



# district conference report

Ela Pandya



**GREETINGS FROM YOUR  
2024-2026 INTERNATIONAL BOARD!**

# Board Member Introduction



**SALLA TUOMINEN**

**President**

Zonta Club of Helsinki I, Finland  
District 20

# Board Member Introduction



**FERNANDA GALLO-FRESCHI**

**President-Elect**

Zonta Club of Milano Sant'Ambrogio, Italy  
District 28

# Board Member Introduction



**SANDY VENN-BROWN**

**Vice President**

Zonta Club of Stanthorpe Inc, Australia  
District 22

# Board Member Introduction



**SOUELLA CUMMING**

**Treasurer/Secretary**

Zonta Club of Wellington, New Zealand  
District 16

# Board Member Introduction



**MARGARET AKOFIO-SOWAH**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Marburg, Germany  
District 28

# Board Member Introduction



**OFELIA "LIA" BAUTISTA**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Greater Rizal I, Philippines  
District 17

# Board Member Introduction



**CHRISTINE DERSCH**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Marburg, Germany  
District 28

# Board Member Introduction



**UNNA HUH**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Seoul III-Nam Seoul, South Korea

District 32

# Board Member Introduction



**PHILLIPPA JACOBS-LORY**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Christchurch-Canterbury  
New Zealand, District 16

# Board Member Introduction



**ELA PANDYA**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Porterville, USA

District 9

# Board Member Introduction



**VIVIENNE SHEN**

**Director**

Zonta Club of Hsin Chu, Taiwan  
District 31



# STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Ending Violence  
Against Women

Climate Justice

Women in Decision-  
Making Positions

Education Equity



# Global Challenges

**Rollback of women's rights**

**Governments decreasing funds for foreign aid**

**Global conflict**

**Climate crises**

*Zonta Spirit, Sustainability and Speaking up for Human Rights*

# Recent Zonta International Statements



Zonta International  
partnerships more  
important than ever.  
**March 2025**



Zonta International  
calls for reaffirmed  
commitment to the SDGs.  
**March 2025**



Zonta International remains  
steadfast in mission to build a  
better world for women and  
girls.  
**February 2025**



**BIENNIAL GOALS: CELEBRATING SUCCESSES!**



**Credible  
and Visible Voice**

## **Goal 1**

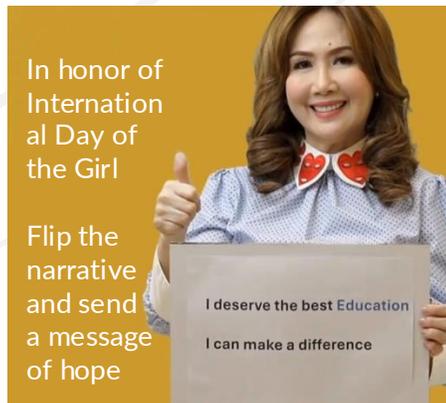


**Zonta acts as a credible and visible voice on gender equity, driving change for gender equality.**

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# SHARED MOMENTS FOR ZONTA ACTION

11  
OCT



**International Day of the Girl**

25 NOV  
10 DEC



**Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women**

**16 Days of Activism Campaign**

8  
MAR



**International Women's Day**

22  
APRIL



**Earth Day**

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# WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



**First new country-level advocacy group established in Australia**



**Quarterly virtual advocacy series**



**Launch of internal advocacy training program**

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# WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



Volume 1 | August 2024

## Inspiring Impact: Zonta Foundation for Women Quarterly Report

The 2024-2026 Biennium will celebrate a momentous occasion—the Zonta Foundation for Women's 40th anniversary. This milestone is not just a marker of time but a testament to the enduring power of the collective action and generosity of thousands of Zonta members and friends. As we look back on four decades of remarkable achievements, we are reminded of the countless lives transformed through the women and girls uplifted and the future improved through the unwavering support of our Zontians and loyal supporters.

Since the Foundation's inception at the Sydney Convention in 1984, the mission has remained clear: to build a better world for women and girls. From funding international service projects that provide life-changing opportunities to working toward gender equality in education by supporting scholarships, fellowships and awards, our journey has been one of continual growth and transformation.

