

Hosted by  
Zontians in  
Australia

# Intercontinental Think Tank

Zoom Meeting – 21 April 2024  
3 am to 4.30 am UTC



# Australian Team



Sandra Burns  
ZC Melbourne-on-Yarra  
Victoria



Vicki Carman-Brown  
ZC Devonport  
Tasmania



Sue Lees  
ZC Melbourne-on-Yarra  
Victoria



Bridget Mather  
ZC Adelaide  
South Australia



Sharyl Scot  
ZC Macarthur  
New South Wales



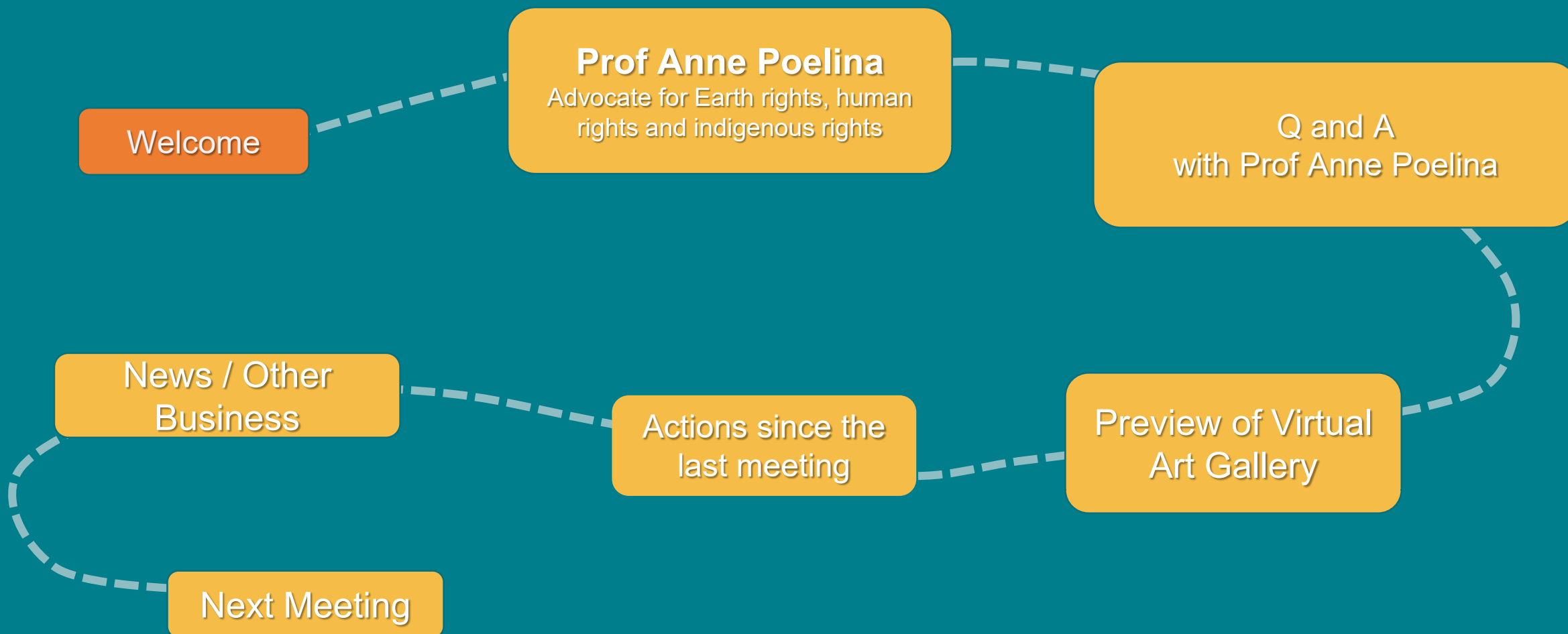
Carole Theobald  
ZC Perth  
Western Australia



Christine Trenorden  
ZC Fleurieu Peninsula  
South Australia (on  
holiday in Queensland)



