

## Newsletter on UN Women meeting CSW62 D-13 UN Committee Newsletter No. 5 (2016-2018)

### Dear Zonta Friends in District 13

The last Newsletter on Zonta and UN this biennium brings news from the UN meeting in The Commission on the Status of Women, CSW62. This took place in NY 11.-16. March.

From District 13 participated Governor Ingibjörg Elíasdóttir, Hildur Helga Gísladóttir, Hafnarfjörður, and Ruth H. Fagerhaug, Trondheim, among 66 Zontians and 4000 other NGOs. They gave us some highlights:

**The main Theme was:  
Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender  
equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.**

Ruth followed a Zonta event on challenges for rural women and girls in Zambia about education, empowerment and impact on traditional culture. The girls' place were in the kitchen, education of girls was vaisting resources. But the boys were free to study. Zambia has the highest number of girl brides before 15 years old. Nor had women legal rights to owe land. Only 4 % had completed secondary education. They also had heavy physical burden for wood and water. (Photo: ZI president Sonja Hönig Schough, the moderator Leslie Wright, and ladies from Zambia)



Another Zonta event focused on girl brides. The high rate, the consequences for mother and child health and their future. The seminar also pointed to the fact that when women did not get an independent life it has impact on the world economy (Photo from the event)

Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, executive director of UN "Women, said in her speech: Being unable to understand anything else is to provide all equal opportunities. One of the biggest and most important task of establishing the perfect gender equality in the world by 2030, is to eradicate injustice and discrimination against women and girls in rural areas around the world."

Hildur Helga watched a special screening of the documentary movie "Little Stones" followed by a panel on the role of art in global women's empowerment. "Little Stones" is an award-winning documentary that unites the personal narratives of four women around the world who using art to create positive change in their communities. From a graffiti artist speaking out against domestic violence in the favelas of Brazil to a dancer rehabilitating sex-trafficking survivors in India. Each of these women contributing a stone to the mosaic of the women's movement through their art. Zonta is one of the Co Sponsors of the event and the documentary film. Watch the Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/187500137>.



The panel after the movie "Little Stones"

Review theme was: Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communication technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.



A third Zonta seminar that really engaged Ruth was the situation for women in media today. In the seminar it was documented that female journalists had much more difficult working conditions than before. And in US it is many women who start their journalist education, but few who complete it, because they can not see a future as female journalist or activist. It is too dangerous and unsafe.

Hildur Helga tells about an icelandic side event on digital violence online in the form of sexually hate speech and threats. This has a negative impact on public participation of women. The development of democracy was discussed by the legislature in counter-acting digital violence directed against women and the development of ideas about masculinity and gender equality. Studies show that women are more likely to suffer from digital violence or fear of it. This causes a democratic shock if nothing is done. The government, the media and social media have a strong responsibility here.

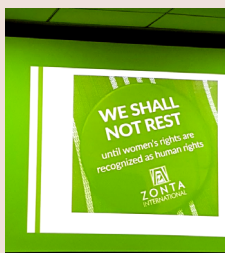


Ingibjörg, Christina and Ruth



Hildur Helga in the middle

D-13 Zontians were very impressed by president Sonja and her team, who gave seven events of high quality. We all get a chance in 2019 to attend CSW63, we know that people of our district will attend!



**The green button reminds Zontians to keep up the work for empowering women and girls. Zonta cooperates with other NGOs to realise this goal and has consultative status in UN.**

We in D-13 UN Committee team will continue also the next biennium but now with Hanne Friis, Denmark, as the Committee Chairman.

Congratulations to Hanne!  
See you in Yokohama?

**Warm regards from District 13  
UN Committee team, 15. May 2018**



Hildur Helga  
Gisladdottir,  
Iceland



Ruta  
Jasioniene,  
Lithuania



Hanne  
Friis,  
Denmark



Astrid Grude  
Eikseth,  
Norway (Chairman)