

Zonta and the United Nations: Why They Are a Good Fit



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Zonta's Mission Statement



Zonta International is a **global** organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through **service and advocacy**. Nearly 33,000 members belong to more than 1,200 Zonta Clubs in 67 countries and geographic areas.



UN Preamble

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

- to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,



ZI/UN Partnerships

- Zonta International and the United Nations have been closely linked since Zonta expressed support for the fledgling UN in 1946. As an international non-governmental organization (NGO), Zonta brings women's concerns to the UN, suggests solutions, draws public attention to issues and encourages its members to participate at the local level.
- Zonta maintains representatives of its United Nations Committee at UN sites in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna. Committee members attend UN conferences, and UN agency, committee and commission sessions.
- Accredited NGOs, like Zonta, participate in these sessions by providing written statements and oral presentations on issues being considered. NGOs also may organize panels relating to the general debate.



ZI/UN Partnerships

- **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

Since 1985, Zonta has had general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of six principal bodies carrying out UN work.

ECOSOC is responsible for two-thirds of UN programs, in particular, those concerned with economic issues, such as trade, industrialization and development, as well as social issues such as women's rights, children and social welfare. ECOSOC makes recommendations on how to improve education and health conditions and to promote respect for and observance of the human rights and freedoms of people everywhere.



ZI/UN Partnerships



- **Commission on the Status of Women**

One of nine functional ECOSOC committees, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the leading policymaking body concerned with women's rights and the equal status of women. Since 1946, the CSW has convened an annual conference, now attended by thousands of women worldwide, to discuss issues of paramount concern for women.



ZI/UN Partnerships

- **Department of Public Information**

Zonta is one of many NGOs associated with the [United Nations Department of Public Information](#) because of its strong programs on issues of concern to women. The UN provides NGOs access to information and materials and the NGOs agree to disseminate information to their membership.



Project 5-0

- Project Five-O, established in 1975, is designed to provide opportunities for vocational training of women and girls in the poorest economic circumstances in developing countries. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the newly independent states in Eastern Europe (the so-called "countries in transition") may also be considered for funding. Currently, Project Five-O is sponsoring 23 projects in 18 countries. Works through Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women



Project Five-0

Organizations involved in Project Five-0

- Business and Professional Women International
- International Council of Women
- International Federation of University Women
- Soroptimist International
- **Zonta International**



Zonta International also has consultative status with:



- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#)

Founded in 1919, the International Labour Organization (ILO) is devoted to advancing opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. Its main aims are to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.

- [Council of Europe](#)

Founded in 1949, the Council of Europe seeks to develop throughout Europe common and democratic principles based on the European Convention on Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals.



**Zonta works with many UN Agencies
to administer its international and
ZISVAW projects.**



UNIFEM

- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), created by a UN General Assembly in 1976, after a call from women's organizations attending the 1975 First World Conference for Women in Mexico City. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality, focusing on 4 strategic areas:
 - ending violence against women,
 - reducing feminized poverty,
 - reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls, and
 - achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace and conflict.



UNICEF



- UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.
- UNICEF aims, through its country programs, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social, and economic development of their communities.



UNFPA

- UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.



United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

- Set up in 1996, Operational in 1997 with UNIFEM as its Fund's administrator as an inter-agency mechanism to advance actions against violence against women (a result of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action). It has the same mission as UNIFEM).



Working Together on Service and Advocacy



Grant-making Policy

The Zonta International Foundation supports projects that address the education, health and economic advancement of women or prevent violence against women, implemented primarily by United Nations agencies or recognized international non-governmental organizations.

- Zonta, through its board, staff and international committees, oversees existing projects and develops ideas (through the Rose Fund) for new ones. Projects usually are designed as 2-year projects to coincide with the biennium.
- Zonta funds the projects.
- UN agency administers the project (10% administrative cost).
- Local non-profits run the project.
- Zonta evaluates projects.



