM
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda with UNICEF USA
- Reduction of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia with UNFPA
- Ending Violence Against Women through Community Action in Cambodia with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Combating Physical Violence Against Women and Supporting the Implementation of Protective and Anti-Discriminatory Laws and Policies in Egypt with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Community-Based Center for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence in Syria with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*

2006-2008
- Support for Revival of Rural Community-based Self-Help Initiatives in Sri Lanka with UNIDO
- Education and Leadership for Girls and Young Women in Bolivia with CARE
- Mata Masu Dubara: MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger with CARE
- Women's Learning Center and Health Clinic in Mir Bacha Kot, Afghanistan with Afghan Institute of Learning
- Prevention of Cross-border Regional Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro with STAR Network of World Learning and Regional Anti-Trafficking Mobilizations for Prevention*
- Implementation of Laws, Policies and Action Plans on Violence Against Women in Niger with the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women*
- Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in Sierra Leone with UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women*
- Preventing Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region with the Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities*
- Preventing Trafficking in Women in Thailand by Addressing the Normative Dimensions of Demand with UNIFEM*

2004-2006
- Mata Masu Dubara: MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger with CARE
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning
- Improving Women's Lives in Afghanistan with the Afghan Institute of Learning
- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Afghanistan with UNICEF
- Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women: Creation of Women Friendly Police and Judicial Procedures in Bhutan with UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) among Sudanese Refugees in Chad with the UN Foundation and UNFPA*
- Support to Prevent and Manage the Consequences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka with the UN Foundation and UNFPA*

2002-2004
- Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, Phase II with UNIFEM
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning
- Improving Women's Lives in Afghanistan with the Afghan Institute of Learning
- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Afghanistan with UNICEF

2000-2002
- Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision in Burkina Faso, Phase II with UNICEF
- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Nepal with UNICEF
- Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls with UNIFEM
- Women and Pesticides: Training and Education project with UNIFEM

1999-2000
- Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision Project in Burkina Faso with UNICEF

1998
- Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW) This was the first international service project administered by Zonta International

1996-1998
- Girls' Education Project in South Africa with UNICEF
- Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW). This was the first international service project administered by Zonta International

1994-1996
- Gender, Women, and Development, Phase IV project with UNIFEM and UNICEF
- Technical and Technological Support to Rural Women's Groups project with UNIFEM

1992-1994
- Enhancing Opportunities for Women in Development project with UNIFEM
- Organization of Mapuche Peasant Women project with UNIFEM
- Women and Pesticides: Training and Education project with UNIFEM

1990-1992
- Integrated Development for Women in Senculture project with UNIFEM
- Agricultural Training of Young Rural Women project with UNIFEM
- Revolving Loan Fund for Village Women project with UNIFEM

1988-1990
- Production, Processing and Marketing of Rootcrops project with UNIFEM
- Women's Agricultural Cooperative project with UNIFEM
- Assistance to the Strengthening of Women's Association for National Development with UNIFEM

1986-1988
- Training Women as Health Promoters project in cooperation with UNIFEM
- Training and Income Generating Project to Improve Fish Processing
- Methods and Organize a Marketing System with UNIFEM
- The Hirondelles Training Center for Women project with UNIFEM
- Marketing Network for Women's Handicrafts project with UNIFEM
- Training and Support for Women in Food Processing Technologies project with UNIFEM

1982-1988
- The Well Water project in Sri Lanka with UNICEF

1976-1982
- The Colombian Urban Slum project with UNFPA and the Colombian Government

1974-1976
- The Pan African Training and Research Center for Women project with UNICEF

1972-1974
- Mobile Medical Units project in Ghana with UNICEF

1962-1976
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan

1959-1960
- Anne Frank Village to aid refugee families in the Federal Republic of Germany, United Nations World Refugee Year

1956
- Direct aid for Hungarian refugees

1923
- East Relief in efforts to care for 115,000 orphan children in Smyrna, Turkey and furnish means of self-support for the women

* Designates previous Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW) project.

ZISVAW was created to improve education about—and increase awareness of—violence against women and children. ZISVAW was adopted as an ongoing program of Zonta International at the 1998 Paris Convention.

www.zonta.org
Supporting victims of domestic violence and their families in Australia

In Australia, an estimated 2.2 million adults report as victims of intimate partner violence from the age of 15. To raise awareness in their local community, the Zonta Club of Redcliffe Inc held a fundraising breakfast event for the Small steps 4 Hannah Foundation. The Small Steps 4 Hannah Foundation exists to end the cycle of domestic violence so that everyone can feel respected, informed, confident to act and safe. The fundraiser aimed to develop an awareness of coercive control and the steps local, state, and federal governments took to work together to combat domestic and family violence in their community.

Aiding emergency political refugees in Italy

The Zonta Club of Sanremo, Italy, has aided hundreds of refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine. As many of them arrived without luggage, the club rallied their community to donate clothing, medication and other needs. Some members also opened their homes to shelter them. One of the beneficiaries was Narges. When the Afghan government fell, she had to destroy all traces of her in fear of retaliation against family members she had to leave behind. As a sign for a better future, the club gifted the refugees a yellow rose, which also symbolizes the fundamental principles of Zonta.

Expanding teenage pregnancy awareness in Ghana

The Zonta Club of Accra Jubilee, Ghana, organized a health screening and sexual reproductive health program in Chokra, an underprivileged community. Chorkor has notably high levels of teenage pregnancy and early marriage and about 111,000 Ghanian adolescent girls became pregnant each year. Through this program, the club seeks to transform the outlook for girls by empowering them with education and sexual reproductive health awareness, which will help launch and protect their dreams. The club plans to have a biennial health screening and sexual reproductive program. For their first year, they reached 113 females, of which 66 were girls.

Taking action on climate change in Uruguay

Understanding climate change as a human rights issue is central in creating a sustainable, gender-equal future. The Zonta Club of Punta del Este-Maldonado was inspired to build a greener, cleaner and more equal society in their city. Although Uruguay doesn’t experience natural weather disasters, the city’s expansion is causing an alarming rate of deforestation. The club decided to call attention to their community on this issue by planting native trees and flora in city parks and open areas. The mayor and environmental activists assisted the club in planting trees and flora across the city.

Zonta International is a global community of more than 26,000 women and men in more than 1,100 Zonta clubs in 62 countries.

At the local level, Zonta clubs identify the most urgent issues affecting women and girls in their communities and develop service and advocacy projects to address these challenges. The issues and solutions vary, as each is tailored to local needs.

Read below to learn more about just a few ways Zonta clubs are building a better world for women and girls.