

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



In 1919, a group of forward-thinking executive women came together in Buffalo, New York, to use their combined expertise in service to their community. Not satisfied with the predominantly social nature of many women's organizations at the time, the women who founded Zonta envisioned a new kind of service organization – one that would promote professionalism among its executive members while serving the needs of girls and young women in the community.

More than one hundred years later, the legacy of Zonta's early members can be seen and felt through more than 1,100 Zonta clubs in 64 countries across the globe. While the world has changed dramatically over the last century, more than 25,000 Zontians today remain committed to the professionalism, fellowship and service that led Zonta's visionary founders to come together.

Today, Zonta's history extends beyond the community service of each individual Zonta club. Zonta International has provided more than US\$54.8 million through the Zonta Foundation for Women to empower women and girls and expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities and safe living conditions.

Zonta's vision will not be achieved by monetary donations alone. At the local, national and regional levels, Zonta clubs and individual Zontians are advocating for laws and policies that ensure gender equality and help every woman and girl realize her full potential.

www.zonta.org



GLOBAL IMPACT



Education Programs

Zonta International's education programs enable women to continue making great strides and overcome gender barriers in the pursuit of education, careers and leadership roles. Zonta has awarded more than 3,800 fellowships, scholarships and awards through donations made to the Zonta Foundation for Women.



The Amelia Earhart Fellowship supports women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace engineering and space sciences. Zonta has awarded more than 1,734 Amelia Earhart Fellowships, totaling more than US\$11.9 million, to 1,335 women from 79 countries.

The Zonta Women in Business Leadership Award recognizes outstanding achievements of women driving innovation and impact in the business world. Established in 2024, 10 international awards of US\$10,000 each awarded annually.

The Zonta Young Women in Leadership Award honors young women who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in public policy, government and volunteer organizations. Established in 1990 and renamed in 2024, Zonta has given 1,128 awards, totaling more than US\$1.6 million, to 956 young women from 61 countries.

The Zonta Women in STEM Award celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Began in 2018 as Women in Technology Scholarship, 16 international awards of US\$10,000 each awarded biannually.

International Service Project History

Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$39.15 million to projects benefiting women in 71 countries.

2024-2026

- Climate Empower: Community Empowerment and innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action with UNFPA
- Laaha: A Virtual Safe Space for Women and Girls with UNICEF USA
- Global Programme to End Child Marriage Phase III with UNFPA and UNICEF USA



2022-2024

- Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru with UNICEF USA
- Her Health and Dignity, Our Priority: Strengthening services for survivors of gender-based violence: Phase II with UNFPA
- Engaging Girls on Climate Change in Madagascar with UNICEF USA
- Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action: Phase II with UNICEF USA and UNFPA

2020-2022

- Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru with UNICEF USA
- Delivering Survivor-Centered Response to Gender-Based Violence Survivors in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste with UNFPA
- Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA
- Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action: Phase II with UNICEF USA and UNFPA

2018-2020

- Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA
- *Eid bi Eid* (Hand in Hand): A program to improve the resilience and empowerment of Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian women with UN Women
- Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action with UNICEF USA and UNFPA*

2016-2018

- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Liberia with UNFPA
- Let Us Learn Madagascar: An Integrated Program for Adolescent Girls with UNICEF USA
- Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger with UNFPA*
- The Future We Want: Creating Sustainable Foundations for Addressing Human Trafficking and Unsafe Migration of Women and Girls in Nepal with UN Women*

2014-2016

- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality in Liberia with UNFPA
- Working Toward an HIV-Free Generation and Effective Prevention and Response to Gender Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF USA
- Gender Responsive Schools Pilot Model in Vietnam with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
- Respecting the Rights and Responding to the Needs of Adolescent Girls in Niger with UNFPA*
- Voices Against Violence: Non-Formal Education Curriculum for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts on Ending Violence against Women and Girls in 12 countries with UN Women*

2012-2014

- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF
- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA

