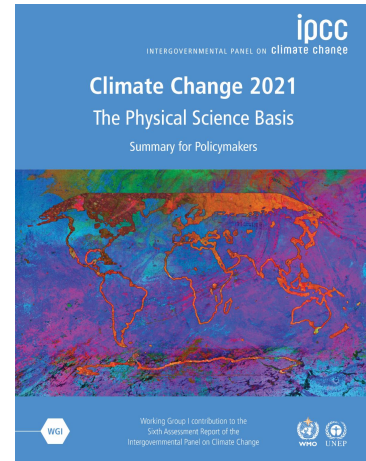




Dear Friend,

The care and concern we have for one another around the world makes me proud to be a Zontian. As an international organization, Zonta's fellowship has no borders and we look upon the world as one community.

At the beginning of the month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, **released a report** based on the analysis of more than 14,000 studies. Known as the clearest and most comprehensive summary yet on the physical science of climate change, the report had a very strong, stunning message: The window to keep devastation from getting worse is narrow, and closing.



This report lays out the timeline of our past, present and future. It also shows how much influence we as humans have on the world, and this responsibility is not to be taken lightly.

In order to properly respond and take action to address this pressing issue, we must first acknowledge how our planet's extreme weather patterns directly impact Zonta's mission of empowering women and girls. From natural disasters to food security, health, access to clean water and migration, in several parts of the world our changing climate already has severe implications for women and girls. As families strive to cope with these changes, they may resort to negative coping mechanisms, forcing girls to leave school before finishing their education and/or into early marriage. Risk for gender-based violence also increases.

Understanding climate change as a human rights issue is central to the fight against climate change, but also to create a sustainable, gender-equal future. In early June, Zonta released our **climate change statement** that highlights key ways that we as an organization on all levels can address climate change and gender inequity.



This is not a political issue. This is a humanity issue. Zonta is a global community; therefore, our community is impacted by climate change and has the obligation to act to effect change. It is not too late to make a meaningful impact!

As members of Zonta, we strive to help one another. With an international network, we have the chance to mobilize in response to climate change, which is a gender equality issue. Let's join together in taking action now to achieve greener, cleaner and equal societies for ourselves and for future generations.

Warm regards,

Sharon

Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D.  
President



## Zonta projects feel the effects of climate change

As we discuss the impacts of climate change around the world, we cannot ignore the impact of severe weather events on our international service projects.

In Madagascar, prolonged drought in the southern region, an area vulnerable to extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change, has left more than 1,300,000 food-insecure people in need of social protection. This drought and the added impacts of COVID-19 put children at risk of missing school due to various factors, including inadequate school infrastructure, lack of water, sanitation facilities and learning equipment, and due to parent's lack of financial resources.

**ON THE BRINK OF A CLIMATE CHANGE-INDUCED FAMINE**

AT LEAST	UN ESTIMATES
<b>500,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>
children under the age of five are in danger of being acutely malnourished, the UN says	people are currently experiencing the highest internationally recognized level of food insecurity, and the number affected could rise sharply before harvest.

"Madagascar is on the brink of experiencing the world's first "climate change famine", according to the United Nations, which says tens of thousands of people are already suffering "catastrophic" levels of hunger and food insecurity after four years without rain."

[HTTPS://WWW.BBC.COM/NEWS/WORLD-AFRICA-58303792](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-58303792)

In Timor-Leste, where Zonta International is working to address violence against women and girls, torrential rains from Tropical Cyclone Seroja caused dangerous landslides and the worst flooding in 40 years. For an island nation already struggling to address COVID-19, these added crises have presented significant challenges to in-person and community-based initiatives to address gender-based violence.

Our partners at UNICEF USA and UNFPA, however, are determined to ensure that women and girls are not forgotten in times of crises. We are thankful for their efforts and for our members who have given generously to make these programs possible. Learn more about these projects on our website at [Zonta International Service Projects](#) and make a donation to support our ongoing efforts by clicking the button below.

