



## **ADVOCACY REPORT** for first quarter of the 2014-2016 biennium

### **Update from Christine Cook, Advocacy Chair, District 16.**

Margit Webjorn, ZI Advocacy Committee Chair, joins President Maria Jose in thanking members for efforts during the 2014 Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign. It was great to see so many events and activities posted on our website and Facebook pages during the sixteen days of activism.

New advocacy content on the Zonta International website was suggested in line with the Council of Europe *Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the Istanbul Convention*. According to Margit, this convention will be presented in more detail to Zonta members this year and form the basis of the advocacy campaign for 2015.

A new Women's Reproductive Health Policy has been adopted and guidelines to the two existing Advocacy Policies were approved.

Zonta's support of the Women's Empowerment Principles, WEPs, have been approved. (*The Women's Empowerment Principles – Equality Means Business* is a partnership initiative of UN Women and the UN Global Compact that encourages engagement with business, civil society, the United Nations and Governments to advance and empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community.) They are;

Principle 1: Establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality

Principle 2: Treat all women and men fairly at work – respect and support human rights and non-discrimination

Principle 3: Ensure the health, safety and well-being of women and men workers

Principle 4: Promote education, training and professional development of women

Principle 5: Implement enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women

Principle 6: Promote equality through community initiatives and advocacy

Principle 7: Measure and publicly report on progress to achieve gender equality

For more information visit <http://weprinciples.org>

### CSW

Zonta International will present to the participants of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session (9 – 20 March 2015) of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women the following statement for the consideration of the Commission in its deliberations on the 20-year review of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Zonta International calls on parents, educators, administrators, law and policy makers and delegates.....to address PREVENTION OF ROOT CAUSES THROUGH EDUCATION and to facilitate effective mechanisms that will ensure

1. EQUALITY – increasing the level of non-discriminatory education, laws and policies shall enable equal access to education for girls and boys and shall ensure that girls can continue their education regardless of marital or parental status, such education requires the adoption of a human rights-based approach through and in education, ensuring the learning of human rights, the human rights of all members of the school community are respected and human rights are practiced within the education system.  
Guaranteeing women access to all resources and representation in decision making positions on the same basis as men  
Alignment between the Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Agenda, and intergovernmental resolutions is needed to guarantee women access to all resources and to ensure greater representation and participation of women in national and local decision-making bodies and other areas of civic engagement.
2. ERADICATION of VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN by – supporting PREVENTATIVE programs promoting gender-equal norms and violence-free environments, and programs that help men to change behaviour towards women to one of mutual respect, PROTECTION of women by providing One Stop Centres with medical/legal/social help for victims. Furthermore, promoting short term shelters and long term affordable housing for women and children, and supporting vocational training for victims to become self-supporting, PROSECUTION of the perpetrators through a) laws that clearly blame perpetrators, not victims; b) reporting systems and support to victims during legal processes; c) training of police and legal professionals to understand the issues.

Equal rights and a life free of violence is NOT a women's issue. It is a societal issue that has to be solved by women and men working together to reach common goals.....

Organisations we are presently collaborating with;

National Council of Women NZ  
UN Women  
NZ Federation of Graduate Women  
NZ Women's Watch  
NZ Women's Refuge  
The Family Violence Clearing House  
Soroptimists International  
(BPW) NZ Federation of Business and Professional Women  
The Sophie Elliott Foundation  
Ministry for Women  
Girl Guiding New Zealand  
NZ Police  
New Horizons for Women Trust  
Shakti Women's Refuges

Advocacy Committee District 16  
Christine Cook (Chair), Jenny Brash, Dr Judy Whitcombe, Helen Bowie.

All the best for your advocacy work, please contact me to share your advocacy activities, or if you have any questions. The Zonta International and District 16 Advocacy goals are attached for your information.

Christine

## **DISTRICT 16 BIENNIAL GOAL**

### **Goal 2 - Advocacy**

#### **1. All advocacy actions shall be in line with the strategic plan and shall have measurable impact**

##### Measures

- The District and clubs can report advocacy actions in line with the Zonta International and District 16 strategic plans
- Mission focused statements are sent to the Government
- The campaign 'Zonta says No to violence against women' is further developed.

#### **2. District and clubs initiate advocacy actions in cooperation with like-minded organisations when relevant**

##### Measures

- Training about the UN is conducted in the District
- Clubs increase participation in effective advocacy actions that have measurable impact
- Priority is given to actions related to Beijing +20, the Post 2015 Agenda and the ratification of CEDAW
- A list of like-minded organisations is developed & updated throughout the biennium

## ZONTA INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL GOAL



<b>BIENNIAL GOAL 2 – ADVOCACY</b>
<b>All advocacy actions shall be in line with the strategic plan and shall have measurable impact</b>
Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Zonta International Board, districts and clubs report advocacy actions in line with Zonta's strategic plan.</li><li>o Mission focused statements are sent to governments</li><li>o The campaign "Zonta says No to Violence Against Women" is further developed to achieve local and national governmental and community commitment.</li></ul>
<b>The activity at the UN and Council of Europe levels is increased utilizing our consultative and participatory status.</b>
Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Zonta submits statements at the CSW and other UN forums when relevant</li><li>o Zonta is actively involved in the Beijing + 20 process.</li><li>o Zonta participates in the decision making process in the Council of Europe.</li></ul>
<b>Zonta International influences UN and Council of Europe documents and actions</b>
Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Zonta's role as leading organization in advancing the status of women is recognized at the UN in NY, Geneva, and Vienna, at UNESCO in Paris and at the Council of Europe.</li><li>o Zonta advocates at the CSW to include its priorities in agreed conclusions and resolutions.</li><li>o Zonta helps ensure that the Beijing Platform for Action is maintained and included in the Beijing +20 and in the UN Post-2015 goals.</li><li>o Zonta advocates for the UN Agencies to address root causes in their projects and programs.</li><li>o Zonta advocates for the implementation at the Council of Europe of the framework to prevent violence against women including trafficking in human beings.</li></ul>
<b>Districts and clubs initiate advocacy actions in cooperation with like-minded organizations when relevant.</b>
Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Training about the UN and if applicable the Council of Europe is conducted in all districts and regions.</li><li>o Governors report that more clubs participate in effective advocacy actions that have measurable impact than the previous biennium.</li><li>o Priority is given to actions related to Beijing + 20, the Post-2015 Agenda and the ratification of CEDAW where relevant.</li><li>o A list of like-minded organizations is updated continuously throughout the biennium</li></ul>