



Newsletter on Zonta International District 13 (2018–2020) United Nations and Council of Europe Committee No. 2

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet

On September 1, 2018 Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Ms. Bachelet was elected President of Chile on two occasions (2006-2010 and 2014-2018). She had also served as Defense Minister and Health Minister.

In 2011 Ms. Bachelet was named the first Director of UN Women, which was established in 2010, and support and coordinate the work on gender equality and empowerment of women.

Michelle Bachelet has a Medical Degree in Surgery and has also studied military strategy and Policy.

In 2012 Ms. Bachelet was Honored guest of the closing ceremony at the ZI Convention in Torino and gave a very fine address during the gala dinner.



Link to High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet's Opening Statement at 39th session of Human Rights Council September 2018

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23518&LangID=E>

Letter from Anita Schnetzer-Spranger

Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, PID, Chairman of CoE Committee, send a letter 22nd October 2018 to the District Advocacy Chairs of the European Districts.

ASS started raising the question: There may be an impression of the Zontians in Europe, that child marriage is not an issue in their countries?

ASS: "YES it is."

And then she spoke about how the Council of Europe is tackling the problem including the Istanbul Convention. She encouraged Zontians in Europe to get knowledge about the problem in their countries and she gave advice to what the European Zonta clubs can do.



Link to the letter:

http://zonta-district13.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Notes-on-Child-Marriage_Council-of-Europe-Committee_Oct-18.pdf

Who are going to UN CSW63 in March 2019



The Commission on the Status of Women held their 63th (CSW63) meeting in UN in New York from 11 to 22 March 2019. Hundreds of NGO's, among them Zonta International, meet.

Usually Zontians participate the first week, with a special orientation the 10th. The themes are:

- **Priority theme:** Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

- **Review theme:** Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development.

If you will join District 13 participants Dorte Olesen, Hanne Friis (Denmark), Ruth Fagerhaug (Norway), Ingibjorg Eliasdottir (Iceland), please take contact with **Megan Radavich** in ZI Headquarter or Hanne Friis, D13 UN and CoE Committee Chairman. 2019 is an in between year to Conventions, and a CSW meeting is a memory for life!

Zonta International has secured excellent room rates at the Millennium Hilton One UN Plaza, which is directly across the street from the United Nations, close to many CSW events.

Please call the gentleman below to make your reservation and mention Zonta International:

Brian Stillger, Reservation Agent, +1 212 758 1234 ext: 2032

ICELAND. Women's Day Off 2018 – Women's Strike



Ruth Sigurdadottir photo

24. October all over Iceland thousands of women, included many Zontians, left their work at **2.55 p.m.** to protest income inequality and sexual harassment and violence in the workplace. Women's solidarity and women's protests in Iceland have driven social change. This was the sixth time since 1975 that women have gone on a strike for gender equality under the banner of Kvinnafri. Women are paid 26 % less on average than men, so that women will not be paid for their work after 2.55 p.m.



Hildur Helga Gísladóttir tells that in recent months, stories of harassment, violence and injustice women suffer in the workplace have been shared on social media under the hashtag #MeToo. These stories have made it clear that the fight for gender equality in the workplace cannot only be about equal pay but must also be about safety in the workplace. The focus now was to put pressure on companies and the government to change how they deal with misogyny, harassment and violence in the workplace and to make sure all employers have regulations and protocol for when incidents occur.



The core of the campaign was: Don't Change Women, Change the World!

Read The declaration of women in Iceland on Women's Day Off, October 24th 2018 here:

<https://kvinnafri.is/en/declaration-of-women-in-iceland-on-the-womens-day-off-october-24-2018/>

NORWAY. Equal Pay Actions

24. October also Norwegians, inspired by the Icelandic actions, held demonstrations in 10 cities.

Their focus was Equal Pay. The gender pay gap in Norway is about 87 %, which means that women work without salary in the rest of the year from early November.

Vocations dominated by women are valued lower than typical men dominated vocations and are often part time work. We need strong efforts for women's income and equality.



The core of the message. Women want a salary policy which builds on equal status and equal pay for work of equal value. Gender equity is also economic equity!



The mayor of Trondheim, Rita Ottervik, held an appeal (no 2 from left) and Zontians.



People and organizations at the demonstration.