



February 2024

## Newsletter District 14 UN - No. 2

Dear Zontians,

the **68. CSW - COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN** is almost about to begin. From a Zonta perspective we are approaching the most important annual UN conference : [the largest conference on women's rights worldwide](#) is taking place in New York from March 11- 22.

### **What is it and why is it the main event for us Zontians?**

**The CSW is [the main global body specifically designed to deal with women's issues.](#)**  
Zonta International - due to our accreditation to the UN with General Consultative Status – is invited to actively participate in the annual Commission. The preparation via a statement and the active participation as well as all participation at the different UN headquarters throughout the world give us the chance to raise our voice and be heard as women's experts!

### **What is happening at the conference?**

Women's rights were agreed on in the 1995 [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), the key global policy document on gender equality and they were re-discussed during the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#) held in 2000 (so-called Beijing+5).

During the yearly CSW all representatives discuss where we are at present about those agreed-on women's rights plus the new issues that interfere with women's rights on top of the then addressed topics. Please have a look at: [zonta.org informations about CSW](https://zonta.org/informations-about-csw)

The CSW always has a new priority theme – for this year's CSW 68 in 2024:

**CSW68 Priority Theme**

**Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective**

It also regularly picks up an earlier year's main theme as a so-called review theme - for this year's CSW 68 in 2024:

**CSW68 Review Theme**

Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls ([agreed conclusions](#) of the 63rd session)

The planned priority theme is focusing on adequate financing of gender equality activities – without financial support conclusions are not effective.

Zonta international is underlining this: [Zonta International's statement to the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.](#)

Sustainable development goals – the 17 [SDGs](#)

Women's topics are also closely linked to the Sustainable development goals SDG – to be reached by 2030 – that only gives us 6 years left!!!

As an example look at SDG 5 on the UN webpage - the [current status quo](#) can be viewed!

Finally - during the UN conference at the same time the [NGOCSW](#) is taking place.

**What is NGOCSW ?**

This is the civil society arm of CSW - presenting the [NGOCSW](#) Forum. There are hundreds of sessions, known as parallel events and open for all interested parties to attend. Zonta International always takes part and prepares parallel events. Fellow Zontians are invited to be part.

NGOCSW takes place from 10.-22.3.2024 – it is a hybrid event and you can register here:

<https://ngoCSW68forum.vfairs.com/en/registration-form>

Since last year Zonta International UN Chair Pamela Morgan is Co-Chair together with Ivy Koek.

NGOCSW also regularly sends out information.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) would like to share with you [six CSW68 Zero Draft recommendations](#) .

### Advocacy Priorities for CSW68



**Social Justice  
& Poverty**



**Education  
and Poverty**



**Gender Bias  
in Economic  
Policy**



**Debt Crisis &  
Its Impact on  
Women**



**Women's  
Poverty &  
Climate  
Change**



**Youth -  
Intersectional  
Recommendation**

### **Discussions in the clubs**

- >> Please talk about the conference and the topics in the clubs – there is research material on this year's priority theme available at the [ngocsw page](#) that shows details for different regions and also with regard to young women especially.
- >> Discuss what can be done on a regional or local level.
- >> Try to organize a women's day celebration on March 8!
- >> Have a Look at the [Advocacy Toolkit](#) - here you will find detailed information about participating bodies, their roles and the processes at the conference.

Thank you so much for all the support and work for women and girls – we can be strong and we can effectively change the situation IF we work together and connect with more people and like-minded organisations !

## **BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Charlotte von Bodelschwingh

Here is another important Link : international statements by Zonta International:

[https://zonta.org/Web/Web/News\\_Events/Zonta\\_International\\_Statements.aspx?hkey=34051c4c-679c-4251-8178-fe80033fad4d](https://zonta.org/Web/Web/News_Events/Zonta_International_Statements.aspx?hkey=34051c4c-679c-4251-8178-fe80033fad4d)

For more information f.e. at a club meeting please contact: [cvbodelschwingh@gmx.com](mailto:cvbodelschwingh@gmx.com)