

## **District Conference 26 to 29 September 2025**

**Report Chair: Anita Schnetzer-Spranger,  
Advocacy and CoE Committee 2024-2026**

### **What is Advocacy?**

**Advocacy:** The expression of support or opposition to a cause, argument or proposal.

**Advocacy may include influencing:** Laws, Legislation or Attitudes

Zonta advocacy is an action taken in the public interest or for the greater good with respect to advancing the status of women and girls and their human rights.

To build a better world for women and girls.

### **For the 2024-2026 Biennium there are: Four Focus Areas for Advocacy**

- Eliminating Violence against Women
- Climate Justice
- Women in Decision-Making
- Education Equality

### **D. 28 Goals:**

- ZSN Campaign: 100% participation of all Clubs in D.28 - **achieved**
- Parity: Participating in activities for ParityNow! - **partially achieved**
- Zonta says NOW: Raising Awareness of Zonta SaysNOW and on the impact of climate change on women's rights and gender equality - **partially achieved**

### **Committee Chair's support:**

**Goal:** To assist the clubs in the biennial goals, to provide information, to educate members on the CoE, Europe's leading human rights organization, and to promote CoE's standards (e.g. Istanbul Convention) amongst Zonta members for efficient advocacy activities.

- Area 02 Meeting in Darmstadt, October 24: Preparing a PPT on the biennial advocacy goals, on the definition of advocacy and on how to implement an Advocacy Committee in the club.
- Area 04 online Webinar March 25: Presentation "Advocacy and Zonta's role at the CoE"
- Disseminating invitation to the ZI Webinar, October 24: "The Role of Civil Society on the Monitoring of the Istanbul Convention. What can European Zontians do?"
- Promoting tools and advocacy materials, drafted by the CoE Committee (ZI Website)
- Disseminating invitation to the ZI Webinar, March 2025: "Being a women's rights advocate – what you should know about the CoE, the continent's leading human rights organization".
- Disseminating invitation to the Webinar of the CoE Conference of INGOS: "Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality: A New Perspective".

- Launch of Zonta Essentials: Concise information on the CoE, its values, structure, working methods, and standards aiming at **all** Zonta members with the goal to train them on the relevance of the Council of Europe for Zonta and its mission.  
These short pieces of information are published in the Zonta News and Leadership Update and should be part of each club meeting presented by the club president.  
The information are linked with the ZI website and can be translated in German and Italian, for the club president's convenience.

### **D.28 Advocacy Committee**

Advocacy Representatives support the clubs in their advocacy activities on the national level.

Area 02 Fiona Ruff, ZC Bad Soden-Kronberg, member of the ZSN-working group of the UdZC

Area 02 Sonja Hartmann (Vice Area Director), ZC Darmstadt, member of the working group for ParityNow of the UdZC!

Area 03 Gabriella Fumarola, ZC Taranto, for advocacy and club support in Area 03 (Italy)

***Thank you*** to all clubs and members for their highly valued commitment in taking action in advocacy initiatives and for their alertness in women's rights and gender equality.

*And to all Fellow Zontians in our District and Areas for giving advocacy a voice on their agenda and through their Zonta work. **Thank you all!***

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, PID  
D.28 Advocacy and CoE Chair