2008-2010 International Service Fund





2008-2010 International Service Projects



- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda (UNICEF), \$600,000.
- Reduction of Obstetric Fistula in Liberia within the Context of Maternal and Newborn Health (UNFPA), \$450,000.
- Safe Cities for Women in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador (UNIFEM), \$600,000. (A ZI “owned” project)



- **ZISVAW (Zonta International Strategies to Prevent Violence Against Women).**
ZISVAW grants to United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations take an innovative approach to preventing violence against women and may include public education, advocacy, awareness raising and the involvement of men or men's organizations.



- ZISVAW grants were initiated in 1999. Through 2004, the Zonta International Foundation provided more than US\$540,000 in financial support to 24 collaborative projects submitted by Zonta Clubs and their partnering community-based, non-profit organizations in 7 countries. Since 2006, the Zonta International Foundation is providing US\$375,000 to support international projects in 5 countries. All administered by UNIFEM: United Nations Development Fund for Women, administered by the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women: Set up in 1996, Operational in 1997 with UNIFEM as its Fund's administrator (same mission as UNIFEM).



2008-2010 ZISVAW Projects



Three projects in 2008-2010 biennium administered by UNIFEM, using the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women

- \$300,000: Ending Violence Against Women Through Community Action in Cambodia.
- \$200,000: Combating Physical Violence Against Women and Supporting the Implementation of Protective and Anti-Discriminatory Laws and Policies in Egypt.
- \$100,000: Community-Based Center for Housing and Rehabilitation of Women Victims of Violence in Syria



DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF PROJECTS



- All projects are developed using at least the following information:
 - Project Summary
 - Main Activities
 - Project Objectives
 - Long Term Objectives
 - Sustainability
 - Evaluation
 - The Grantee Organization



ZI and UN Advocacy

Zonta International supports the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States to advance the status of women through the adoption and fulfillment of international conventions and treaties.



Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)



- **CEDAW**, also known as the Women's Treaty, was adopted by the United Nations in 1979 as a way to guarantee women's rights that were not previously subject to international standards. The treaty aims to end all forms of discrimination against women and achieve equality between the sexes in all fields of civil, political, social, economic and cultural life.
- As of 2 Nov 2006, **185** countries - over ninety percent of the members of the United Nations - are party to the Convention. An additional State has signed, but not ratified, the treaty; therefore it is not bound to put the provisions of the Convention into practice. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation that has not ratified the treaty



Advocacy Events

- **International Women's Day/Zonta Rose Day**

In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating 8 March as International Women's Day. It is also Zonta Rose Day. The Day is traditionally marked with a message from the Secretary-General.

The theme for 2008 was: "Investing in Women and Girls".



Rose Day/Advocacy Ideas from ZI website



Organize a work team and donate service hours to a local women's shelter, crisis center, housing, organization, etc. Serve as a mentor to underprivileged women and girls.

- **Distribute Yellow Rose bookmarks:** Create bookmarks with women's rights statistics on one side and information about your Zonta Club on the other. Pass them out in front of your public library on 8 March. [Download a sample bookmark.](#)
- **Plant a yellow rose bush** in a public garden, wear a rose pin, or buy single yellow roses and hand them out to other women.
- **Encourage teachers** to incorporate International Women's Day in to their curriculum this month.
- **Design a window display** for a public library or building in your community: Raise awareness of women's rights and of the work of your Zonta Club.
- **Create Yellow Rose sales items** to raise money for the Rose Fund
- **Recognize Local Women for Achievements in Service and Philanthropy** and/or Write a personal note or letter to a woman who has inspired or mentored you. Thank her for being a role model.
- **Host an Art Show, Luncheon, Conference** celebrating women's achievements. Invite women and men from around your area, including prospective members.
- **Host an Educational Event or Tour:** Inform your community and other women about the ongoing struggles for women's rights, education, health and equality.
- **Participate in Events in Your Area:** Lead or join existing rallies, marches, fairs, receptions, shows, films and debates in celebration of women's achievements in equality.
- **Send out a news release** about any activities your club has planned.



