



Newsletter on Zonta International District 13 (2018-2020)  
United Nations and Council of Europe Committee No. 5

## Zonta participates in global survey on Violence against Women under COVID-19

### The conclusion of the surveys

- COVID is a driver of awareness raising tracing Domestic Violence:
- countries with proper legislation concerning women's rights are combating VAW and DV within their legal frameworks for gender equality (following CEDAW, Istanbul Convention or similar legal frameworks), raised their budgets during lockdown etc.
- Countries with no legal framework and traditional, patriarchal family laws (Ukraine, Nepal, Philippines) still neglect the issue of DV and have no action plans. NGOs with support of International organisations are taking care of victims of DV
- NGOs are acknowledged as experts of VAW and are reliable and essential partners of (local) governments and media

### Conference of INGOs (CoE)

CoE Commissioner for Human Rights: "Covid-19 - Ensure women's access to sexual and reproductive health and rights".

[www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/covid-19-ensure-women-s-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights](http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/covid-19-ensure-women-s-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights)

## United Nations Assistant Secretary-General appointed

Mr. Ib Petersen, who served as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN from 2013-2019, is appointed to Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The organization focuses on sexual and reproductive health, as well as women's and girl's right to their bodies.

Mr. Ib Petersen brings to the position over 30 years of Experience within the spheres of bilateral and multilateral affairs and development.

Working for women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health and rights has been a central element of Mr. Petersen's professional life, often in partnership with UNFPA. For him, this is an unfinished agenda under pressure, not least in times of Covid-19.

A statement from Mr. Ib Petersen is: "Secure women's and girl's right to their bodies, and to decide if, when, with whom, and how many children they will give birth to"

Our Committee member Rūta, part time teacher at Alytus Youth Center, head of Young Journalists Club, was a member of AFLATOUN program together with her students



Aflatoun International has enormous potential. Grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and

building on our foundational strengths - the concept of Child Social & Financial Education, the high-quality curricula, the unique partner network and the innovative social-franchise model - we believe that Aflatoun International has an important role to play in fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals and our work directly contributes to four of these: No Poverty; Quality Education; Decent Work and Economic Growth, and Reduced Inequalities.

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## Child marriage and social control

As part of the fight against social control, the danish government will ban religious marriage of minors and tighten the penalties for forced retention in marriages. Immigration to Denmark has created problems with negative social control: forced marriages, honor killings, violence, pressure to wear a scarf, re-enactment journeys, prohibition of going to leisure activities, etc.

A bill to tighten penalties will be put forward.

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## Words from Committee member Astrid Grude Eikseth

Astrid Grude Eikseth, Trondheim Zonta Club, says thank you for fellowship in the D-13 UN and CoE Committee after 5 exciting years. I was appointed by Governor Eva Nielsen as Chairman for D-13 UN Committee in May 2015, after having participated in Geneva at the Regional UN meeting.

I was happy in September 2017 to welcome 3 Zontians from Iceland, Denmark and Lithuania to build a team. We made Newsletters and learning tools on Zonta and UN, in this biennium also on Zonta and Council of Europe under Hanne Friis excellent leadership. I had the privilege to attend meetings in UN headquarter in NY, to connect with other Zontians in International Advocacy and to communicate with many D-13 members. Good luck to the committee in the 2020-2022 biennium to fight for women and girls Human Rights!

## Re: Biennium 2018-2020

It has been an honor for me chair the D-13 UN and CoE Committee in the past biennium 2018-2020, and I thank all the committee members for excellent cooperation and support. After District meeting in September 2019 committee member Elsemette Cassøe, Zonta Club of Aalborg, Denmark, wanted to step down, and Maria Jose Landeira Østergaard, PIP was appointed as representative from Denmark.

It has been an eventful biennium for me. First I attended Convention in Japan 2018 and got our Mandatory updated. Then I attended CSW63 in New York as a member of the Danish Foreign Ministries delegation. Furthermore I attended Regional UN meeting in Geneva, Interdistrict meeting in Tartu and our District meeting in Copenhagen. At all these meetings Zontas cooperation with UN and CoE was discussed, and ZI UN Chair Ingeborg Geyer was very involving, and did a lot to involve us. Anita Schnetzer-Spranger, ZI CoE Committee Chair has informed us so well, and I am grateful for that.

ZI has outstanding projects with ending Child Marriage, ensuring more safety and education to girls in many part of the world, Generation Equality etc.

Our Committee try to live up to the Mandatory we are given.

At district level our committee has been very well supported by Governor Dorte Olesen and her Board, especially Webmaster Berit Birkelund, has been helpful.

As you can read in the above note from Astrid Grude Eikseth, she wants to step down from her really outstanding work for our committee. Thank you very much Astrid!

On our last meeting we discussed this and send our unanimous thoughts about the future committee to incoming Governor Jane Bordal.

A big thank you for the Biennium 2018-2020.

Hanne Friis

D-13 Zonta International

UN and CoE Committee Chairman

2018-2020

## Zonta says YES to United Nations and Council of Europe!

Warm regards from District 13 UN and CoE Committee team 2018-2020:

Hildur Helga Gísladóttir, Astrid Grude Eikseth, Hanne Friis,

Maria Jose Landeira Østergaard, Ruta Jasioniene.