# Today's Journey





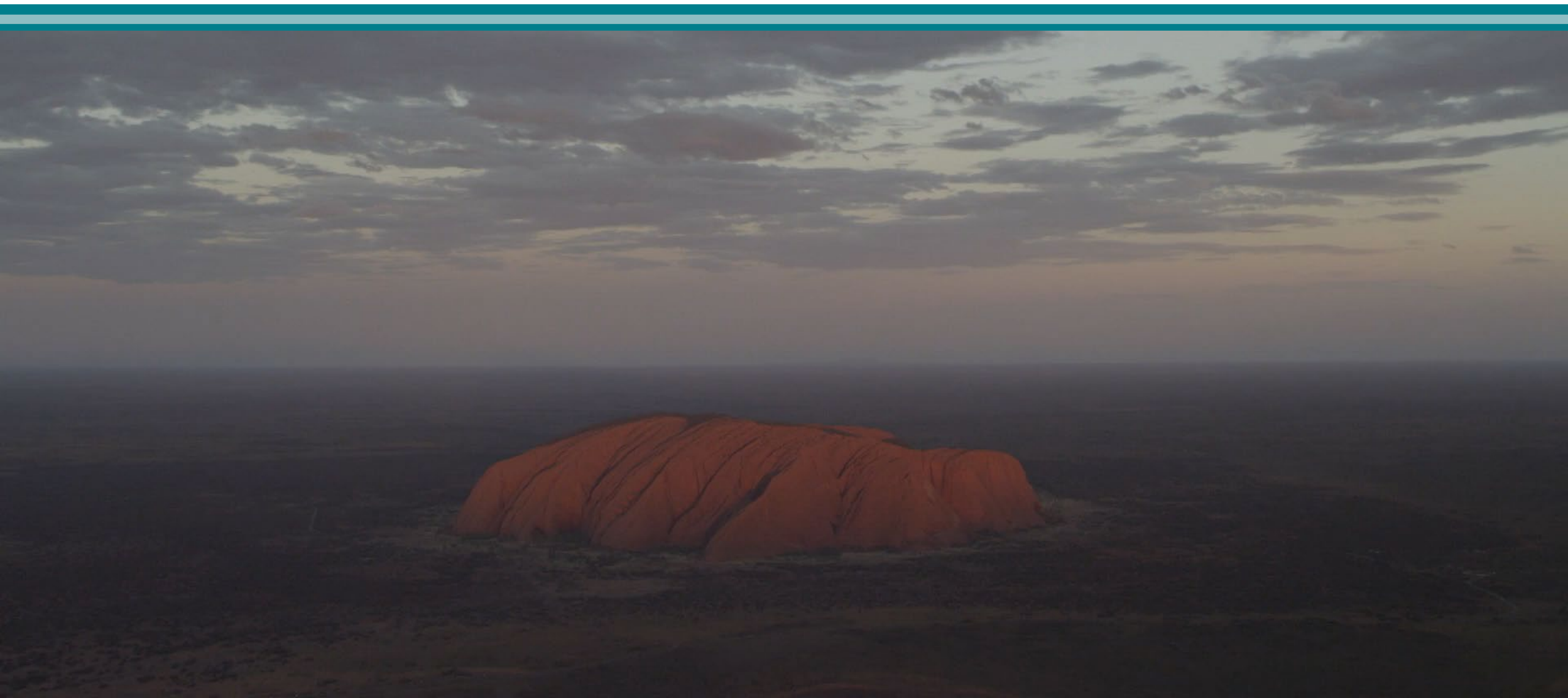
# Welcome



**United  
Nations**

**International Mother Earth Day**  
**22 April**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8TX4oJTMuQ&t=21s>







# Why does Zonta Say NOW?

Increased  
greenhouse  
gas emissions

Cause global heating and  
extreme weather events

Trigger social  
disruption

Magnify gender  
inequality



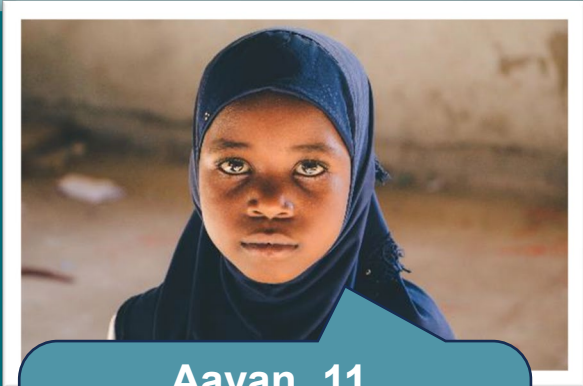
Stops the train by taking climate action and closing the gender gaps in education, health, economic opportunity and safety



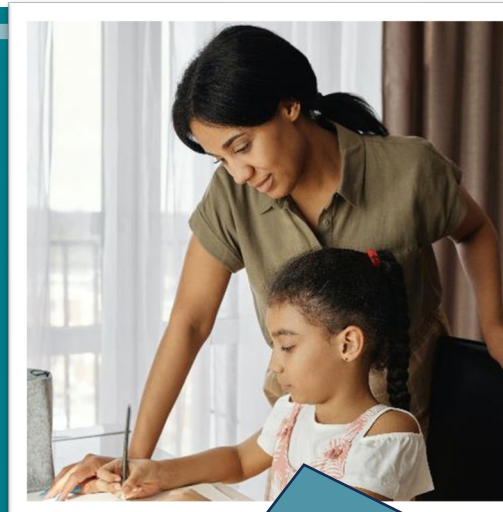
# The women and girls who inspire Zonta Says NOW



**Dabor, 9, Sudan**  
Drought means no time for school.



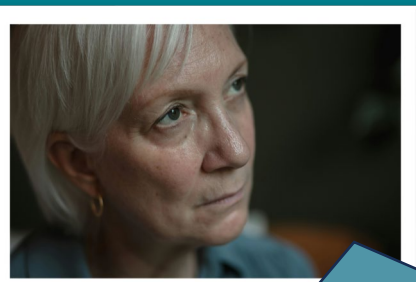
**Aayan, 11, Mozambique**  
Floods led to child marriage.



