



Zonta International calls for reaffirmed commitment to the SDGs

[Zonta International](#), a global leader in advocating for women's and girls' rights, calls for a reaffirmed commitment to the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), emphasizing that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a catalyst for sustainable development. Ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, strengthens communities, drives innovation, and accelerates collective progress toward a more just and sustainable world. Gender equality is also a cornerstone for achieving peace and security worldwide.

[Sustainable Development Goal 5 \(SDG5\)](#), which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, has been the foundation of Zonta International's global service and advocacy efforts since the SDGs were adopted in 2015. Achieving SDG5 is more critical than ever, especially in light of recent pushbacks on gender equality. At a time when progress toward equality is being challenged, it is essential to reaffirm that true, long-lasting development cannot be achieved without the full participation and empowerment of women and girls.

As the global community gathers for the annual [Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York](#) this week, Zonta International is discouraged to learn of the United States' recent denouncement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the vital commitment to gender equality. The SDGs, which have been endorsed by virtually every nation on Earth, serve as a comprehensive global framework for inclusive development, human dignity, and the promise of a better future for all.

[The United States' withdrawal from its commitment to the SDGs](#) risks reversing decades of hard-won progress and betrays the collective effort to build a more just and peaceful world. In a time when international solidarity and collective action are more critical than ever, this withdrawal threatens to weaken the global momentum needed to confront shared challenges.

Zonta International urgently calls on the United States and all nations to reaffirm their commitment to the SDGs, particularly the critical pursuit of gender equality. The time to act is now. We must not allow decades of hard-won progress to be reversed. Zonta International urges leaders and citizens alike to stand up, speak out, and take decisive action to ensure that gender equality remains at the forefront of global development efforts. Our shared future depends on it, and the moment to make a difference is now.