

Implementation of SDG5

A report to the High-Level Political Forum from Zonta International, a non-governmental organization in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC

Summary

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals to address key challenges facing the world cannot and will not be realized without gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The importance, therefore, of Goal No. 5 cannot be emphasized enough, both as a goal in its own right, as well as a prerequisite to achieving the other 16 goals laid out in the 2030 Agenda.

As a global organization of nearly 30,000 members in more than 1,100 clubs in 66 countries, Zonta International is working at the global, regional, national and local levels to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. As an organization, Zonta has made Goal No. 5 the centerpiece of its global service and advocacy work; however, efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals must be the priority of all countries and undertaken at the national and local levels. Non-governmental organizations, like Zonta International, have an important role to play in this work. To that end, Zonta International is encouraging all Zonta clubs to engage in meaningful actions to address the SDG5 targets at the local level.

The following report outlines Zonta International's contributions to achieving Goal No. 5 and addressing the theme of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum, "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world."

Goal No. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls

Ending violence against women and girls is a key area of focus for Zonta International's global and local service and advocacy efforts. In 2012, Zonta International launched the Zonta Says NO to Violence against Women campaign to increase awareness of gender-based violence and actions to address violence against women and girls locally and globally. In the last five years, the campaign has evolved from awareness-raising activities to concrete and measurable advocacy actions to end gender-based violence in all its forms.

Within the Zonta Says NO campaign, Zonta clubs in the United States have focused on trafficking in persons as a major issue. The Zonta Club of Kankakee, Illinois partnered with a local trucking company and Truckers against Trafficking, a national organization, to prevent trafficking across state lines and connect victims of trafficking with resources. Other Zonta clubs have taken action around major sporting events like the Super Bowl, raising awareness of the increased incidences of trafficking and developing toolkits to help people take action if they see or suspect women and girls are being trafficked.

In Hawaii, the Zonta Club of Hanalei funded the YWCA Women's Shelter to provide survivors of violence with important documents and bus passes and to buy or repair appliances and furniture for the shelter. As a result of their advocacy efforts, the mayor of Hanalei declared 27 April Denim Day to raise awareness of the issue of violence against women.

Zonta clubs in Europe are taking the issue of gender-based violence to their national governments and calling on them to do more to address the issue. The German Zonta clubs joined efforts to collect signatures, calling on their government to ratify the Istanbul Convention. In France, the Zonta Club of Beziers met with a member of the National Assembly of France to discuss allocations to address gender-based violence in the French state budget.

The Zonta Club of Embla, Iceland provides translators for a local domestic violence shelter to assist women who do not speak Icelandic or English. They also purchase appliances, linens and other necessities for the shelter.

In Denmark, approximately 27,000 of the 29,000 women and girls who are exposed to violence do not get the help they need and are entitled to by Danish legislation. The Zonta Club of Aarhus II is working with local authorities, women's shelters and other service organizations to identify those barriers and find ways to ensure that survivors of violence get the necessary help.

The Zonta club of Sonderborg, Denmark arranged a summer school for underprivileged women in Greenland to increase self-confidence and courage to say NO to violence as well as be aware of women's rights.

Zonta clubs in Norway contributed to a joint CEDAW shadow report with other Norwegian women's organizations. In this report, they identified three issues to be addressed: 1. Sharpen the language on violence against women and undertake research on the root causes; 2. Address bullying and sexual harassment of girls and young women; 3. Address specific needs of migrant women.

In Hong Kong, the Zonta Club of Kowloon developed the first free mobile app in Asia to address violence against women. The App links the individual to crisis centers such as the nearest police station and hospital, as well as activates fake calls and alarm functions during an emergency.

These are just a few examples of the actions taken by Zonta clubs to prevent violence against women and girls and respond to the needs of survivors.

At the international level, Zonta International has contributed 1 million US Dollars to UN Women to address the links between unsafe labor migration of women and trafficking in Nepal. This project is bringing together government officials, development agencies, UN agencies and the media to identify gaps in existing legislation, policies and programs on gender equality and women's empowerment to address the underlying issues leading to women's unsafe labor migration and risk of trafficking. At the CSW61, Zonta International hosted a side event on "Economic Security, Violence against Women and the Workplace" in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Zambia to the United Nations and speakers from the International Labour Organization and UN Women.

Eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage

Zonta has contributed 2 million US Dollars to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to prevent early marriage and early pregnancy in Niger where 77 percent of girls are married by age 18, and 42

percent give birth before the age of 17. This partnership is addressing the issue of child marriage at the individual, community and national levels. Girls who participate in the program are reinforced with the knowledge and resources to defend their rights and say no to marriage, community leaders are engaged to change harmful social norms and advocacy efforts are undertaken at the national level to change the laws on the age of marriage.