**Judith, 42 and Clare 7, Canada**  
Wildfire smoke triggered Clare's asthma. Judith may lose her casual job as she cares for Clare.



**Maria, 79, Australia**  
Her heart condition is exacerbated in extreme heat and she cannot afford air conditioning.



**Freya, 51, Germany, in temporary shelter, 2 years after floods.**



**Ralia, 33, Nigeria**  
Floods destroy the market taking away her livelihood. How will she feed her family?



# Our Purpose

## Zonta Says NOW seeks climate justice for women and girls

So women and girls can prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of climate change on the same basis as men.

We do this by taking gender-equal climate action  
locally, nationally and internationally



# Today's Journey





# Professor Anne Poelina



- Chair of Indigenous Knowledges, University of Notre Dame
- Chair of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council
- Active community leader, human and Earth rights advocate, and filmmaker.



## Fitzroy Crossing reflects on flood devastation one year on

ABC Kimberley / By Mya Kordic and Alys Marshall

Posted Wed 3 Jan 2024 at 7:38am, updated Wed 3 Jan 2024 at 8:22am







# **Women Taking Climate Action Award 2023**

**Professor Anne Poelina  
(Co-Winner)**

# Professor Anne Poelina

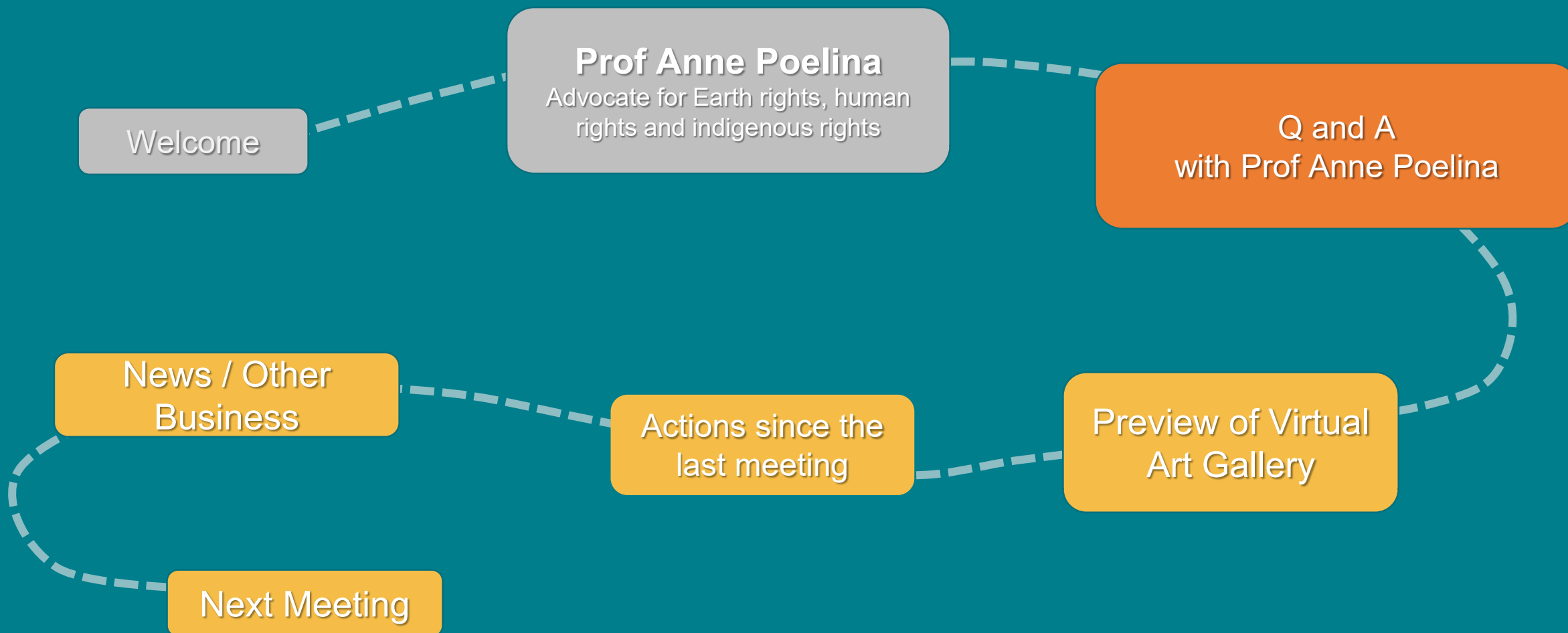


- Chair of Indigenous Knowledges, University of Notre Dame
- Chair of the Martuwarra Fitzroy River Council
- Active community leader, human and Earth rights advocate, and filmmaker.

