



Dear Club Presidents and District 22 members

This is the first update for the 2012 - 2014 Biennium. I will be continuing with the role of UN Committee Chairman, that I commenced in 2011 and will be assisted by Roma Club member Kell Freeman - kellfreeman@bigpond.com

We plan to bring you information about relevant United Nations activities, including the link between UN protocols and conventions and Zonta's service and advocacy, to enable a better understanding by Zontians of Zonta's role at the UN and the building of a stronger profile for Zonta and its projects in your local communities.

UN Committee Convention Report for 2012 – 2014 Biennium

ctrl+click to follow any links – please read

<http://torino2012.zonta.org/Portals/0/United%20Nations%20Powerpoint.pdf>

UN Women

Michelle Bachelet, the former President of Chile, has been Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women, since it was established in early 2011.

She was keynote speaker at the recent Zonta International Convention in Torino, Italy. This letter was received by Zonta International from Michelle Bachelet on the first anniversary of UN Women earlier this year.

<http://www.zonta.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=yxm6ydp3QUs%3d&tabid=193>



Whilst in Australia in late August, Ms Bachelet was appointed as an honorary Companion of the Order of Australia by the Governor General Quentin Bryce. The award recognises Ms Bachelet's outstanding global leadership in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and her eminent service to Australia-Chile bilateral relations.

At a press conference with Foreign Minister, Senator Bob Carr, during her official visit to Australia, Michelle Bachelet thanked the Government and people of Australia for their strong support to UN Women, and leadership for gender equality and women's empowerment at home and abroad. During the visit, Senator Carr announced that **Australia will contribute \$6.7 million to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women** that supports initiatives around the world to prevent and address violence against women and girls.

Australia will take up a position on the UN Women Executive Board from 1 January 2013.

See more - <http://saynotoviolence.org/around-world/news/australia-contributes-un-trust-fund-end-violence-against-women>

Michelle Bachelet also represented the UN Secretary General at the recent 43rd Pacific Islands Forum Meeting, also attended by our Prime Minister, where she discussed how women's empowerment can help meet pressing challenges faced by Pacific countries. UN Women also hosted a series of consultations throughout the Pacific last month on preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.

See more - <http://saynotoviolence.org/join-say-no/un-women-convenes-consultations-eliminating-and-preventing-violence-against-women-and-gi>

You will recall that one of the 2012 -2014 Biennium ZISVAW projects that we are supporting is **“Empowering Women in Rural Samoa to Combat Violence”**. Funding of US\$109,876 to the UN Trust Fund, administered by UN Women.

UNICEF Thanks Zonta International

Zonta International has had a long partnership with UNICEF, including programs to combat HIV and gender based violence in Rwanda.

Significant progress has been made in the last four years with our project - ***“Elimination of New Paediatric HIV Infection and Prevention and Response to Survivors of Domestic and Gender Based Violence in Rwanda”***, which is continuing again this biennium with funding of US\$1,000,000 to UNICEF.

Please have a look at this short thank you video -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7gSFFgGP2A&feature=em-uploademail>

Convention report on the Rwanda project

<http://torino2012.zonta.org/Portals/0/Rwanda%20PPT%20for%20Torino%20Convention.pdf>

CEDAW

Zonta's International United Nations Committees, along with the Advocacy Committee, engages in advocacy action at the international level and alert members to opportunities for advocacy at the district and club levels. Advocacy takes account of Zonta's Objects which align with:

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Articles 1-16. Zonta International is currently the only women's international non- governmental organization (NGO) which focuses solely on Articles 1-16; CEDAW is the most comprehensive human rights instrument to protect women from discrimination. It is the first international treaty to address the fundamental rights of women in politics, health care, education, economics, employment, law, property and marriage and family relations.

CEDAW was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. It entered into force on the 3rd September 1981, with 64 States signing the Convention. As of June 2010, 186 States are party to the convention including 99 signatories to the Optional Protocol, including Australia. CEDAW is part of international law and is monitored by the CEDAW Committee at the United Nations.

Read more . Treaty summary - <http://www.cedaw2010.org/index.php/about-cedaw/summary-of-provisions>

CEDAW works - <http://www.zonta.org/linkclick.aspx?fileticket=Zff2M1xIxxQ%3d&tabid=342>

We look forward to hearing from clubs about your activities and welcome questions from you.

Jan Landsberg
Chairman

District 22 UN Committee
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UNiTE Campaign

The UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign is proclaiming every 25th of the month as Orange Day! Wear orange on the 25th to take a stand on ending violence against women & girls, and encourage all your friends to do the same!