



August 2024

## Newsletter District 14 UN - No. 3

Dear Zontians,

in the last newsletter I depicted the frame of the annual commission on the status of women CSW that took place for the 68th time in New York in March 2024.

This newsletter has two topics - the results of the **68. CSW - COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN** .

And the new international UN projects that the Zonta Convention voted on in July 2024

As you know Zonta International - due to our accreditation to the UN with General Consultative Status – is invited to actively participate in the annual Commission.

As I wrote in the last newsletter during the CSW experts, interest groups and UN stakeholders discuss the achievements and progress that have been made re women's rights and in detail. This is done under the headlines of the year's priority theme and review theme.

Unfortunately like in the last years also in 2024 some backlash due to adverse global developments had to be discussed, too.

This year's main topics for the CSW 68 in 2024 were:

### 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

### 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 was focusing on adequate financing of gender equality activities – Zonta international was underlining this beforehand its statement that can be found on the Zonta international website. The reason for this focus is explained on the UN Women CSW website: „The world is at a crucial crossroad for gender equality. Globally 10.3 per cent of women live in extreme poverty today, and they are poorer than men. Progress towards ending poverty needs to be 26 times faster to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. ... Solutions to end women's poverty are widely recognized: investing in policies and programmes that address gender inequalities and boosting women's agency and leadership.“ The goal of the CSW68 therefore was: to „come together to agree on actions and investments that can end women's poverty and advance gender equality.“

### Results:

Here you can find the full version of the [agreed conclusions](#).

This outcome document has a descriptive part - looking at all the different problems and obstacles girls and women face in achieving especially financial independence and security. More important : in its 80 paragraphs it also shows rather concrete and operational recommendations for the countries to be put into action.

Concepts such as financial independence for women, gender-focussed bonds, financing women entrepreneurs were discussed at the conference and explicitly taken into the conclusions.

The implementation is what really is important over the next years and it is our role as Zontians to watch this and have a close look at the [current status quo](#) of the 17 SDGs to be reached by 2030. These 17 [SDGs](#) are linked directly to the CSW68 agreed conclusions.

Also the Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following resolution:

[Resolution on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS](#). This resolution is focusing on the epidemic still disproportionately affecting women and girls. Especially looking at sexual and reproductive health and rights is showing the great risk and vulnerability. The resolution thus outlines that also in this special field prevention, treatment, care and support need to be addressed with a gender-equal approach.

Parallel events are organised by the [NGOCSW](#) taking place at the same time. The NGOCSW as the civil society arm of CSW is presenting the [NGOCSW](#) Forum. Since last year Zonta International UN Chair Pamela Morgan is Co-Chair together with Ivy Koek. NGOCSW also regularly sends out information. You can register for e newsletter [here](#).

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW/NY) announced six advocacy priorities for the CSW68:



If you look at these NGOCSW Advocacy Priorities it becomes obvious that the new Zonta international projects that were agreed on at this year's international convention link directly to these goals:

- Zonta's signature project: [Ending Child Marriage Phase III](#)
- [Climate Empower](#): Community Empowerment and Innovation for Gender-Transformative Climate Action
- [Laaha](#): A virtual safe space for women and girls

#### Discussions in the clubs

- >> Please talk about the conference and results in the clubs.
- >> Discuss what can be done on a regional or local level.
- >> Discuss how your club can find allies with like-minded organisations in order to have a stronger voice
- >> Make yourself acquainted with the three international Zonta projects.
- >> Find one that you as a club want to support.

Let us start into the next biennium with a fresh energy and creativity in order to **BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Best regards  
Charlotte von Bodelschwingh

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