This anniversary year is an opportunity for us to reflect on the Foundation's history and celebrate the incredible achievements made possible by your support. Additional issues of the Zonta Foundation for Women Quarterly Report will highlight stories of impact and feature past education awardees, international service projects and key Foundation supporters. Is there a program or project that has resonated with you or inspired you to give more? We invite you to share why you support the Foundation. Email us at [zfoundation@zonta.org](mailto:zfoundation@zonta.org) and you could be featured in a future issue.

As we mark 40 years of making a difference for women and girls, we extend our deepest gratitude to you—our donors, partners, members, and advocates. Thank you for being a part of our journey. Here's to building a better world with a strong Foundation.



## Remarkable Women, Powerful Stories

## Inspiring Impact Zonta Foundation for Women Quarterly Report

*Zonta Spirit, Sustainability and Speaking up for Human Rights*

# IHM Announcement

- Lisa Blair
- “I am incredibly honoured to be awarded an honorary membership to Zonta International, they are taking strong climate action for women and girls, and I am proud to work with them so that together we can amplify the need for sustainability and protection of our planet.”



ditional, they  
them so that

## Goal 2



### Club Successes

By focusing on club success, Zonta maintains a strong membership base to support the work we do to build a better world for women and girls.

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# Core Values and Code of Conduct



**Global  
Comm  
unity**



**Frien  
dship**



**Equalit  
y &  
Inclusi  
on**



**Res  
pect**



**Inte  
grity**

**Our Core Values Statement** provides us with the fundamental or guiding principles that are the foundation for our membership. It represents our beliefs and frames how we behave toward each other, our supporters, friends and communities. This statement was developed through feedback from members from across the Zonta world.

# WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



**Chartering of 18 new clubs this biennium**

**Membership strategy in progress**



**Winning program launched**



# WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED



**First Virtual Share Your Story Festival**



**Zonta Community Give Back Grant**

**Feasibility Study completed**

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## Goal 3



# Leadership and Sustainability

Zonta manages its resources, including both time and money, to meet Zonta's vision and ensure Zonta's long-term viability and success.

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## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

- Governance review work ongoing.
- Environmental, Sustainability and Governance (ESG) review work has started.

# Governance working group

**Objective:** Identify options to streamline and modernize Zonta's governance structure.

## Key Focus Areas

Voting

District role and composition

Board composition

Board operations

Convention /  
District  
Conferences

## Approach

- Examine existing governance arrangements.
- Identify areas where change is required.
- Propose/evaluate options.
- Recommend a preferred option.
- Develop roadmap to transition to future governance arrangements.

## Supported by:

- Three Workstreams
- Governance Advisory Team

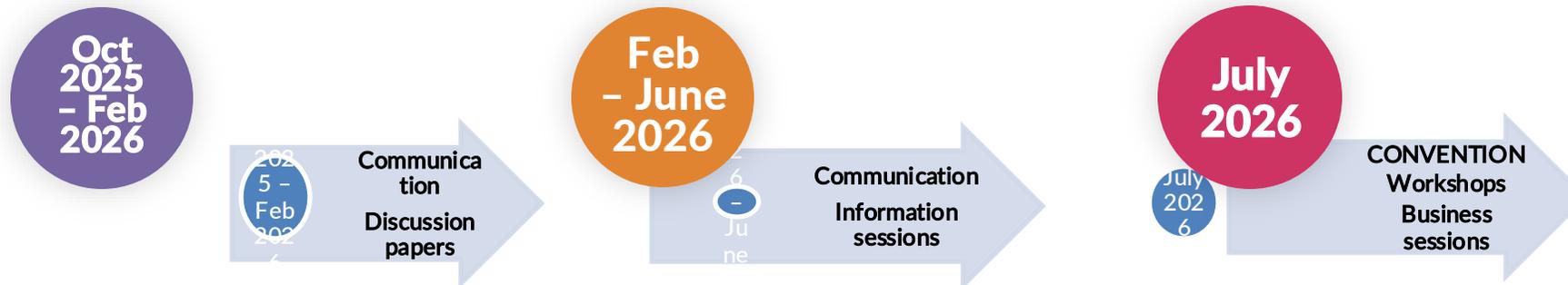
## Those involved to date:

