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Dear Megan,

Warm greetings from Germany! I just returned home from my site visit to our [Ending Child Marriage project](#) in Nepal.

Nepal is one of the 12 countries where our partners [UNICEF USA](#) and [UNFPA](#) are working with the support of Zonta International on a Global Programme to end this violation of human rights. Together with other Zontians, I traveled under the lead of Mansi Mehta from UNICEF USA to the rural area of Lumbini. There, we met with adolescents, parents, teachers, social workers and stakeholders in the communities.

In Nepal, UNICEF and UNFPA partnered with government entities to develop the *Rupantaran* program, which means "transformation" in English. It is a social and financial skills training package aimed at empowering girls and strengthening their resilience. Through the program, adolescents receive training on various topics, including sexual and reproductive health, earning and saving money, identifying safe and unsafe places, and good and bad touch. The program also encourages girls to speak up and express their desires, as well as define their visions and goals for life while emphasizing the importance of education and labor skills. This comprehensive empowerment program for adolescents is needed everywhere - not only in Nepal.



President Ute (second to the right) with Board Directors Monika Geise, Brittany Vaughan and Reneé Coppock (L to R) at the UN House in Nepal.

We also had the opportunity to attend classes and interact with adolescents and the community. It was a joy to see how powerfully these girls spoke up against child marriage and described their life goals. Some spoke about becoming teachers, policewomen, doctors, nurses or entrepreneurs. All participants of the program were impressed by these efforts that were taken to end child marriage thanks to your generous donations to the [Zonta Foundation for Women](#).

After visiting the site, the Zontians from Nepal invited me to visit their projects aimed at empowering women and girls in Kathmandu and Pokhara. I was also invited to meet with the minister for women, children, and senior citizens with whom I spoke about the importance of building a better world for women and girls.

As you read ahead, you will see that there are numerous opportunities for Zonta members to not only end child marriage but also advance our advocacy efforts and make a meaningful impact!

Warm regards,



Ute

Ute Scholz
President 2022-2024
Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women

Preparing for International Women's Day

INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

Last year on 8 March, Zonta clubs and districts showed how we are building a better world for women and girls by participating in a [week of action for local advocacy](#). As we approach International Women's Day this year, start planning for how we can build on this enthusiasm and take even more action in the following ways:

- Plan an event with your Zonta club and invite community leaders, business owners, like-minded organizations and prospective members to attend and engage. [Submit a story](#) about your event to be featured on the Zonta International website and social media channels.
- Think about a remarkable gender equity advocate in your life who consistently goes above and beyond for their community. Celebrate their successes by inviting them to speak or attend a meeting or event while showing them the benefits of a [Zonta membership](#).

Celebrate Rose Day with a tribute



Leading up to 8 March, we will be posting a question on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to encourage you to think about who has supported you in your life. Follow along and make Rose Day and International Women's Day even more special by making a tribute donation to the Zonta Foundation for Women in their honor at www.zonta.org/donate. Not only will your donation be a gift to those you are celebrating, but you will also support education, healthcare, safety and economic opportunities for current and future generations of women and girls!

[Tell us, who has been building a better world](#) for women and girls in your community?

[Gift a Tribute Today](#)

Join Zonta at CSW68 virtually or in-person

All Zontians are invited to participate for free at the [68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW68), **11-22 March** in New York either in-person or virtually. This year's priority theme is "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective."



[Register for CSW68](#)

[Join the Mailing List](#)

Join us for a [pre-event webinar discussion](#) on **Saturday, 24 February** to learn about what is happening that week, what Zonta events to look out for and how to engage with other partner events.

Zontians in Action

Zonta members are building a better world for women and girls in their local communities and beyond! Read the stories below highlighting how Zonta clubs are taking action to bring their advocacy to the next level.

Zonta Club of Parma invests in education to prevent violence

The Zonta Club of Parma, Italy, presented its Inspiring Women Award to six extraordinary young women and demonstrated the importance of investing in talent and excellence to prevent violence.

The awardees shared their educational and professional journey with a room full of young people at the award ceremony. The club also presented Zonta's actions, international service projects and education programs to help realize a gender-equal world. Everyone was truly honored and excited to host these young women, rich in enthusiasm and passion, projects and dreams for the future of their communities.



Zonta Club of Makati and Environs inspires young women to embrace Amelia Earhart's spirit

The Zonta Club of Makati and Environs, Philippines, celebrated Amelia Earhart by inviting a special guest speaker, Josephine Santiago-Bond, who currently serves as NASA's safety and mission assurance manager of the commercial crew. The talk was attended by more than 300 participants from other Zonta clubs and students from several universities and high schools.



The talk aimed to inspire young women to take up a career in STEM, particularly in engineering and aeronautics and to consider careers traditionally perceived to be male-dominated fields. Josephine's inspirational story of a Filipina who has made a name for herself in aeronautics while championing inclusion in space touched her audience and inspired many of the students in attendance. She also spoke about the importance of finding role models, mentors and allies, taking advantage of opportunities and creating them and making space for younger women to step up.

Share Your Story

How is your club celebrating International Women's Day and Rose Day? Tell us how you are changing the world through advocacy by clicking on the button above to [share your story](#) with us!

Will we see you in Brisbane, Australia?

The 2024 Zonta International Convention is just around the corner, so take advantage of [early bird registration](#) now before it **ends on 15 March!**

As we count down to convention, discover the beauty of Brisbane and create unforgettable memories with your fellow Zontians by exploring the various [tours and activities](#) available. Discover the thrill of adventure and immerse yourself in the wonders of this magnificent city by [securing your lodging today](#).



Zonta's 2024 Convention is supported by Tourism Australia, the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and Business Events Australia.

Bring your ideas to the Intercontinental Think Tank

All members are welcome to join the Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action Intercontinental Think Tank. Come share your ideas and gather inspiration on how we can address climate justice now!



Register

Submit your art to [Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery](#) by **29 February** and be part of a global celebration of art and ideas. Your work will be showcased on 22 April (UN Mother Earth Day).

Welcome to our newest club!

Join Zonta International in welcoming our newest club:

Zonta Club of Germany II Semper Apertus
District 30, Germany

We are thrilled to see how the new club will embrace Zonta's mission and values in building a better world for women and girls. Follow us on social media to see more new Zonta clubs across the globe.



WELCOME TO OUR
NEW ZONTA CLUBS



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**celebrates this month's
club anniversaries!**

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Congratulations to our club anniversaries this month:

Zonta Club of Columbus, OH
USA, District 5
95th anniversary

Zonta Club of Malden
USA, District 1
95th anniversary

We applaud your efforts in advocating for the women and girls in your community and beyond. To see which other clubs are celebrating a milestone anniversary in February, visit [Zonta News](#).

Celebrating Zonta International Headquarters!

This month, we are celebrating the work anniversary of a staff member at Zonta International Headquarters.



Congratulations to Kate Edrinn
Communications Manager
11 years





www.zonta.org

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