



## **Service Committee FAQs (frequently asked questions)**

### **What is service?**

Service within Zonta is the action of helping or doing work that improves the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women and girls or prevents violence against them. This means that most of our activities and actions are service, whether it is by delivering hands-on service to women and girls, taking part in an advocacy action, fundraising, working with our awardee alumnae, being a member of a committee or serving in a leadership role at all levels of the organization.

### **What is a Zonta service project?**

A service project is a specific activity carried out by Zonta members where they participate actively and personally in giving hands-on service to women and girls that delivers immediate or ongoing help. It may require funding to deliver the service project, but donating money to a partnering organization is not a service project unless it also includes an element of hands-on help to the women and girls supported by the partnering organization.

### **Can a fundraiser be considered a service project?**

No, fundraising is a different type of Zonta activity that provides essential financial support for services delivered by a partnering organization. Fundraising sits beside hands-on service and is necessary to support the Zonta Foundation for Women projects as well as clubs' and districts' local partnering organizations' projects.

### **What is a partnering organization?**

It is an organization that works with clubs and districts or the Zonta Foundation for Women to deliver service projects to women and girls. Partnering organizations must meet the criteria stated in the Affiliation with Other Organizations Policy and the Affiliation of Other Organizations Policy and Guidelines documents, located at

[https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Governance/Policies\\_Guidelines](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Governance/Policies_Guidelines).

### **Why does an affiliation have to meet the conditions outlined in the Zonta International Affiliation with Other Organizations Policy and Guidelines documents?**

The Bylaws of Zonta International provide that:

- Zonta International, its districts and its clubs shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian.
- Zonta International, its districts and its clubs may express themselves about and become involved in principles and public issues having a bearing on the Objects of Zonta International, following the policies established by the Zonta International Board.

If the partnering organization does not meet the conditions outlined in the affiliation policy, the club or district would be in breach of the Zonta International Bylaws.

### **Why do we need service projects?**

Service projects allow us to deliver direct hands-on help to women and girls and provide an immediate or ongoing response to critical women's issues. Carrying out service projects means that we are actively working toward our mission of empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

### **What if my club cannot identify a local service project?**

Not all clubs may be able to find a suitable local partnering organization that would be open to allowing Zontians to provide hands-on service to their beneficiaries. This may be due to the requirement of specific qualifications or knowledge to be able to provide the necessary assistance or to local laws that are in place to protect vulnerable individuals or groups. There are many other ways to serve within Zonta that are vital to the success of the organization's mission until you find the right service project for your club or district.

### **Why does a service project have to focus on Zonta's mission?**

Our mission is to empower women worldwide through service and advocacy. Through the activities of our clubs, districts and international service projects, we are working toward achieving this goal.

### **Why does a service project have to benefit women and girls?**

Clubs and districts exist for the purpose of the attainment of the Objects of Zonta International as stated in the Bylaws. Article II, Objects (a) states "To improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women at the global and local level through service and advocacy."

- [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Governance/Governing\\_Documents](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Governance/Governing_Documents)

### **Why does a service project have to address one or more of Zonta's objects?**

A service project needs to address one or more of our objects for it to fulfill the organization's purpose as stated in the Zonta International Bylaws, Article II.

- [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Governance/Governing\\_Documents](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Governance/Governing_Documents)

### **Why should a service project contribute to advancing the status of women?**

Service projects should contribute to advancing the status of women to meet our mission and vision and to ensure every woman is able to achieve her full potential, to have access to all resources and be represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men.

- [https://www.zonta.org/Web/About\\_Us/Mission\\_and\\_Vision/Web/About/Mission%20and%20Vision.aspx](https://www.zonta.org/Web/About_Us/Mission_and_Vision/Web/About/Mission%20and%20Vision.aspx)

### **Why should a service project have an advocacy aspect?**

Advocacy adds impact to a service project because it means that our message reaches a wider audience than the beneficiaries. This action may result in positive changes being made that affect many women now and into the future, particularly by influencing local decision-making or laws.

### **Why do we want the club or district to promote the outcomes of a service project?**

Promoting a service project not only raises the profile of the club and Zonta but it focuses attention on the women's issue being supported. This action may result in additional donations or funding or changes that reduce or eliminate the problem. It also helps to attract new members, which means that we can help more women.