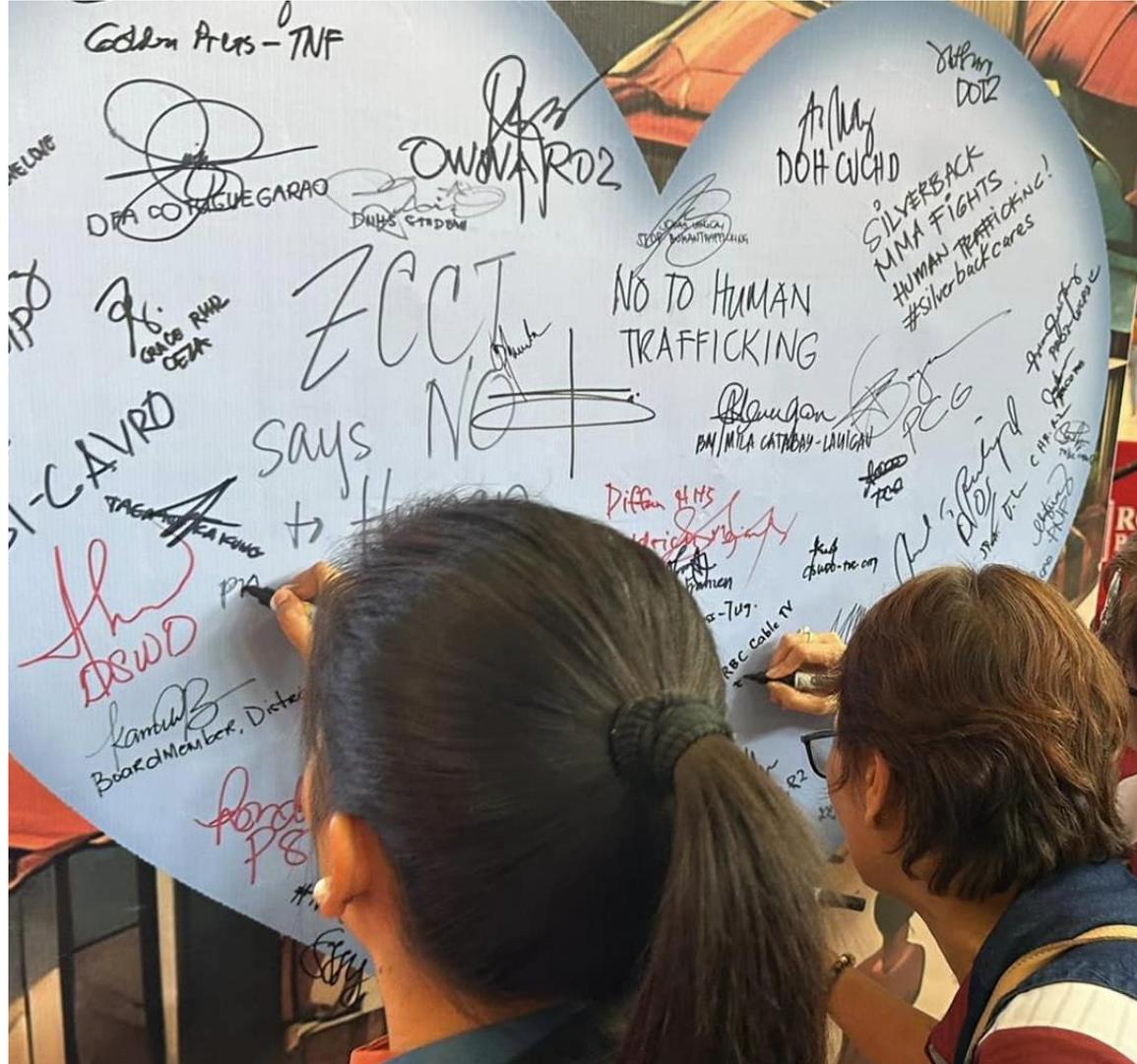
- Board members
- Past International President
- Past International Directors
- Past District Governors
- Past Committee Chairs
- Headquarters team