## Professor Anne Poelina's presentation



# Today's Journey





# Professor Anne Poelina



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- Active community leader, human and Earth rights advocate, and filmmaker.

## Q and A

[10 mins]

In break-out rooms, each group

- discusses issues raised and
- identifies at least 2 questions to ask Professor Poelina

[15 mins]

Professor Poelina answers questions from the group facilitators

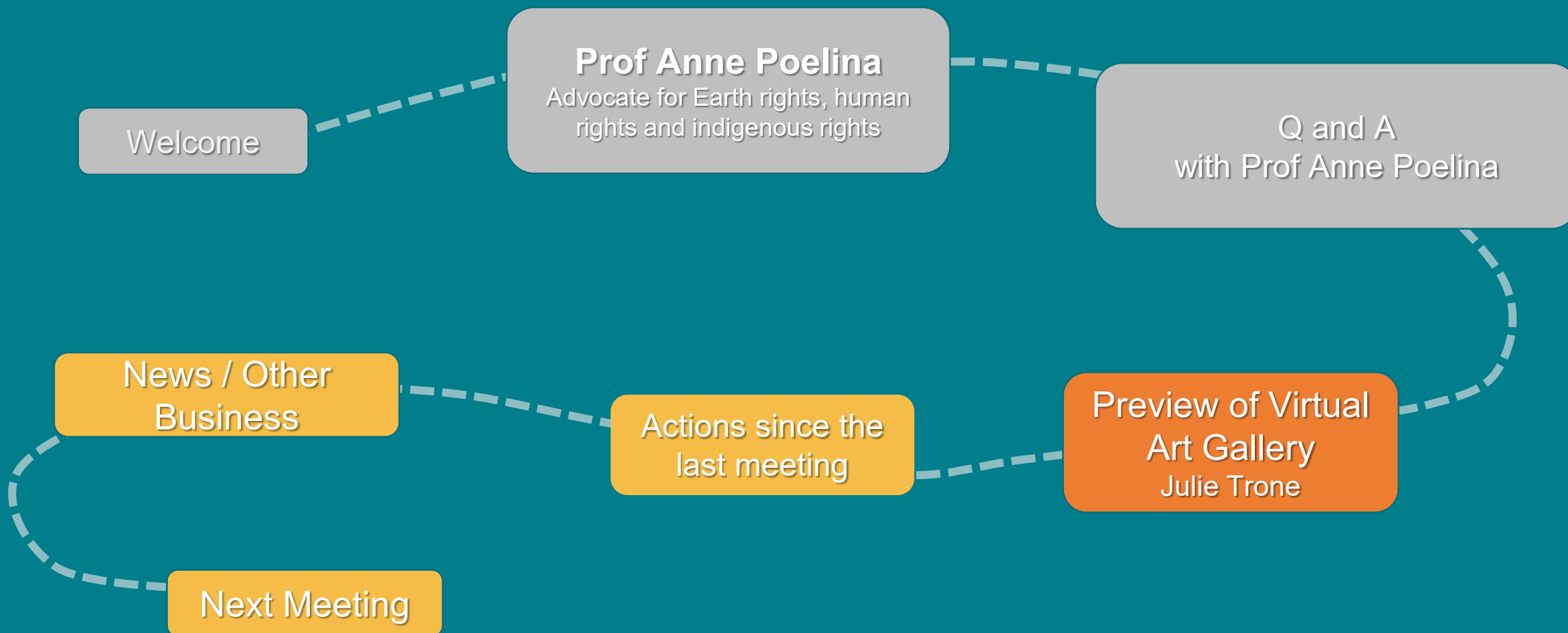
*‘If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time.*

*If you have come here because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together’*

Lila Watson, Aboriginal Elder,  
activist and educator from Queensland.  
(Quote developed in collaboration with other activists)



# Today's Journey





# Julie Trone



ZC Fort Collins, D12  
Colorado, USA





# Thank You to the team



**Julie Trone**  
ZC Fort Collins  
USA

**Pamela Morgan**  
ZC Essex County  
USA

**Hillary Norfleet**  
ZC Milford  
USA

**Laura Wood**  
ZC Owen Sound  
Canada

**Mita Mitra**  
Supporting Member  
Germany

**Sally Anzan-Delbegue**  
ZC Lome-Millennium  
Cote D'Ivoire





# Social Media

Thank you to the  
Social Media Team

- Pia Hultgren,  
Sweden
- Julie Trone, USA
- Dee Croft,  
Canada
- Malin Bunnstad  
Ottosson,  
Sweden
- Mari Delos  
Santos,  
Philippines



## ENVISIONING A GENDER-EQUAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH THE ARTS

We are bombarded with the science and numbers of climate change, and for many people the numbers are meaningless. However, through the arts, we can connect with our feelings and emotions and cut through the numbers to better understand the problems and the possible futures we can create.



