



August 2018 e-newsletter



Understanding Child Marriage

12 million girls under the age of 18 are married each year.

21 percent of young women around the world were married before their 18th birthday.

650 million women and girls alive today were married as children.

(Information from UNFPA)

While 25 million child marriages have been prevented in the last decade, progress is not being made fast enough. It is predicted that by the year 2030, the number of girls and women married as children will reach nearly 1 billion.

According to UNFPA, child marriage often prevents girls from continuing their education, increases their risk of becoming victims of domestic violence and contributes to high rates of maternal mortality.

Zonta International's project, Ending Child Marriage, in partnership with UNICEF USA and UNFPA, will work to end child marriage in 12 countries where the practice is most prominent. Those countries are: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

Recognizing that only a long-term strategy will ensure the desired outcomes, the multi-year program seeks to promote the right of girls to delay marriage, addresses the conditions that keep the practice in place and provides care for girls who are already married. Because of the focused, evidence-based model, the program is projected to support 2.5 million girls.

[Read online](#)



If current trends continue, an estimated 280 million girls are at risk of becoming child brides.

Child marriage is a global violation of human rights.



2018-2020 Service Projects

Let Us Learn Madagascar

Eid bi Eid (Hand in Hand)

Ending Child Marriage



UN Women/Christopher Herwig



Meet the 2018 Amelia Earhart Fellows

Learn more about the 30 women recognized as the 2018 Amelia Earhart Fellows, studying in fields as diverse as mechanical engineering, planetary sciences and aeronautics.

Meet the Fellows



**Click here to meet the 2018-2020
Zonta International and Zonta
International Foundation Board**

Zontians in Action

Every month, we highlight the service and advocacy actions of Zonta clubs around the world. Has your club impacted your community through its actions? [Share Your Story](#) through our website and tag your social media posts with #ZontiansInAction.

Zonta Club of Cheyenne, USA

A few days before the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the Zonta Club of Cheyenne held an event alongside the Freedom Drivers Project to raise awareness of how truck drivers can prevent trafficking.

[Read more](#)



Zonta Club of Feldbach, Austria

The Zonta Club of Feldbach provides emergency accommodation for women and children who leave their homes because of domestic violence.

[Read more](#)



Zonta Club of Kankakee and Z Club of Kankakee County, USA

The Zonta Club of Kankakee and Z Club of Kankakee County organized an educational screening of the film *Break the Chain* to encourage conversation about the realities of human trafficking in their community. The screening was followed by a Q&A session.

[Read more](#)



To find out more about how our Zontians are empowering women within their own community visit our [Local Service and Advocacy page](#) or follow us on social media with the hashtag #ZontiansInAction.

Share Your Story

More in Zonta news:

- [The Zontian Program Issue 2018-2020 is here](#)
 - [Zonta International rewards dedicated Z and Golden Z clubs with 2018 Emma L. Conlon Service Awards](#)
 - [International president shares message following Japan flooding](#)
 - [Zonta continues to empower women and work for gender equality in its Centennial Anniversary Biennium](#)
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