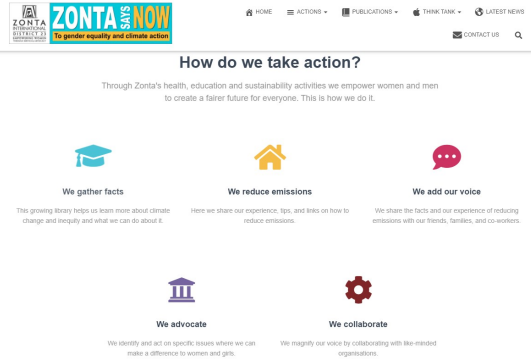
[Support our Projects](#)

## Addressing climate through our mission

Many Zontians in **District 23** were impacted by climate change through the 2019-2020 bush fires in Australia that destroyed 110,000 square kilometers of land and thousands of homes and resulted in the deaths of 34 people and millions of animals.

Facing the future, the Zonta clubs in District 23, have launched a new initiative, Zonta Says NOW. Through this platform, the group

plans to take on climate change individually and as a community to reduce emissions, regenerate the environment, and create a more sustainable, gender-equal world. **District 23's dedicated website** shows how to take action and invites Zontians to join to address this global problem.



Using World Humanitarian Day to address climate change, the Zonta Club of Santa Clarita Valley, CA, USA, invited everyone to join #TheHumanRace. This global challenge for climate action called for solidarity and for putting the needs of climate-vulnerable people front and center of the issue. The club also highlighted the fires that have raged throughout their home state of California and Greece. More information on #TheHumanRace can be found here: [#TheHumanRace](#).



Has your district or club taken action to address climate change through a service or advocacy project? Tell us your story!

[Share Your Story](#)

## Join Zonta International at the intersection of climate change and gender equality

### WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ZONTA ADVOCACY SERIES

[Register Now](#)

13 September | 9 AM CDT (-5 GMT)

More information at [www.zonta.org/events](http://www.zonta.org/events)



[Register](#)

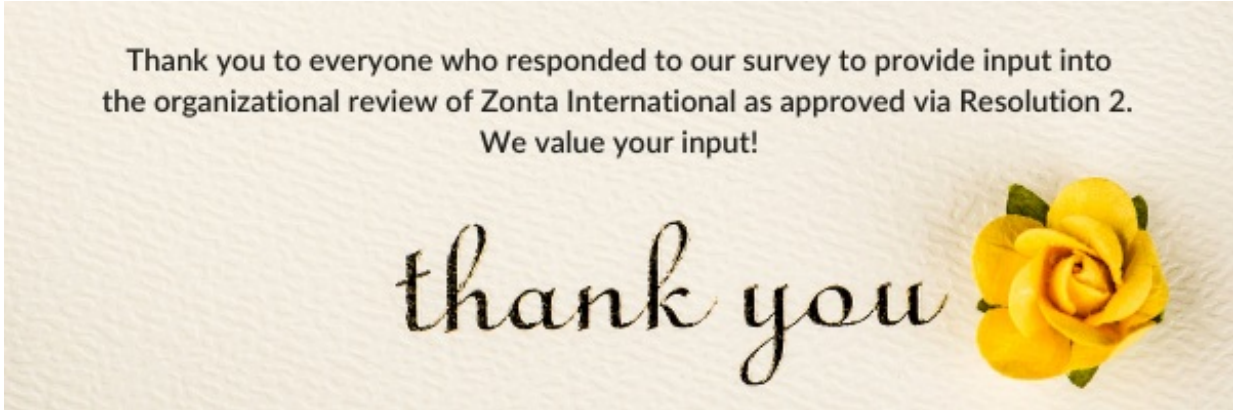


A LEADERSHIP SERIES BY  
ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
**REMARKABLE WOMEN  
POWERFUL STORIES**

## Dr. Anne Gallagher AO

Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation | Zonta International Honorary Member  
First-ever female president of the International Catholic Migration Commission  
Incoming Girls Not Brides: Global Partnership to End Child Marriage Board Chair

**Watch now**



[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.