How Children Can Make A  
Change – Earth Day Poem



One Word, Act



Sustainable Future



A Vision of What Was Lost



Fire and Flood



Tarkine



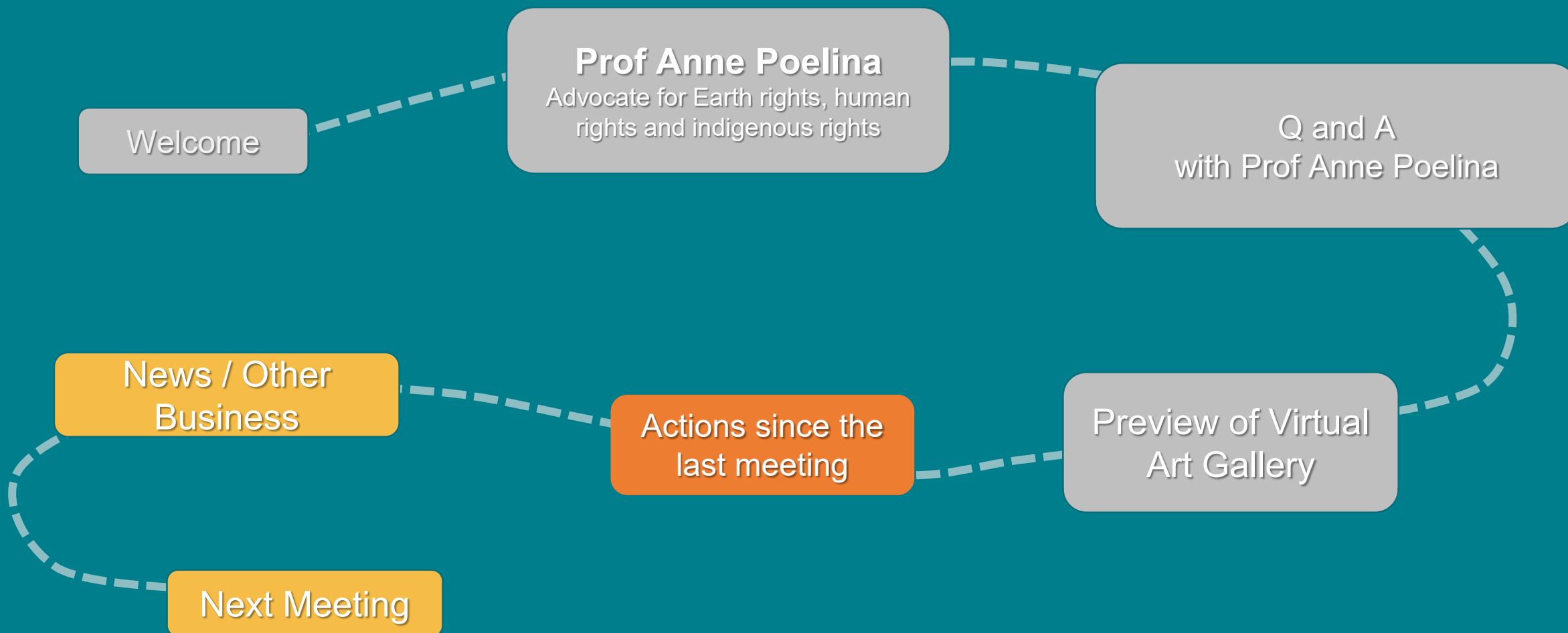
River Red Gum



Untouched Environment



# Today's Journey







# Actions since the last meeting



By 2050, climate change will push up to  
**158 million more women and girls**  
into poverty  
and lead  
**236 million more women into hunger.**

*UN Women*

Photo: Microsoft 365

## NGO CSW 68

- 2-hour online workshop on climate, women & poverty
- Conversation Circles
- See our working page at [zontasaysnow.org.au](https://zontasaysnow.org.au)

## Convention Zonta Says NOW Activities

- Pre-Convention Virtual Workshop 24 May
  - *Uniting for Climate Justice and Equality*
  - Replaces May meeting
  - Register for the Convention to attend
  - Access workshop recording via Whova app that opens on 30 April
- Face-to-face workshop 27 June
  - *Are you and your community disaster-ready?*
- Panel discussion 30 June
  - Lisa Blair
  - Dipisha Bhujel
  - Carole Theobald



