



NewsFlash



November 2019



Dear District 23 Zontians,

As we celebrate the centenary of Zonta International on 8 November I would like to take this opportunity to say

THANK YOU

to all District 23 Zontians for their contributions to empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy.

YOU are what makes Zonta successful.

Your tireless efforts to advocate, inform, raise funds and tackle hands on service projects are inspiring and also necessary. If you did not do what you do, how many women and girls would not be receiving assistance?

In today's world of "armchair activism", it's too easy to feel you contribute just by clicking a button or two.

Zontians are different.

Zontians show up.

Zontians are hands on.

You make it very easy for me to be proud of you.

THANK YOU!

NEXT NEWSFLASH

Our next Newsflash will have reports from all Areas as well as Committee Chairs.

A bumper read as we come to the 3/4 mark of the biennium.

CONFERENCE 2019

From the overwhelmingly positive comments I've received, I know the conference was a great success, with calls for Australia and New Zealand to join together on a more regular basis. I've read many club newsletters with highlights of the conference and I'm so pleased, for the most part, member experiences were as the organisers had hoped. You were inspired by our speakers and your fellow Zontians. You networked and shared ideas, attended workshops, and I believe a little socialising was undertaken too! Well done.

As you are aware, a new district service project—Mental Health First Aid— was voted in at conference. I'm asking for expressions of interest for clubs to participate in the pilot phase of this project. Please send EOI to me directly with a copy to your Area Director.

Post-conference there have been many questions and comments regarding our nomination and election procedures, with specific issues brought to my attention about nominations from the floor, the announcement of votes, and general election processes. I believe all procedures followed at conference were in line with current Zonta International and/or District 23 guidelines or rules of procedure, this doesn't mean we shouldn't review these processes to determine what we may be able to do better in the future. To that end, with appropriate district leaders, I will conduct a review and report back to the district before the end of the biennium. If you have any queries about this process please contact me directly.

USING THE CENTENNIAL FOR IMPACT AND AWARENESS

On 8 November, the centennial anniversary will begin at the stroke of midnight in New Zealand and close 47 hours later in Hawaii.

Here are three ways your clubs and members can engage:

Make a birthday gift: US\$100 for 100 years To honour Zonta's 100th anniversary, make a US\$100 gift to our Foundation.

If 1,000 people donate, the goal of US\$100,000 can be met.

Send a picture

We are collecting pictures and stories of celebrations. Use the "share your story" link on the zonta100.org website to upload.

Raise your voice and share why you love Zonta

Social media is a powerful tool and we want to tell the world about **#Zonta100** and how we **#EmpowerHer**. To show **who** Zonta empowers, please submit a quote from the women your club, area or district has empowered through Zonta projects and programs. To honour **how** Zontians have made a difference, please submit a quote about a Zontian or club who has supported or encouraged you. Send to pr@zonta.org and include a high-resolution photo if available.

As most of you would know, due to an accident at Melbourne Airport on my way to Brisbane, I was not able to attend the amazing conference. The devastation I felt was overwhelming. During that time, along with the support of my family and friends, the Zonta family sustained me. A huge thank you to President Susanne, my fellow Governors Souella, Sandy & Sharyl, Lt Governor Sandra and the District 23 Board and district leaders Erica Majba, Ann Horrocks and Naomi Reschke. I'm also thankful to the many members of our district who made contact, as well as the greater Zonta community, here and overseas, for the wonderful support I received. This has meant the world to me and I am so appreciative. Life is back to normal now, and I'm 95% recovered. I've been on an escalator at the airport since without incident!

Yours in Zonta service and advocacy,

Jane Adornetto,
District 23 Governor 2018-2020

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

November sees the activities of many clubs educating, and advocating for the prevention of violence against women, particularly highlighting our own campaign “Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women”.

It is also an appropriate time to promote Zonta’s commitment to Ending Child Marriage—a program to accelerate global action.

Below is information from both the Zonta International and United Nations websites, and on the following page a resource developed by the District 23 Service and Advocacy Committees.

From the United Nations:

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it.

In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual and psychological forms, encompassing:

- intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide);
- sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber - harassment);
- human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation);

- female genital mutilation; and child marriage.