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- Safe Cities for Women in Honduras with UN Women*
- Mass Communication with a Purpose: Global Partnership on Edutainment for Social Change in 12 countries with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UN Women*
- Empowering Women in Rural Samoa to Combat Violence with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UN Women*

2010-2012

- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda with UNICEF USA
- Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador with UN Women
- Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia with UNFPA



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- Towards a Comprehensive Strategy to End Burns Violence Against Women in Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Security and Empowerment for Women and their Families: Ensuring a Gender-Responsive Humanitarian and Early Recovery Response in Haiti with UNIFEM*

2008-2010

- Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador with UNIFEM
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda with UNICEF USA
- Reduction of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia with UNFPA
- Ending Violence Against Women through Community Action in Cambodia with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Combating Physical Violence Against Women and Supporting the Implementation of Protective and Anti-Discriminatory Laws and Policies in Egypt with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Community-Based Center for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence in Syria with the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*

2006-2008

- Support for Revival of Rural Community-based Self-Help Initiatives in Sri Lanka with UNIDO
- Education and Leadership for Girls and Young Women in Bolivia with CARE
- Mata Masu Dubara: MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger with CARE
- Women's Learning Center and Health Clinic in Mir Bacha Kot, Afghanistan with Afghan Institute of Learning
- Prevention of Cross-border Regional Trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro with STAR Network of World Learning and Regional Anti-Trafficking Mobilizations for Prevention*
- Implementation of Laws, Policies and Action Plans on Violence Against Women in Niger with the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women*
- Combating Violence Against Women and Girls in Sierra Leone with UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women*

- Preventing Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region with the Development and Education Program for Daughters and Communities*
- Preventing Trafficking in Women in Thailand by Addressing the Normative Dimensions of Demand with UNIFEM*

2004-2006

- Mata Masu Dubara: MicroCredit and Health Education for HIV/AIDS-Affected Women in Niger with CARE
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning
- Improving Women's Lives in Afghanistan with the Afghan Institute of Learning
- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Afghanistan with UNICEF
- Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women: Creation of Women Friendly Police and Judicial Procedures in Bhutan with UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, administered by UNIFEM*
- Prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV) among Sudanese Refugees in Chad with the UN Foundation and UNFPA*
- Support to Prevent and Manage the Consequences of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka with the UN Foundation and UNFPA*

2002-2004

- Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls, Phase II with UNIFEM
- Bosnia and Herzegovina Anti-Trafficking Community Mobilization Project with STAR Network of World Learning
- Improving Women's Lives in Afghanistan with the Afghan Institute of Learning
- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Afghanistan with UNICEF

2000-2002

- Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision in Burkina Faso, Phase II with UNICEF
- Eliminating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus in Nepal with UNICEF
- Reinventing India: Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls with UNIFEM

1998-2000

- Prevention of Female Genital Circumcision Project in Burkina Faso with UNICEF
- Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW). This was the first international service project administered by Zonta International

From 2000-2004, Zonta awarded ZISVAW grants of up to US\$25,000 to Zonta clubs that partnered with local non-governmental organizations or schools to produce programs aimed at preventing violence against women.

1996-1998

- Girls' Education Project in South Africa with UNICEF
- Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW). This was the first international service project administered by Zonta International

1994-1996

- Gender, Women, and Development, Phase IV project with UNIFEM and UNICEF
- Technical and Technological Support to Rural Women's Groups project with UNIFEM

1992-1994

- Enhancing Opportunities for Women in Development project with UNIFEM
- Organization of Mapuche Peasant Women project with UNIFEM
- Women and Pesticides: Training and Education project with UNIFEM

1990-1992

- Integrated Development for Women in Sericulture project with UNIFEM
- Agricultural Training of Young Rural Women project with UNIFEM
- Revolving Loan Fund for Village Women project with UNIFEM

