

Dear Friend,

One of the greatest benefits I have as your president is connecting with so many of you about issues that impact our mission. Since our August Zonta News that featured Women and Climate Change and our Statement on [Climate Change: A Gender-Equality Issue](#), I have been contacted by members across the globe to ask, "How can I help? How can Zonta make a difference?" I am excited to say that your opportunity is coming this March at the [66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW66\)](#).

This year, the CSW takes on climate change with the priority theme: "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs."

This virtual event brings the conversation to you. From 14 – 25 March, meet and interact with other NGOs and gender equality advocates to discuss what we can do together or individually to make a sustainable change now and for future generations.

[In her opening remarks](#) of the first regular session of the UN Women Executive Board, Sima Bahous, the new Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women said, "Unless we realize our collective gender equality goals, we will not address hunger and climate change. We will not negotiate durable peace, nor see an increase in social and economic policies that work for all people. Women must be part of – and lead – these critical discussions. We all know that women bear the brunt of crises and conflict."

All obstacles to gender equality, including climate change, must be addressed. I invite you to join me at the CSW66 so that we can strengthen our voices to fight for gender equality and the planet. Together, we can make a difference.

Warm regards,



Sharon Langenbeck, Ph.D.
President



To read translated text of this email, please [click here](#).



Below are some great links to prepare yourself for the upcoming CSW66. Even if you

cannot participate in the virtual discussions, we encourage you to learn more about climate change and its impact on women and girls.

What is Zonta's stance on climate change?

Zonta International calls for action in favor of a fair and human rights-based approach to solve the climate change crisis in the post-pandemic world and achieve greener, cleaner and equal societies. [Read Zonta International's Statement on Climate Change: A Gender Equality Issue.](#)

Why should I attend CSW?

As an NGO with General Consultative Status with ECOSOC, Zonta International is invited to participate in and address the annual Commission on the Status of Women.

Attendance at CSW is important as it gives participants the opportunity to:

- have a voice in exploring solutions to myriad problems facing women of the world;
- receive a phenomenal educational experience regarding critical issues affecting women worldwide by attending side and parallel events;
- network with like-minded attendees from all over the globe.

Learn more [in Zonta International's statement to the CSW](#), which calls on Member States and the UN to take concrete actions to address the immediate and long-term effects of climate change on women and girls.

What happens at CSW?

During the two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities discuss progress and gaps in the implementation of key actions and platforms. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic, and social fields. The priority theme of the CSW66 is *Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes*. The Commission will discuss this topic and produce agreed conclusions, to be negotiated by all Member States. [Read the draft of the agreed conclusions, available now.](#)

How do I participate?

Register for the virtual NGO CSW Forum today! The NGO CSW Forum runs parallel to the official session of the CSW. Over the two weeks of the CSW, there are more than 500 events to inform, engage and inspire grassroots advocacy to empower women and girls. Zonta International is hosting a parallel event with UNICEF USA as part of the NGO CSW Forum, as are a number of Zonta districts. Register today to participate in these and other NGO-led events.



[Register Today](#)

Since this is virtual, how will I connect with Zontians?

Visit Zonta's NGO CSW Forum Exhibit Hall Booth! Once you have registered for the NGO CSW Forum, be sure to visit Zonta International's booth in the Exhibit Hall. Find information about Zonta events, enjoy special exhibit hall-only opportunities and connect with other Zontians participating in the CSW.

[Visit Zonta Exhibit Hall Booth](#)

How do I get more information?

Sign up for the CSW mailing list or visit our website. Get all of the important information for CSW delivered to your inbox by clicking the button below, or visit www.zonta.org/CSW.

[Mailing List](#)

COMING TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU! The Zonta Connect App!



Get ready to *CONNECT* even more with our mission and amazing Zontians around the world!

We are so excited to announce that the Zonta mobile app will be available on 1 March. The app will fully connect to our iMIS membership database so your login will be the same. If you do not know your website login, please visit our [password help page](#).

Discover all the features the app offers members such as a dedicated newsfeed, discussion forums tailored to your Zonta role and special interests, easy access to member resources, a member directory with instant private and group chats and a calendar of Zonta events.

Zontians In Action

Clubs and members have made great strides to educate their community about the impact of climate change and advocating for women's empowerment. Read the stories below that highlight their fantastic work.

Zonta Club of Ilocos Norte plants mangroves to combat climate change

The Zonta Club of Ilocos Norte, the Philippines, planted mangroves in Gabu Sur to combat climate change with the Ilocos Norte National High School Z Club and the Agriculture Department of Laoag City.



These trees will aid in preventing flooding and deterioration of the seashore lines due to erosion. They will also help secure the livelihood of the community, primarily fishermen who depend on fishing for income.

Although it will take five years to see the trees fully grown, the presence of the 7,000 plants can create a sense of security and a healthy environment for all residents. The City Government of Laoag and the Zonta club also conducted a seminar for the residents to be aware of the importance of mangroves so that they may join in making the project sustainable.

Belgian Zonta clubs' nominee for Marie Popelin Award recognized

Zonta clubs in Belgium nominated Professor Ines Keygnaert to the Women's Council for the Marie Popelin Award, a prize recognizing those who contributed significantly to women's rights in Belgium. The judging panel, composed of journalists, almost unanimously selected Ines as a laureate.



Ines is a sexual and reproductive health professor at the International Center for Reproductive Health at the Faculty of Medicines and Health Sciences of Ghent University. She leads the Gender & Violence Team and coordinates the research line on sexual violence, violation of sexual and reproductive health rights and gender and sexual health promotion in hard-to-reach, vulnerable or minimized groups.

Ines's work contributed significantly to the scientific research on sexual violence and the care of victims. Due to her research, the care and assistance of victims of sexual violence dramatically changed in Belgium.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL VIRTUAL MEET UP



All Zonta International young professionals are invited to a virtual meetup with President Sharon!

Connect with your fellow Zontians and share insights on the topics that matter most to you. Expand your network and your personal contact list with members from all around the globe.

Thursday, 24 March
12:00 PM CST

Find your local time: [Meeting Planner](#)

[Register Today](#)

CELEBRATE

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ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
celebrates
this month's
club anniversaries!

Congratulations to the Zonta Club of West Hidalgo County, USA, District 10 on celebrating its 75th anniversary this month!

To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in February, please visit [Zonta News](#).

WATCH



Watch now on-demand: Meet our next Remarkable Women, Lindsay Tulloch. Lindsey is a 2019 Zonta International Women in Technology Scholar currently pursuing her Master's degree in Computer Science as part of the Cryptography, Security and Privacy (CrySP) lab at the University of Waterloo.



www.zonta.org

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our mission to work by sharing this message to your social feeds.

