

# 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.

One hundred years later, the legacy of Zonta's early members can be seen and felt through nearly 1,200 Zonta clubs in 63 countries across the globe. While the world has changed dramatically over the last century, more than 29,000 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\$40.9 million through the Zonta International Foundation 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.

*"We believe in making the world a better place by empowering women and we find joy by working together toward gender equity in a supportive community of like-minded professionals that even extends to other countries and cultures."*

—Susanne von Bassewitz, International President 2018-2020

[www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)



## 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 3,000 fellowships, scholarships and awards through donations made to the Zonta International Foundation.



**The Amelia Earhart Fellowship** supports women pursuing Ph.D./doctoral degrees in aerospace-applied sciences or aerospace-applied engineering. Zonta has awarded more than 1,570 Amelia Earhart Fellowships, totaling more than US\$10 million, to more than 1,140 women from more than 70 countries.

**The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship** is awarded annually to women pursuing undergraduate or master's degrees in business management. Zonta has awarded more than 500 scholarships, totaling more than US\$1.2 million, to nearly 400 women from more than 55 countries.

**The Young Women in Public Affairs Award** honors young women who demonstrate a commitment to leadership in public policy, government and volunteer organizations. Zonta has given more than 880 awards, totaling more than US\$920,000, to more than 750 young women from more than 55 countries.

**The Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship** encourages women to pursue education and career opportunities in technology and to take on leadership roles in this field. This pilot program was launched in 2019 in connection with the centennial celebration.

## International Service Project History

Since 1923, Zonta has provided more than US\$19.2 million to projects benefiting women in 35 countries.

### 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



### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 1996-1998

- Girls' Education Project in South Africa with UNICEF
- Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women and Children

### 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 Hironelles 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

# Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women Project History

Since the program's inception, more than US\$9.5 million has been provided to support projects in 46 countries.

### 2018-2020

- Ending Child Marriage: A Programme to Accelerate Global Action with UNICEF USA and UNFPA



### 2016-2018

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

### 2005

- First Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women grants awarded to UN agencies or recognized non-governmental organizations for projects that seek to change personal and/or political knowledge, attitudes and behavior contributing to gender-based violence

### 2000-2004

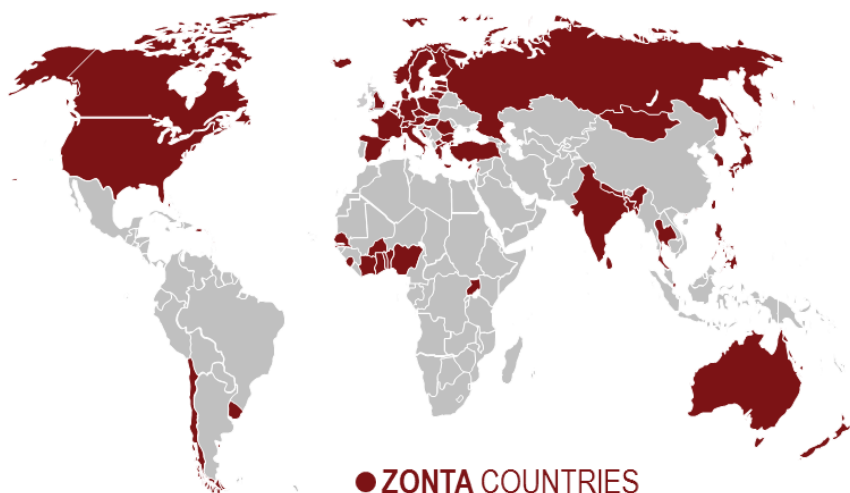
- Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women grants awarded in amounts up to US\$25,000 to Zonta clubs that partnered with local non-governmental organizations or schools to produce programs aimed at preventing violence against women

### 1998

- Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women created to improve education about, and increase awareness of, violence against women and children

### 1996-1998

- Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women was the first international service project administered by Zonta International.



**Zonta International** is a global community of more than **29,000** women and men in nearly **1,200** Zonta clubs in **63** 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 making a difference.