# Strategic Plan



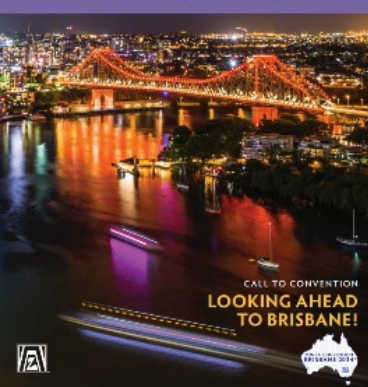
Zonta Says NOW is the campaign for climate justice

Zonta will fully embrace climate justice as an area of focus, and we will further develop Zonta Says NOW as the campaign for our activities to address climate justice at local, national and international levels.





THE  
**Zontian**  
THE VOICE OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL



# ACHIEVING CLIMATE JUSTICE

## A Message from the Zonta Says NOW Working Group

Around the globe, women and girls are facing challenges within their everyday lives due to the climate crisis.

- In Mozambique, Aayan, age 11, is frightened she will be forced into marriage. Her family lost everything in floods, leaving them destitute and unable to feed her.
- In Australia, Maria, age 79, walks to the local library to find relief from extreme heat as she cannot afford to effectively cool her apartment. She has a heart condition and is worried about how she will financially, physically and mentally survive the summer.
- In Nigeria, Ralia, age 33, saw her entire market wash away in floods – taking away her livelihood and she is worried how she will feed her children.
- In Canada, Judith, age 42, has a daughter with severe asthma that is made worse by the wild weather. Judith is worried she may lose her home and not stay home to care for her child.

**Climate Justice:** Putting gender equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

**Climate Change:** The long-term changes in the Earth's climate that are warming the atmosphere, ocean and land.

**Climate Crisis:** The serious problems that are being caused, or are likely to be caused, by changes in the planet's climate, including weather extremes and natural disasters, ocean acidification and sea-level rise, loss of biodiversity, food and water insecurity, health risks, economic disruption, displacement and even violent conflict.

**Climate Justice:** Putting gender equity and human rights at the core of decision-making and action on climate change as women and children are often more vulnerable in natural disasters. This is Zonta's focus on climate-related topics.

**Climate Action:** Actions we all should take to address climate change, climate crisis and climate justice.

Source: UNDP

## Changing Climate and the Gender Gap

As the changing climate is widening the gender gap, extreme heat, drought, fires, storms and floods cause severe social disruption, with millions losing their homes and livelihoods, and, in turn, magnify any existing inequalities, including gender inequality. Globally, women have less access to resources and opportunities than men, due to social norms and caring responsibilities. This makes them more vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis and more likely to be injured or killed during an extreme weather event. And, due to systemic gender inequality, women will find it harder to rebuild their lives after a disaster. The social upheaval caused by disasters increases women and

## The climate crisis is a human rights crisis — and a women's rights crisis.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at CSW 66, 2022.

girls' risk of child marriage, forced prostitution, abuse, assault and human trafficking and also disrupts access to employment, education and health.

Yet women are key to resolving the climate crisis. Countries with more women in parliament often have more stringent climate policies and lower carbon emissions. When more women are on corporate boards, there is better transparency around carbon emission data. If women globally had the same legal rights as men, they could own and improve land (and feed 150 million more people), increase food security and start businesses to support their families. If girls had 12 years of education, they would have more choices, fewer children and more skills to build resilient communities than girls without education. Strengthening access to sexual and reproductive health gives women more options and opportunities, enabling their families and communities to survive better during and after a disaster.

## Closing the Gap with Zonta

The Zonta Says NOW Working Group's task is to implement the recommendations in *Zonta International's Statement on Climate Change* by closing the gender gaps in education, economic opportunity, disaster response, STEM, health and leadership to achieve climate justice.

To keep Zontians, their families and communities safe during the immediate disaster and their aftermath, we are coming up with practical steps to take. We are developing 'action' emergency response packages that would help address the dangers



*"When I visited our Ending Child Marriage project in Mozambique this year, I found that in every village, the local authorities said the biggest driver for child marriage was the changing climate. Homes that were hit by cyclones were destroyed and families did not have the means to rebuild them. To get the necessary money, families gave their adolescent daughters away to be married. We must take action to achieve climate justice, so no adolescents are forced to marry as a means to survive climate-related disasters." —President Ute Scholz.*

The climate crisis is a gender equality crisis in which women are disproportionately affected. Through Zonta Says NOW, you can be part of the solution to build a better world for women and girls. To find out more

**Working Group:** implements the recommendations in the Statement on Climate Change.





# Statement on Climate Change



## Calls on governments to

Meet obligations under **Paris Climate Agreement**

**Educate** girls and include STEM and climate change

Involve more women in **decision-making** processes

Enable women's full **participation in the economy**

Include women in **disaster preparedness planning** that include women's needs

## Calls on members to

Increase **awareness** and raise awareness locally

Promote girls' **education**, climate literacy, women in STEM

Support women's inclusion in national and local **decision-making** on environmental sustainability.