Zonta International is also partnering with UNICEF USA to provide opportunities for girls in Madagascar to realize their right to an education in a secure and protective environment. Part of this program focuses on changing behaviors around child marriage, early pregnancy and violence against girls to permit young mothers to return to school to finish their education.

Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

In Liberia, Zonta International has supported efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula in partnership with UNFPA since 2008. Through prevention, treatment and the rehabilitation of survivors, UNFPA and Zonta International are reducing maternal mortality and morbidity in Liberia while improving the socio-economic status of women and girls. In order to eliminate obstetric fistula on a global scale, it is necessary to scale up country capacity to provide access to comprehensive emergency obstetric care, treat fistula cases, and address the underlying medical, socioeconomic, cultural and human rights factors. In total, Zonta International has contributed 3.5 million US Dollars to this project.

The Zonta Club of Haugesund supported the rebuilding and running of the Prenatal Care, Obstetrician and Maternity Ward at a hospital in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone.

Ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

The Zonta Club of Souda supports a women's empowerment program in Nicaragua. Women and girls learn various handicrafts, agriculture and animal husbandry to produce the things they need for their own households. They are then given the opportunity the surplus of whatever they produce.

Enhancing the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

In India, the Zonta Club of Bombay I donated computers to an organization to support women's computer literacy.

Adopting and strengthening sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

The Zonta Club of Vilnius, Lithuania periodically organizes round table discussion with Social Ministry delegates to review the situation for women in Lithuania. The aim of these discussions is to acknowledge those areas of life where women's rights are violated and to initiate laws to improve those areas.

The Zonta Club of Oslo provides free legal advice for women and makes recommendations for changes to laws that disadvantage women.

Goal No. 4: Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all

Although much of Zonta International's service and advocacy work at the international and local levels is focused on Goal No. 5, Zonta International and our nearly 1,200 Zonta clubs are also focused on ensuring women and girls' equal access to educational opportunities.

Each year, Zonta International provides more than US\$500,000 in fellowships, scholarships and awards to encourage promising women to pursue education and careers in the traditionally male-dominated fields of aerospace-related sciences and engineering, business and public affairs.

At the local level, many Zonta clubs provide their own scholarships and educational awards for women and girls. In Bombay, India, the Zonta Club of Bombay III provides training and education for rural, poor and disabled girls. They also provide pre-primary school for low-income children and teaching aid for their female teachers, in addition to providing a club-level scholarship as part of Zonta International's Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship program. As part of the 16 Days of Activism, they organized a film screening to emphasize the importance of girls' education in the slums of Mumbai.

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Zonta International endorsed the Women's Empowerment Principles and encourages Zonta clubs around the world to use the Women's Empowerment Principles to encourage employers to adopt the principles to promote gender equality in their business practices. Zonta clubs in the United States use Equal Pay Day to advocate annually for equal pay for equal work, and Zonta clubs in other parts of the world are also advocating for legislation and policies to close the gender pay gap.

Partnerships key to reaching goals

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires the contributions and collaboration of governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Zonta International has a number of new and on-going partnerships that are enabling Zonta to maximize its service and advocacy efforts around Goal No. 5.

All of the projects Zonta International funds through UN agencies have the support of the local government to ensure the best chances for long-term success, but other partners also provide expertise and guidance. For example, in Nepal, the International Organization for Migration is working with UN Women and Zonta International to provide their expertise in the design, managing and monitoring of the project's interventions in the field.

Coalitions also provide the opportunity to maximize Zonta International's global advocacy efforts. The Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally, Girls Not Brides: the Global Partnership to End Child Marriage and UNFPA's Safe Birth Even Here campaign are all ways Zonta International is joining like-minded organizations in mobilizing additional resources to address the most pressing issues facing women and girls around the world.



Conclusion

Despite some progress toward gender equality, women and girls worldwide continue to face systematic gender-based discrimination, violence and denial of their rights. Non-governmental organizations like Zonta International must continue to work in partnership with other NGOs, government and the UN to address the underlying factors and social norms that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women and girls.

Zonta International will continue to take focused actions to address the targets outlined in Goal No. 5 and will encourage Zonta clubs to engage in efforts to mobilize resources at the national level, holding governments accountable to provide the necessary funds to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Emphasis on data collection, monitoring and reporting will be reinforced through Zonta International's partnerships at all levels.