### **Why do we want the service project to increase Zonta's visibility at the local level?**

With an increased profile, the club's work is perceived as having more value and adds to the success of their other initiatives. It may provide opportunities for helping more women or create openings for members' voices to be heard that can influence local decision-making or laws. It also helps attract new members, which means that we can help more women.

### **Why should the impact of the service project be measurable?**

A project that has measurable outcomes means that it can be assessed to determine whether it has met its objectives. The results of the assessment may satisfy donors that their contribution has made a difference and generate more donations, as well as help clubs and districts to make informed decisions about future projects.

### **Why should a service project be pertinent and accurate to the local situation?**

Adopting a service project that addresses the needs of local women and girls reinforces the club's or district's place as a valued member of its community. Its reputation is enhanced, which may lead to greater support for its actions and activities, as well as increased donations to support its causes, and an opportunity to be consulted and influence local decision-making and laws. It may also lead to an increase in interest from prospective members.

### **What are international service projects?**

These are special service projects at the international level that unite the clubs and individual members globally. The Zonta Foundation for Women partners with agencies of the United Nations and other recognized non-governmental organizations to deliver projects that create educational opportunities for women and girls, improve their health, provide better economic opportunities and prevent gender-based violence.

➤ <https://zonta.org/ISP>

The voting members at the Zonta International Convention, which takes place every two years, approve international projects and programs.

### **Why should a local service project align with an international project?**

International projects unite clubs and individual members globally and provide a vehicle for clubs and districts to create a unified worldwide presence focusing on a single issue. The Ending Child Marriage project, for example, is an advocacy action for many clubs but it has also been used as inspiration by some clubs to implement their own local service project. This has included members hosting workshops with school students to discuss the disadvantages of child marriage and inform them about governmental rules around the practice. In another service project, members offered counseling to women that had been married at an early age.

### **Why should a service project attract young members?**

An effective service project that addresses a local issue makes a club attractive to new members that also want to support that cause. Young members have the potential to serve the organization for more years, aid succession planning and ensure longevity of a club.

### **What does creating greater impact and added value mean?**

A service project that is delivered to a group of women or girls helps those women and girls. Creating impact and adding value means that the same project can be developed or expanded to reach more women and girls.

### **Why should a club or district use the Service Scorecard?**

The scorecard is a tool to help clubs or districts evaluate the merits of a project to ensure it will help the organization meet its mission. To be able to do that we need to focus on the specific points that will empower women.

### **Where can I find the Service Scorecard?**

The scorecard is available on the Zonta International website at [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools).

### **Where can I find the Criteria for Clubs and Districts to Select a Service Project?**

The criteria are available on the Zonta International website at [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools).

### **Where can I find inspiration for selecting a service project?**

The Zonta International website [abounds with inspiration](#) and there is a Service Tools flyer available that has links to all appropriate pages: [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools).

### **Where can I find the history of the Zonta Foundation for Women service projects?**

The International Service Program History 1923-Present is available on the Zonta International website in two places:

- Service Tools: [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools)
- Zonta International History: [https://www.zonta.org/Web/About/ZI\\_History\\_Home](https://www.zonta.org/Web/About/ZI_History_Home)

### **Where can I find the history of the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) Projects?**

The Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) History 1996-2020 is on Zonta International website in two places:

- Service Tools: [https://www.zonta.org/Web/My\\_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools](https://www.zonta.org/Web/My_Zonta/Tools/Service%20Tools)
- Zonta International History: [https://www.zonta.org/Web/About/ZI\\_History\\_Home](https://www.zonta.org/Web/About/ZI_History_Home)

### **What is the ZISVAW program?**

This program was created after Zonta hosted a summit on violence against women in 1995. The ZISVAW Fund operated from 1996 to 2020. ZISVAW projects focused on prevention, awareness, education and the development of innovative approaches to eliminating violence against women and were funded by voluntary donations to the Zonta Foundation for Women ZISVAW Fund. Starting in July 2020, all of Zonta International's service projects are being supported by the International Service Fund.

### **What is the Zonta Foundation for Women?**

This is the new name for the Zonta International Foundation, which was established in 1985 to carry out the charitable service of Zonta International.