Advocate for national policies that ensure women's full and equal **participation in the economy.**

Include **gendered climate change advocacy** actions



# Statement on Climate Change

## 2022-2024 focus

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL'S

### STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

A GENDER EQUALITY ISSUE

Approved by the Zonta International Board April 2021; Published June 2021

Priorities reflected in our workshops for the Convention

- *Uniting for Climate Justice and Equality*
- *Are you and your community disaster-ready?*

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# Statement on Climate Change

2022-2024 focus

2024-2026 focus

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Approved by the Zonta International Board April 2021; Published June 2021

March NGO CSW 68 presentation



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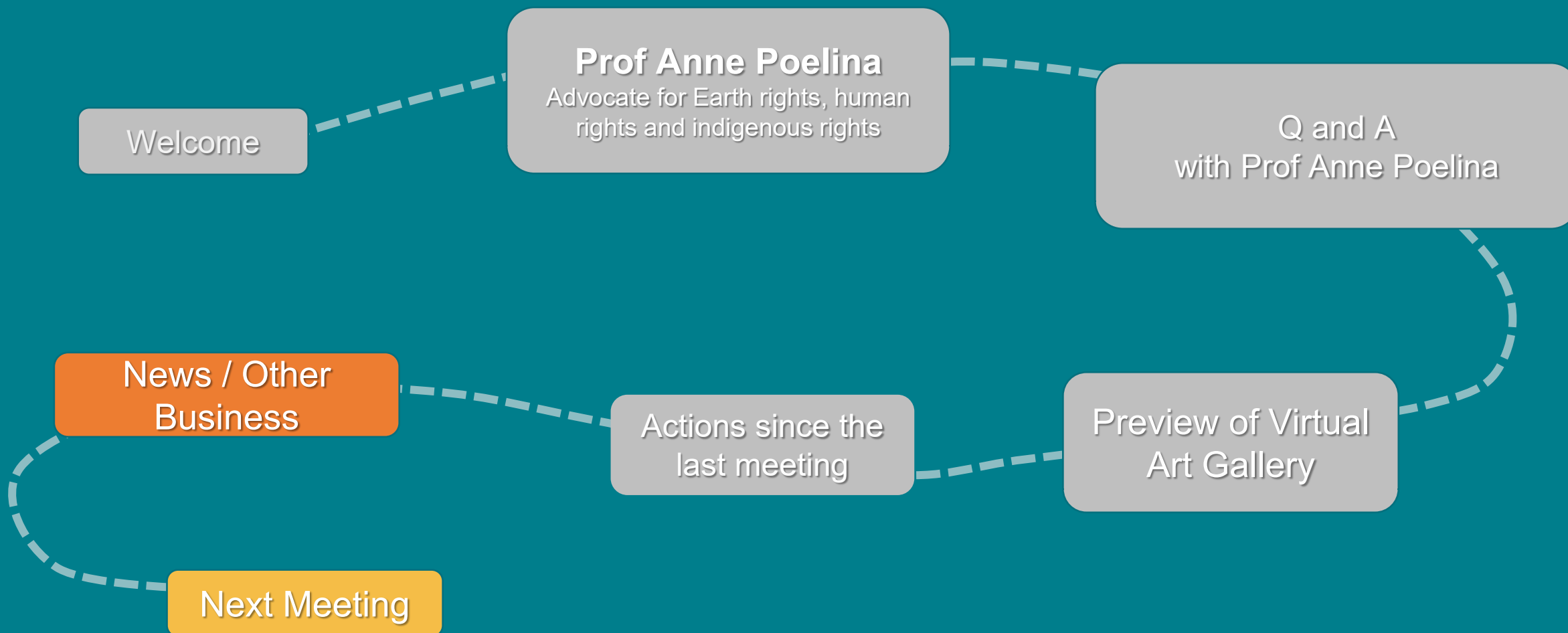
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# Today's Journey





# News / Other Business



Virtual workshops will be held during May.

Keep up to date on the Convention website!



## The power of women

- European Court of Human Rights
- 2,500 older women from Switzerland
- 9 years in court
- Success!

