

## News Letter No 2 on ZONTA and UN

Dear Zonta friends

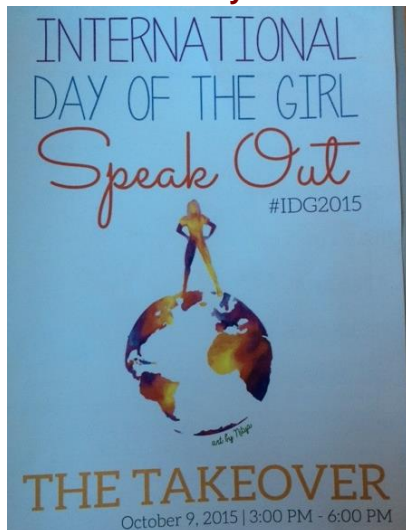
### Ideas from the District 13 Conference to Newsletters on Zonta and UN

Just ahead of the action period “Zonta says NO to violence against women” 25.11-10.12. I share the message from the District 13’s work shop on UN and Zonta: Tell us about

- what has happened recently
- more on UN women
- keep members on track
- the information should be short and interesting
- make *one* simple link to ZI’s web site, searching news today is too complicated

I will try to meet these wishes. This time I link the Newsletter to my experiences as Official Norwegian Observer to the UN Assembly 9.-16.10.2015, nominated by Zonta Norway to FOKUS, the Norwegian Member Committee to UN Women.

### International Day of the Girl – my first day in UN



Hundreds of teen-agers were gathered in Thrusteeship Council. The Celebration was opened by representatives of UNICEF and UN Women. The girls have made a wonderful performance where they used the whole arena. They focused on themes that girls and adults are fighting for: Girl's rights to education, health, a living free of violence, sexual abuse, the right to choose their marriage, pregnancy and sexual rights. The power, humour and creativity showed a lot of energy!

The girls were supported by the Ambassadors of Canada, Turkey and Peru, who initiated this International Day three years ago.

They speak out, they take over, the girls are the leaders of the future!

### The Advancemet of Women – the second day

Norwegian Delegation, the 12th of October in Committee 3, the start of a three day’s session reporting on women’s situation worldwide. The main speakers were:



- Deputy Director of UN Women, Lakshmi Puri, opening speech
- Chair of CEDAW, Yoko Hayashi
- Special reporteur Dubrevca Simonociv, VAW (Violence against Women)

They covered the member states' reports to CEDAW, violence against migrants workers, the situation for rural women and measurement indicators on UN's implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. After a period with questions, the delegates from more than 120 countries gave their statements. It was a strong experience to listen to Syria. Their well-educated women managed well in the society before the war. But Syria's prayers to UN for help were not heard, with harsh consequences for women and children.

*Violence against women were most often reported.* The optimism on the Sustainable Development Goals no 5 on Gender Equality as a "stand alone goal", but also "gender mainstreaming" in all areas we heard. The slogan from UN Women is "Planet 50-50 by 2030 – Step it up for Gender Equality". Opening speeches are here: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/gashc4133.doc.htm>

### Security Council on "Women and Peace and Security" – the third day



13th of October was a great day in Security Council. It was the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the resolution 1325 (2000). The issue is about women and girls' rights to protection in war and conflict, but also how women can contribute to a culture of peace. GS Bank-i-Moon opened the meeting and Executive Director on UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, said in her speech: "Turn words into action involving women for lasting peace." However, strongest impact made the witnesses and statements from the NGO women leaders from Kongo, Irak and Libya (see photo). Zonta International has in October send

its statement on Womens' rights and non-state terrorist groups to the Security Council, endorsed by 88 women organisations. Zonta said that protection against ISIS and other teorrist groups is not only a women's issue, but a growing threat to international peace and security. With Paris in mind, they got sorrowly right. Read it here: <http://www.zonta.org/Portals/0/Advocacy%20docs/Zonta%20International%20Statement%20on%20Women's%20Rights%20and%20Non-State%20Terrorist%20Groups.pdf>



### Brunch with Leslie Wright, Chair of Zonta's UN committee

The first Sunday in New York I had a lovely brunch with Leslie Wright. She told about the processes in Women's Major Group and the steady work on the SDG and Zonta's priorities. Very useful!

Best Zonta regards from Astrid  
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Trondheim, 24.11.2015

