



Dear Friend,

On 31 March, the World Economic Forum released its 2021 edition of the **Global Gender Gap Report**. Sadly, the headline announced that, 'Another generation of women will have to wait for gender parity'. In the wake of COVID-19, this report documented what we all unfortunately expected; the pandemic has reversed the hard-won gains made by women over the last few decades. In fact, the report indicates that the time necessary to close the gender gap has increased from 99.5 years to 135.6 years. This figure is similar to other data points Zontians heard at the UN's Commission on the Status of Women held earlier in the month and I am sure similar to what you may be seeing or feeling in your own countries.



When I selected my biennium theme of 'Transitions, Changes and New Opportunities,' I had no idea what 2020 or 2021 was going to hold for the world, but the increased hardships and underrepresentation of women in decision-making has consequences for all of us. Of course, this is also why we are Zontians - we seek to consistently raise our voices and work for progress towards gender equality.

I joined Zonta in 1979 to give back and I have proudly done so for more than 40 years. This commitment is a reflection on how Zonta has affected me. I have been inspired by my fellow Zonta Club of Santa Clarita members and Zontians from around the world. May is the time of the year when you will be asked to continue to stand with Zonta as a member and I personally hope you say 'yes' because by serving in an active role in your club and community you can activate change.

Below, you will find some statements made by other Zontians as to why they are a part of this great community. As you read them, I invite you to reflect on why you are a member and then go to Zonta's page on Facebook, LinkedIn or Instagram and share your personal Zonta story with us. I firmly believe the world needs Zonta and Zonta needs you - we simply can't wait another 135.6 years to achieve equality.

Until next month,  
Warm regards,

Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D.  
President



## Your Voice in Membership

As a Zontian, you have endless opportunities to connect with others and make a difference in women's lives through advocacy, service, education, networking and leadership. Your voice is powerful and deserves to be heard. Below are some of the inspiring members that have added their diverse voices to Zonta.



### Advocacy

*"Goedendag uit Vlaanderen, I'm a member of Zonta because I want to advocate for women's rights worldwide. And because it is essential to preserving women's rights in Europe for which our mothers and grandmothers fought."*

**- Ann Naets, Zonta Club of Waasland, Belgium**



### Service

*"Zonta has given me an avenue to give back to my community and provides an exciting and fulfilling opportunity to work with like minded women to make a difference for women and girls both globally and locally."*

**- Jo Diessel, Zonta Club of Brisbane East Inc, Australia**



### Education

*"I am proud to be a Zontian because together we are making a difference in the lives of women and girls in our community and around the world. We are creating opportunities, advancing education, and protecting young girls. Zonta is absolutely amazing!"*

**- Stephanie Wilson, Zonta Club of Central Oklahoma, USA**



### Networking

*"Hola. Saludos desde Uruguay. [Zonta] allows you to dedicate your time and skills to support women in need, while achieving self-improvement and great international friendship."*

**- Adriana Otero, Zonta Club of Montevideo, Uruguay**



### Leadership Skills

*"I'm a Zontian because I want, I can and I dare. Because there are women who can't, fear and live in despair."*

**- Marielle Korend Larsson, Zonta Club of Kungälv, Sweden**

Do you know someone in your personal or professional network who shares Zonta's commitment to gender equality? Invite them to join Zonta! Each Monday on social media we celebrate a member who has added their voice to Zonta's mission. Follow, like, comment and share to add your voice to the campaign!



## Firsts for Women



Watch or read to learn about how members made a difference around the world this March. Share Your Story to be featured next month!

Read about March's "firsts" or watch our new Instagram TV series.

Meet Tiaji Sio, YWPA Awardee, Remarkable Woman

**Register now to hear her story — Bandana Rana**



A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY  
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

## REMARKABLE WOMEN POWERFUL STORIES

Hear her story 7 AM CDT, Wednesday, 28 April

### Bandana Rana

UN CEDAW Committee | UNFPA High-Level Commission on ICPD+25  
Co-Founder of Saathi (NGO working on Violence Against Women) and  
Sancharika Samuha (Women's Media Forum)

**Register**

## Zonta International reaffirms support for The Istanbul Convention

There has been recent, troubling news that some countries who had signed and/or ratified the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (The Istanbul Convention) planned to withdraw from the Convention. Zonta International has issued a statement, reaffirming our support for the Convention, which provides a comprehensive framework to prevent violence, protect victims, prosecute perpetrators and implement state-wide policies that are effective in preventing and combating all forms of violence against women.



[Read the full statement.](#)

**Register now** for a webinar on The Istanbul Convention and its importance, hosted by the Council of Europe Committee:

[Thursday, 6 May, 6:00 AM CDT](#)  
[Thursday, 6 May, 2:00 PM CDT](#)

## Her story available now on-demand — Tressa Lacy

## The perfect introduction item to Zonta

**BACK IN  
STORE**

WELCOME TO  
ZONTA BOOKLETS

[www.zontastore.com](http://www.zontastore.com)

Introduce new and potential members to all that Zonta has to offer in one convenient, newly updated booklet.



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

Keep your network informed on how Zonta International is putting our mission to work by sharing this message to your social feeds.

