



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 12
EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

CSW TRAINING

January 2020

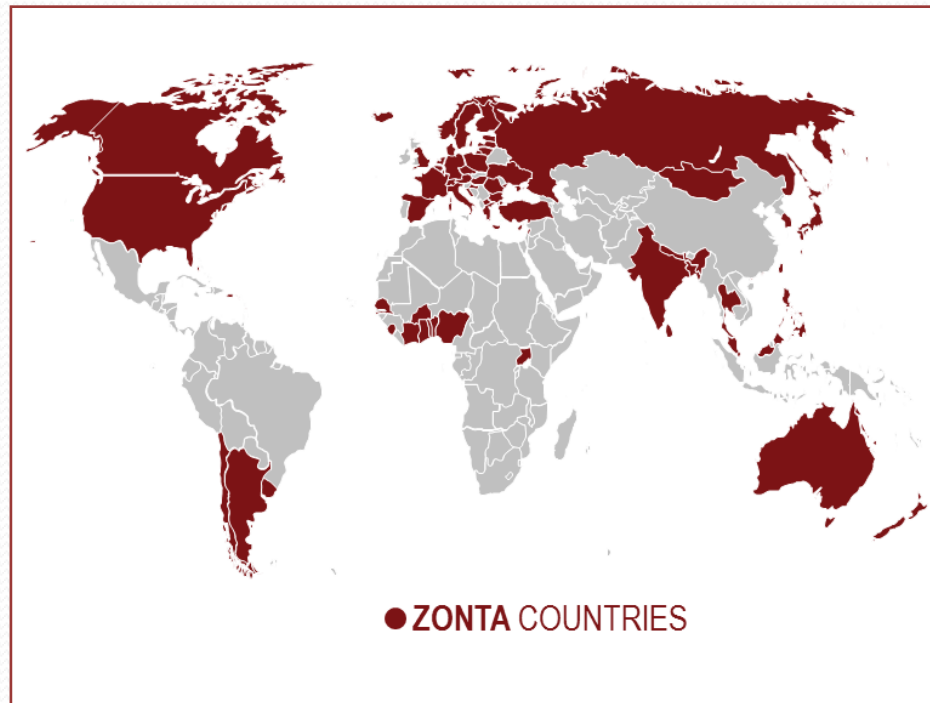
Reneé Coppock

DI2 UN Chair

2018 - 2020

Mission

Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals empowering women through service and advocacy.



Vision



Zonta International envisions a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential.

In such a world, women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men.

In such a world, no woman lives in fear of violence.



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
- The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. Member States agree on further actions to accelerate progress and promote women's enjoyment of their rights in political, economic and social fields. The outcomes and recommendations of each session are forwarded to ECOSOC for follow-up.
- NGOs educate participants and share best practices and ideas in parallel sessions, held outside the UN or by side sessions, held inside the UN.

History of CSW

- ❖ During the inaugural meetings of the UN General Assembly in London in February 1946, Eleanor Roosevelt, asked for more action for women.
- ❖ A few days later, a Sub-commission dedicated to the Status of Women was established under the Commission on Human Rights.
- ❖ By May 1946, the Sub-commission requested full Commission status.
- ❖ On 21 June 1946, the Sub-Commission formally became the Commission on the Status of Women, a full-fledged Commission dedicated to ensuring women's equality and to promoting women's rights.
- ❖ At the first meeting in February, 1947, all 15 government representatives were women.



Theme

Rather than focus on a main theme this year, CSW will focus on the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the global blueprint for empowering women. These discussions will set the tone for the other UN commemorations marking women's rights. This year's CSW promises to be momentous, particularly on sexual and reproductive health rights and other serious gaps remaining in regard to gender equality.

The Commission usually features a final outcome document, this year, however, it will issue a political declaration reinforcing the original Beijing Declaration and those agreed on since 1995. The new feature this year will be references to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Commission's goal is to produce a 4-5-page political declaration by the first days of the CSW, to avoid the acrimonious negotiations that upset the meeting last year.



This year's CSW is chaired by Mher Margaryan, Armenia's ambassador to the UN.

THE US TEAM

- In 2019 at the CSW, the US worked with a strange collection of countries, including Bahrain, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and El Salvador to drop such language in the outcome document as “gender” and “sexual and reproductive health services,” which those parties say connotes abortion. (“Gender” is being construed by conservative countries and some nongovernmental organizations as code for LGBTQ rights.)
- This year’s US delegation will be led by Kelley Currie, the new ambassador-at-large for global women’s issues at the State Department. People familiar with past US delegations suggest that Currie will work closely with Valerie Huber and Diane Foley, both from the Department of Health and Human Services; Bethany Kozma, Monique Wubbenhorst and Michelle Bekkering from US Agency for International Development; Pam Pryor in the State Department; and Bill Steiger, chief of staff for USAID.



The steps to create a Declaration have been underway for months:

- ❖ UN member states were asked to conduct national reviews of progress and challenges framed within the Beijing Platform of Action.
- ❖ The reviews will be compiled into a report to be released soon by the UN secretary-general, António Guterres.
- ❖ Final negotiations begin in February, in meetings held at the UN and offsite in New York.