# Progress to date – on track

**Governance  
Blueprint  
for the Future**

- Examine existing governance arrangements. COMPLETE
- Identify areas where change is required. COMPLETE
- Propose options. COMPLETE
- Evaluate options. IN PROGRESS
- Recommend a preferred option. Q1 2026
- Develop a roadmap to transition to future governance arrangements. Q1 2026





## WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

- ❑ Implementation and monitoring of the strategic plan.
- ❑ 10-Year Forecast updated.
  - Alternative revenue working group for ZI.
  - Diversifying support for the Foundation.

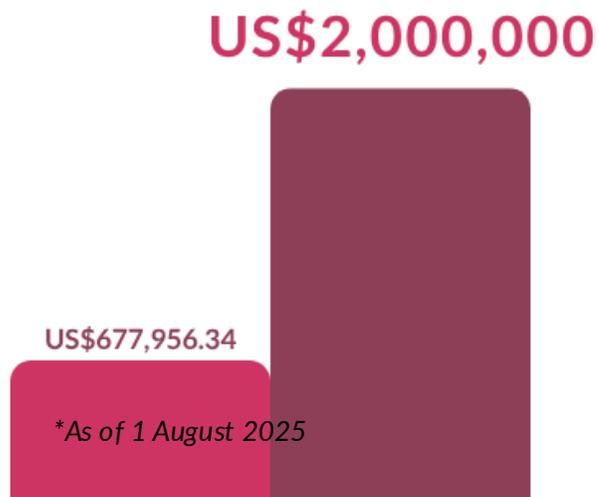


# 40 YEARS

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD  
BEGINS WITH A STRONG FOUNDATION

## Campaign Update

### HELP US REACH OUR GOAL



[www.zonta.org/Foundation40](http://www.zonta.org/Foundation40)

# General Endowment Fund

**We reached our US\$10,000,000 goal this biennium!**

**Current Total:  
US\$10,065,145!**



## Goal 4



### Engagement of Audiences and Allies

In order to further Zonta's mission and extend voice, Zonta develops collaborations with like-minded organizations.

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# WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

**Greater focus on work at the Council of Europe and national-level advocacy**

**69<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women was a success!**

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# District 28 Biennial Achievements



**Living the Zonta spirit in the district board, in the areas and in the clubs**

**Have given 116,768.97 USD to the Zonta Foundation for Women this biennium!**



**Many clubs participated in Zonta says NO activities**

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**LOOKING  
FORWARD**



## WHAT WE HAVE LEFT TO DO

- Complete first cycle of two new awards.
- Climate justice education and action.



## WHAT WE HAVE LEFT TO DO

- Finalize membership strategy.
- Assess clubs and ensure they are fit for the future.
- Engage youth members – involve your student clubs.
- Diversify membership by asking others to “Add Your Voice!”



## WHAT WE HAVE LEFT TO DO

- Meet 40th anniversary and biennial fundraising goals.
- Zonta 1919 Legacy Giving Circle.
- Report to members on governance review.
- Complete ESG review.



## WHAT WE HAVE LEFT TO DO

- Increase knowledge of Zonta's work at the United Nations.
- Announce global advocacy partnership.
- Secure corporate sponsorships.

# International Service Projects



© UNICEF-UNI490036-Panjwani

## Ending Child Marriage: A Program to Accelerate Global Action Phase III

*Zonta International  
Signature Project*



## Climate Empower: Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action



## Laaha: A Virtual Safe Space for Women and Girls



**VANCOUVER**

Zonta Convention 2026 

**11-14 JULY 2026**

#ZONTAVANCOUVER

# 2026 Zonta International Convention



**Celebrate  
successes.**

**#ZONTAVANCOUVER**

**Engage in important  
conversations about  
the future.**

**Have fun with  
purpose!**

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#ZONTAVANCOUVER



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**AIR CANADA**

We are excited to welcome Air Canada as the Preferred Airline Partner for the 67th Zonta International Convention.



Take advantage of Air Canada discount offer and book your flights today!

Thank You!



QUESTIONS?