ADVOCACY Events

- **International Day of Peace: September 21**

International Day of Peace was intended "...to devote a specific time to concentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as of the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways... (The International Day of Peace) should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."

and

"...will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our Organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the Organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace. May this Peace Day indeed be a day of peace." (1)



ADVOCACY Events

- **The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence: November 25-December 10**

is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991. The campaign highlights the connections between women, violence, and human rights from 25 November to 10 December. The Campaign is an organizing strategy for individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women

This year's theme:

Human Rights for Women <—> Human Rights for All



16 Days/Advocacy Ideas from ZI website



- **November 25** was declared *International Day Against Violence Against Women* in July 1981 in Bogota, Colombia to commemorate the violent assassination of the Mirabal sisters (Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa) in 1960 by the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. In 1999, the United Nations officially recognized 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.
- **December 1** marks the beginning of an annual campaign to encourage public support for and development of programs to prevent the spread of HIV infection and promote awareness of issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. First observed in 1988, *World AIDS Day* serves to strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic.
- **December 10** marks the celebration of the 1948 adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. This document was one of the first major achievements of the United Nations and provided the basic philosophy for many legally binding international instruments to follow.



16 Days/Advocacy Ideas from ZI website



Spread the Word: Share your knowledge and information with others.

- Use talking points to share information and discuss views with your family members, friends, colleagues and community members about violence against women and women's human rights.
- Host or run an awareness raising workshop in your community
- Direct others towards free resources on how they can better protect themselves from acts of violence and discrimination and how they can play a role to prevent these acts from being perpetrated and accepted
- **Engage the Media: Use the media as an agent for public education and social change.**
- Alert the media to the issues that will be highlighted throughout the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. Work with local media outlets to get space or airtime donated for public service announcements.
- Write a letter to the editor during the 16 Days of Activism calling attention to incidents of gender-based violence and discrimination or state policies that have a positive or negative impact on the prevalence of violence against women.
- Monitor your local media for stories on your city's Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Save copies and recordings of any news coverage.



16 Days/Advocacy Ideas from ZI website



Public Events: Organize public events that bring attention to violence against women in a creative way.

- Hold a candlelight vigil to honor the women who have died from gender-based violence.
- Organize a march or rally calling for end to violence and discrimination against women and for access to healthcare for all women.
- Sponsor an award for women's rights grassroots activists and/or encourage the local government or a local university to take this initiative.
- Ask your local government to sponsor a proclamation.

- **Advocacy: Hold states accountable for eliminating all forms of violence against women**
- Remind state that they are bound by international human rights law to ensure that all persons are able to enjoy their fundamental human rights, which includes the right to live free from violence and discrimination.
- Remind federal representatives that the Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its optional protocols should be adopted and ratified without reservations.



16 Days/Advocacy Ideas from ZI website



Involve Men: Invite Men to Participate in 16 Days Events and Activities

- Take boys and men to a 16 Days event or activity with you.
- Encourage men to be pro-active and proud in renouncing acts of violence and pledging nonviolence and to join a men's movement that is anti-VAW
- Talk to men about how violence against women has impacted their lives

Community Service and Education

- Devote International Human Rights Day (10 December) to women's human rights. Use this day to inform your community about violence against women as a human rights violation and on the indivisibility of women's rights and human rights.

PREAMBLE

- Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,
- Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,
- Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,
- Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,
- Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
- Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,
- Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,
- **Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS** as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6. Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Articles 11-30....



Sixtieth Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- **Advocacy Ideas:**

- Have your members who are 60 (more or less) report on changes in the world since they and the Declaration were born.
- Divide the 30 articles among club members and relate them to the Zonta mission.
- Organize a community event around human rights.



Service/Advocacy ZI/UN A good fit

