

ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Day 15 – A Day of Service

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

On day 15, it is time to focus on service actions that are aimed at preventing gender-based violence or assisting survivors. According to UN Women, an estimated 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual partner violence at the hands of an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives. With COVID-19, reports of domestic violence have increased exponentially, leading UN Women to refer to violence against women as “the shadow pandemic.” There are many ways you can assist survivors of domestic violence:

- ✚ Make a donation of goods or services to a local domestic violence shelter. Find out what they need and how best to deliver the items.
- ✚ Support local organizations responding to the increase in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✚ Initiate a MASK-19 initiative to help women in your local community get the services they need. The Union of German Zonta Clubs saw the need to respond to the rise in domestic violence caused by COVID-19 lockdowns. Concerned for victims of domestic violence who were forced to lock down with their abusers and inspired by an already successful campaign in Spain and France, the clubs began work on a quick response called “MASK-19.” MASK-19 is a nationally coordinated advocacy plan that gives women the opportunity to contact police in a discreet manner. When a woman enters a pharmacy or doctor’s office and says the codeword “MASK-19,” the employees know to quickly respond by calling the local authorities. The Union of German Zonta Clubs is exploring reaching out to national doctor and pharmacist associations to further evaluate and expand the idea. MASK-19 could be initiated in any community with the proper education, outreach and training.

How will you help?

Zontians In Action: COVID-19 Relief

The Zonta Club of Hong Kong II supported several programs, providing masks and food to those in need. The club sourced 100,000 single-use surgical masks and donated them to seven nongovernmental organization partners.



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