To further clarify, the [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#) issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

The adverse psychological, sexual and reproductive health consequences of VAWG affect women at all stages of their life. For example, early-set educational disadvantages not only represent the primary obstacle to universal schooling and the right to education

for girls; down the line they are also to blame for restricting access to higher education and even translate into limited opportunities for women in the labour market.

While gender-based violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable - for instance, young girls and older women, women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, migrants and refugees, indigenous women and ethnic minorities, or women and girls living with HIV and disabilities, and those living through humanitarian crises.

Violence against women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls’ human rights.

From Zonta International:

Worldwide, almost 650 million women alive today were married before their 18th birthday and an estimated 280 million more girls are at risk of becoming brides. If current trends continue, the number of girls and women married as children will reach nearly 1 billion by 2030.

Child marriage is a global violation of human rights that can be found in cultures, religions, ethnicities and countries around the world.

Recognizing that only a long-term strategy will ensure the desired outcomes, UNICEF and UNFPA have joined forces and formally launched a multi-country initiative to protect the rights of millions of the world’s most vulnerable girls.

The Global Programme to End Child Marriage brings together

governments, civil society, families and young people in a collective effort to prevent girls from marrying too young and to support those already married as girls.

To date, more than 1 million girls have been reached through life skills and school attendance support and 1.67 million individuals have been engaged in community-based behaviour change and sensitization activities.

How Zonta helps

Zonta International has committed US\$2,000,000 to UNICEF USA to support the UNICEF/UNFPA Global Programme to End Child Marriage in 12 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia.

The program is turning commitment into tangible action to effect meaningful and lasting change in girls’ lives by focusing on five main strategies:

1. Building the skills and knowledge of girls at risk of child marriage
2. Supporting households in demonstrating positive attitudes towards adolescent girls
3. Strengthening the systems that deliver services to adolescent girls
4. Ensuring laws and policies protect and promote adolescent girls’ rights
5. Generating and using robust data to inform programs and policies relating to adolescent girls.

Under the umbrella of these five main strategies, each country will have specific strategies that respond to the context and factors that lead girls into early marriage.



Girls not Brides: Ending Child Marriage

Child Marriage happens across the world and is fueled by gender inequality, poverty, traditions and insecurity. Child brides face huge challenges because they are married as children.

1 in 5 girls is said to be married before the age of 18.

Child marriage is a truly global problem that cuts across countries, cultures, religions and ethnicities. More than 190 countries around the world have adopted the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and are committed to ending child marriage by 2030.

As a result of a decade of hard work campaigning to end child marriage, South Asia has witnessed the largest decline in child marriage in the last decade. A girl's risk of marrying before 18 has dropped from nearly 50% to 30% in the last ten years. Worldwide, there has been a 15% decrease in girls getting married since 2008.

These statistics are promising but 12 million girls still get married as children every year.

Since the criminalisation of forced marriage in Australia in 2013, there have been no successful prosecutions. There have been cases where other charges have been laid, but there are a number of barriers to prosecution for forced marriage, including:

- It is difficult to obtain evidence from other countries
- Victims are often reluctant to give evidence against family members
- Unlike other countries, such as the UK, Australia has no civil protection scheme available similar to an AVO or a watch-list order

What we can do at Club, Area and District level to help end child marriage:

- Expand the definition of domestic and family violence nationally to include forced marriage
- Advocate to introduce Forced Marriage Protection Orders
- Work together to de-link victim engagement and participation with law enforcement
- Research, discuss, and plan ongoing actions at club level

Similarly to the **Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women** campaign, ending child marriage will require:

- Long term sustained effort
- Change to take place in communities
- Support by collective efforts at local, national and international levels

To find out more refer:

- Zonta International, <https://foundation.zonta.org/EndingChildMarriage>
- Zonta International, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-d0jcexfPU&feature=youtu.be>
- The Good Shepherd, <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/australia/>
- My Blue Sky, <https://www.mybluesky.org.au>
- Girls Not Brides, Theory of Change on Child Marriage

Something powerful happens when women connect.
Together we're stronger, clearer, and more inspired, able to expand what's possible.
District 23 Service and Advocacy 2019