## Preventing child marriage through education in Bangladesh

The Zonta Club of Dhaka II, Bangladesh, has helped change the lives of two women after avoiding the pressures of child marriage. Mohsina Akhtar and Shoma Islam were both participants in *Shathi Samaj*, an education-focused service project. Mohsina was forced to get married and not allowed to continue school. With support from club members, Mohsina left her abusive marriage and is now studying finance at the University of Dhaka. Shoma was under pressure to discontinue her studies and get married. With help from club members, she is now in her fourth year at the University of Dhaka with the goal of becoming a nutritionist.



## Empowering survivors of domestic violence in Austria

The Zonta Club of Feldbach, Austria, has collected and invested approximately €25,000 (approximately US\$26,600) into the "Zonta Hafen" program since its launch in 2014. Zonta Hafen has provided safe hotel accommodations and a 60-square-meter flat for approximately 300 overnight stays for women and children. The women are allowed to live in the space for a maximum of three months while receiving advice from experts at Innova, a help and counseling center that partners with the Zonta Club of Feldbach.



## Addressing maternal anemia and promoting safe pregnancies in Ghana

In 2012, 20 percent of Ghana's maternal deaths were attributed to anemia, a deficiency of red blood cells or hemoglobin in the blood that causes health problems and can lead to heart issues and death. That year, the Zonta clubs of Accra, Accra II, Accra Metropolitan and Tema developed a project which resulted in women receiving nutritional supplements to lower this risk and gaining access to improved care at a local clinic. Following this project's success, the clubs launched another joint project in 2017 that aims to educate women about safe and healthy deliveries. The women learn how to make birthing kits, as many of them do not have access to the necessary tools.



## Partnering with domestic violence outreach centers in the USA

Women often leave abusive situations with nothing but the clothes on their backs. To them, basics like clean washcloths and other hygiene items can make a big difference. The Zonta Club of the Adirondacks, USA, raises money each year to collect essential personal hygiene items and basic baby and toddler supplies for women who are fleeing abusive situations at home. In just two years, they have donated dozens of duffel bags and tote bags full of these items, which are presented to STOP Domestic Violence, the primary outreach organization that serves women and their children in three counties in upstate New York.



# ADVOCACY FOR GENDER EQUALITY



**Zonta International envisions a world** in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

**In such a world**, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision making positions on an equal basis with men.

**In such a world**, no woman lives in fear of violence.

Realizing this vision takes persistent and coordinated advocacy actions at the international, state/provincial and local levels. Driven by our more than **29,000 members** in **63 countries**, Zonta International's advocacy efforts are **far-reaching and effective**. Zontians believe in making the world a better place by empowering women and find joy in working together toward gender equity in a supportive community of like-minded professionals that extends to other countries and cultures.

## Zonta advocates to:

### End violence against women and girls

Every year from 25 November through 10 December, Zonta clubs around the world participate in Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women, our international campaign to raise awareness of and increase actions to end violence against women and girls. Through their advocacy actions as part of the campaign, Zonta clubs achieve local and national government and community commitment to take action to end violence against women and girls. **Learn more at [www.zontasaysno.com](http://www.zontasaysno.com).**

### Empower women in the workplace

In addition to providing more than US\$500,000 every year for educational scholarships to promote women in traditionally male-dominated fields, Zonta International supports the Women's Empowerment Principles and advocates for the adoption of these principles in the practices of our employers, and in the practices of other employers in our communities and countries. **Learn more at [www.zonta.org/womensempowermentprinciples](http://www.zonta.org/womensempowermentprinciples).**

### Demand equal pay for equal work

On average, women globally make just 80 cents for every dollar earned by men. According to the Global Wage Report 2018/19 by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the global gender pay gap is approximately 20 percent. As an organization that works to improve the economic and professional status of women, Zonta International advocates for pay equity as a necessity to achieve gender equality and sustainable development globally. **Find resources and materials at [bit.ly/2VLRM5B](https://bit.ly/2VLRM5B).**



For more examples of Zonta advocacy, visit our website at [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org).