Dear Zontians and friends,

2019 has been an exceptional and very special year for Zonta:

Thousands of members across the globe gathered to celebrate Zonta’s Centennial Anniversary in very different ways with hundreds of big and small events. On 8 November, exactly 100 years after Zonta was founded in Buffalo, New York, we held a centennial fundraiser, through which nearly 800 people donated US$135,250, far surpassing our goal of US$100,000.

Another way to honor our history and our mission was this year’s Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. Rightfully so, because we cannot achieve gender equality if gender violence in its multiple forms persists. I had the impression that Zonta activities were even more visible in our communities than ever before. This is demonstrated by the pictures of landmark buildings lit in orange and the many reports and media articles that have already reached us.

I am most grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this a successful year. In 2020, I look forward to continue working together and to celebrating all that we have accomplished by reviewing Beijing+25 and, of course, the Zonta International Convention in Chicago.

I wish you all Happy Holidays and a new year with a lot of energy to make further progress toward gender equality.

Thank you for your support!

Cordially,

Dr. Susanne von Bassewitz, President

Celebrating Zonta's centennial anniversary by addressing women's needs worldwide

Zonta members used the 100th anniversary to raise up the voice of Zonta, shine the spotlight on advocacy actions, and broaden our network of like-minded people and organizations. Following are just a few stories of recent events.

Mayor’s reception at Hamburg City Hall

The first Zonta club in Germany and the second in Europe was chartered in 1931 in Hamburg. Today, Hamburg has five vibrant clubs.

On 12 December, the mayor honored the continuous civic engagement of its
members with a reception in its beautiful City Hall.

At the dinner following this event, the clubs raised US$20,000 to support the Global Programme to End Child Marriage. About 500 people attended, among them many dignitaries of this proud city whose origins date back to the ninth century. In 2022, Hamburg will host Zonta’s International Convention. Major celebrations attended by several hundred people were also held in other German cities, among them Frankfurt and Wuppertal and, of course, in many countries of the Zonta world.

‘Vintage Affair’ in Bangladesh honors centennial

On 8 November, members from the six clubs in Bangladesh attended a panel discussion at the Dhaka Lit Fest, where international and local women’s right activists, gender specialists and advocates deliberated on global problems of rape, crimes and violence against women.

Then, on 23 November, they held a "Vintage Affair," attended by 500 people. The event included a fashion show, fireworks, the release of 100 balloons, cake cutting and more.

Zonta club in the Philippines organizes widespread media campaign

The Zonta Club of Pampanga, Philippines, held a media campaign that covered the whole area of Central Luzon, which is comprised of seven provinces.

Four to five members of the club were interviewed live to talk about Zonta, its advocacy and its celebration of 100 years. They also discussed the Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign and were given the opportunity to entice possible donors for the Zonta International Foundation.

Thank you to everyone who joined in our centennial celebrations throughout the month of November and those events still to come.

—— Click to Read More Centennial Celebration Stories from the Zonta World ——
Zonta members raise their voices to say NO to violence against women and girls

**Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women** actions and events were highly visible during this year’s **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**.

**Orange lights to show the world we are saying 'No'**

As part of the 16 Days of Activism, UN Women calls for activists to "**Orange the World**" by lighting and decorating buildings and landmarks in orange to bring global attention to the issue of gender-based violence.

Germany broke a record with an estimated total of 700 bridges, landmarks, offices, banks and schools in orange light. Zonta clubs in Australia, Canada, the U.K., New Zealand and many other countries also turned their cities orange to draw attention to the issue of gender-based violence.

**Photos: Niagara Falls, Canada (top) and Munich Airport, Germany.**

**US Zonta club focuses on advocating to end child marriage**

Members of the Zonta Club of Cheektowaga-Lancaster, USA, wrote their U.S. senators and asked them to support the Protecting Children Through Eliminating Visa Loophole Act S.742 and to co-sponsor S.1071, the Keeping Girls in School Act.

The club members were inspired to start this letter-writing campaign to discuss the importance of education in preventing child, early and forced marriage after collectively reading **A Good Wife** by Samra Zafar. In her autobiography, Zafar shares her own experience with an arranged marriage at a young age and the challenges and opposition she faced to overcome those challenges.

**African e-Club calls on men to stand against gender-based violence**

The Zonta e-Club of West Africa recently unveiled their new advocacy project, "Orange
"Men Against Rape," which calls on men to take a stand against attitudes that normalize rape culture, child marriage and all forms of violence against women and girls.

Throughout the 16 Days, the club posted, on their social media accounts, graphics featuring photos and quotes from men who support the initiative, along with information about gender-based violence.

This project is meant to spread awareness and get men actively involved in thinking about and participating in eliminating violence against women.

Many Zonta Says NO actions and activities continue beyond the 16 Days of Activism. To submit your action, visit zontasaysno.com.

Join us for the closing of two years of centennial celebrations — register now for the lowest rate

Register now for the 2020 Chicago Convention
4 – 8 July
Early Bird pricing ends 12 February