1988-1990

- Production, Processing and Marketing of Rootcrops project with UNIFEM
- Women's Agricultural Cooperative project with UNIFEM
- Assistance to the Strengthening of Women's Association for National Development with UNIFEM
- "Women, Water Supply and Sanitation" Workshop with INSTRAW
- Textile Production Project with UNICEF
- Young Mothers Hostel Project with UNESCO
- Technical Training and Introduction of Appropriate Agricultural Technology to Increase Women's Productivity project with UNIFEM

1986-1988

- Training Women as Health Promoters project in cooperation with UNIFEM
- Training and Income Generating Project to Improve Fish Processing
- Methods and Organize a Marketing System with UNIFEM
- The Hirondelles Training Center for

- Women project with UNIFEM
- Marketing Network for Women's Handicrafts project with UNIFEM
- Training and Support for Women in Food Processing Technologies project with UNIFEM

1982-1988

- The Well Water project in Sri Lanka with UNICEF

1976-1982

- The Colombian Urban Slum project with UNICEF and the Colombian Government

1974-1976

- The Pan African Training and Research Center for Women project with UNICEF

1972-1974

- Mobile Medical Units project in Ghana with UNICEF

1962-1976

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Vocational and Teacher Training Center for Women in Ramallah, Jordan

1959-1960

- Anne Frank Village to aid refugee families in the Federal Republic of Germany, United Nations World Refugee Year

1956

- Direct aid for Hungarian refugees

1923

- East Relief in efforts to care for 115,000 orphan children in Smyrna, Turkey and furnish means of self-support for the women

* Designates previous Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children (ZISVAW) project.

ZISVAW was created to improve education about—and increase awareness of—violence against women and children. ZISVAW was adopted as an ongoing program of Zonta International at the 1998 Paris Convention.

LOCAL ACTION



Zonta International is a global community of more than **26,000** women and men in more than **1,100** Zonta clubs in **64** countries.

At the local level, Zonta clubs identify the most urgent issues affecting women and girls in their communities and develop service and advocacy projects to address these challenges. The issues and solutions vary, as each is tailored to local needs.

Read below to learn more about just a few ways Zonta clubs are building a better world for women and girls.



Canadian House of Commons hears expert testimony from Zonta

The Zonta Club of Brampton-Caledon, Canada, gave a presentation to the Canadian House of Commons Status of Women Committee about Zonta's long history of tackling sexual exploitation. The club highlighted Zonta's alignment with Sustainable Development Goals 5.2 and 8.7, which both address the issue of forced labor, modern slavery and human trafficking, local initiatives and recommendations for the committee. The club offered expert testimony and further suggestions about peer-to-learning, increased social media campaigns and inclusion of sex-trafficking information in school curricula.



Empowering the future through engaging workshops

The Zonta Club of Accra, Ghana, organized a workshop, "Today's Girl, Our Future; Opportunities and Challenges" which aimed to empower and enhance the status and well-being of girls by engaging women mentors to invest in their future. Speakers counseled the girls extensively on their studies and values, and encouraged them to focus on their desires with passion and dedication. During breakout sessions, groups discussed how girls can be the future and what they received as challenges and opportunities for them as girls.



Including men in the gender equity conversation

Following the continued success of its annual International Women's Day Girls' Breakfast, the Zonta Club of Wangaratta, Australia, held its inaugural Boys' Career Breakfast to bring boys and men into the conversation on gender equality. Mentors from multiple industries networked with students between the guest speakers' presentations. A police officer and a real estate agency director delivered inspirational speeches about finding the career that best answers their interests and skills while integrating the theme, "Building Better Men."



Engaging youth in environmental forum and climate solutions

The Zonta Club of Cebu II, the Philippines, supported their student club, the Z Club of Childlink High School to organize a youth forum on environmental stewardship: "Climate Action Now: Together Let's Be Part of the Solution." The virtual gathering brought together many young environmental enthusiasts from other Z clubs and students from Japan, Taiwan and Singapore. During the forum, participants shared best practices to mitigate climate change and pledged unanimous support to stop climate change through awareness of the issue and using education as a platform for change.