In addition to the national reviews, the UN regional commissions across the world have been holding separate meetings to conduct additional 25 year reviews and issue individual final statements.

The regional meetings' final documents will also guide the work of UN Women in its role as convener of the Generation Equality forums and in its role as the secretariat for the CSW.

Unfortunately, progress toward the goals set in Beijing has remained slow and uneven since 2015, while some gains have been reversed or stalled.



A view of the CSW in action.



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S ROLE

- As of July 2018, there are a total of 5,4511 organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC. There are 140 organizations in general consultative status, 4,342 in special consultative status and 969 on the Roster.
- As an NGO with General Consultative Status, Zonta International is invited to participate in the annual Commission on the Status of Women in New York and submit letters and comments to the Commission.

Why is Zonta's Involvement Crucial?

- The active participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is a critical element in the work of the CSW. NGOs have been influential in shaping the current global policy framework on women's empowerment and gender equality. They continue to play an important role in holding international and national leaders accountable for the commitments they made in the Platform for Action.
- UN Women facilitates the participation of NGOs in sessions of the CSW. NGOs that are accredited to and in good standing with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) may designate representatives to attend the annual sessions of the CSW.



How can you be involved?

- Currently, there are 145 Zontians registered with ZI to attend CSW. If you have not done so, contact Megan at mradavich@zonta.org so that you can obtain information about Zonta events.
- If you do not have a ground pass of the UN, you can attend any number of the parallel sessions **NGO CSW Forum**.
- All attendees should [register for the NGO CSW Forum](#) to receive information about the Forum and events being organized by NGOs outside the UN. Registration is free.
<https://ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/>
- NGO CSW New York also has a [series of orientation videos](#), which you may be interested in watching as you prepare for the CSW.

Zonta Schedule

- **Saturday, 7 March, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Zonta International Child Marriage Symposium
The Armenian Cultural Center, 630 Second Ave.

- **Tuesday, 10 March, 2:00 p.m.**

Parallel Event: *Sisters for Sale the Global fight Against Human Trafficking*
Salvation Army, 221 E. 52nd Street

- **Thursday, 12 March, 2:30 p.m.**

Parallel Event: *Take Action: End Child Marriage, an Obstacle to Global Development*
Church Center, 2nd Floor

- **Thursday, 12 March, 7:00 p.m.**

Zonta International CSW Dinner

CONSULTATION DAY

- Consultation Day is the launch of the NGO CSW Forum. It is meant to educate and prepare attendees for the upcoming forum and its priority theme. The day consists of several discussions or presentations with global experts on the theme. In addition, Consultation Day has entertainment, networking and photo ops!
- March 8, 2020
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Apollo Theater, Harlem
\$100 Orchestra & Lower Mezzanine
\$ 50 Upper Mezzanine



US Women's Caucus at the UN

U.S. Women's organizations joined together to make a much larger impact at the UN.



Members meet and determine how best to get our message to the UN Mission.

March 11, noon – 2
St. Bartholomew's Church

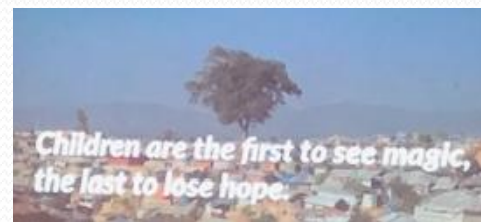
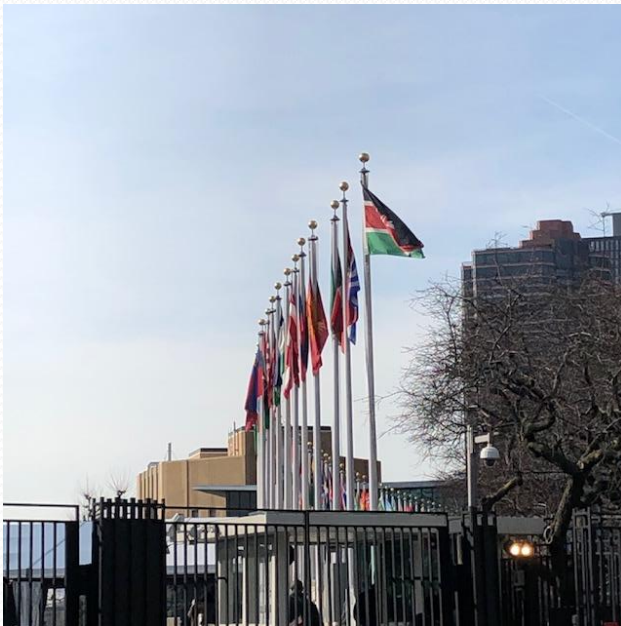


MORE WORK TO DO!

CONSULTATION DAY AND SIDE EVENTS







Zonta Sessions











ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT 12

EMPOWERING WOMEN
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY