



News Letter No 3 on ZONTA and UN

Dear Zonta friends

Soon we are writing March – the International Month of All Women

Firstly, we celebrate The International Women's Day, 8. March

Secondly, we work in UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) 14.-24.

Both are important arenas for Advocacy work in Zonta, whether it is for campaigning or lobbying to the benefit of empowering women and girls. Let's start with the second!

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 14-24 March 2016 in NY



Every year in March this functional *commission* of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) gather representatives of governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and others from civil society. Their task is to formulate policies, global standards and norms to promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. The Commission is supported by UN Women (see my News Letter no.1 about UN Women).

The priority theme this time is:

- Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development.

In addition, the review theme is:

- The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

This means an evaluation of progress in the implementation of the agreed, strong conclusions from the fifty-seventh session (2013).

It is interesting that the UN bodies have traditions not only to agree upon policies and norms, but to evaluate the implementation in 193 member countries as well. But the big issue for CSW60 this time is how to make the strong and vital Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) a foundation for Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda.

(Google CSW60 to find documents. Read a short overview in the brochure with a click to this link:)

http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/60/unw_csw60_brochure_en-fin4.pdf?v=1&d=20160203T163414)

Zonta International, having general consultative status to ECOSOC, attends CSW60 with 20 delegates who get UN passes. The place is limited and having a voice in plenary almost impossible. It is, however, a range of side events and meetings with different themes inside and outside UN. 50 Zontians are gathered in NY this time, among them a Zontian from Trondheim. *Please, send me an e-mail if others from District 13 intend to go!*

Zonta International has submitted to CSW60 a statement with priority to the three first targets of Sustainable Development Goal no 5, and a point about women in conflict and peacbuilding (resolution 1325, see my News Letter no. 2). Zonta demands:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, and all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Stop violence against women in conflicts and involve women in conflict resolution and peace-building by willful actions

Read the full statement of Zonta, which also includes means, here:

<http://www.zonta.org/Portals/0/PDFs/New%20PDFs/Zonta%20CSW60%20Statement-final.pdf>

I ask myself: In these days, with the big refugee crisis due to war, conflicts and climate changes, how can the CSW60 make an impact for the sake of vulnerable women and girls? (Related, see Zonta Statement on Migrant Workers in Governor's Newsletter of February).

The International Women's Day 8 March – and Zonta Rose Day



Zonta clubs in District 13 surely have their brave traditions of celebrating this day, instituted by UN in 1977, but traces its tradition to 1901. ZI recommends collaboration with other organizations to improve women's equality as well as create visibility for Zonta. The photo to the left shows Trondheim Zonta Club 2015 who campaigned "NO to violence against women" under the parole *Fight against sexualized violence*. This year also a member meeting. Our experience is that Zonta is welcomed in the

city's 8 March planning committee, and we are also involved in the new POPUP Feminist house 1-19 March 2016.

The possibilities for your club are endless! Several clubs use this day selling yellow roses, which symbolizes friendship, joy and good health.

Others send their donation to Zonta Rose Fund.

For ideas next year, see Zonta International's letter here:

<http://www.zonta.org/Portals/0/Members/International%20Women's%20Day.pdf>



Finally, greetings from District 13 Conference's workshop on UN, last September:

The main sentence from the work shop was: "It is recommended that each club has one person who is responsible for information on UN." Have your club realized this? Or should you have a committee to learn this issue together? Zonta surveys tell that international questions is among the highest rated issues of interest for their membership!

*Best Zonta regards from Astrid
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Trondheim, .23.02.2016