[The Guardian](#)

# Human rights violated by Swiss inaction on climate, ECHR rules in landmark case

**Court finds in favour of group of older Swiss women who claimed weak policies put them at greater risk of death from heatwaves**



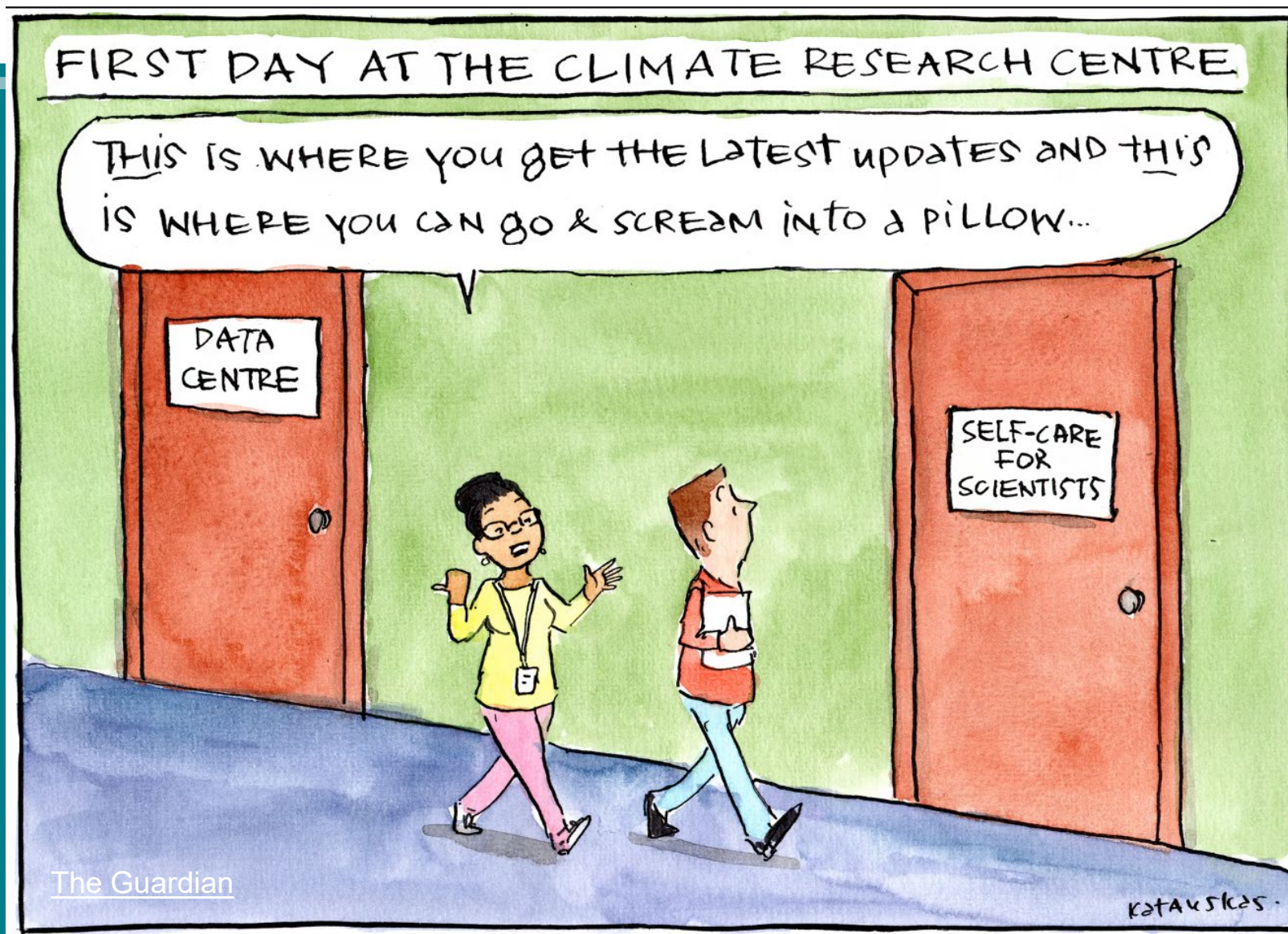
◀ Older Swiss women win historic climate court ruling - video

Weak government climate policies violate fundamental human rights, the European court of human rights has ruled.





# News / Other Business







# On Earth Day

1. Breathe the air that connects us
2. Take a walk in nature
3. Listen to the birds
4. Reflect on how we are building a better, more sustainable world for women and girls

Donate to the Foundation's  
Endowment Fund

(Zonta's Future Fund)

[https://secure2.convio.net/zonta/site/Donation2?1640.donation=form1&df\\_id=1640&mfc\\_pref=T](https://secure2.convio.net/zonta/site/Donation2?1640.donation=form1&df_id=1640&mfc_pref=T)





# Be inspired



[asknature.org](https://asknature.org)

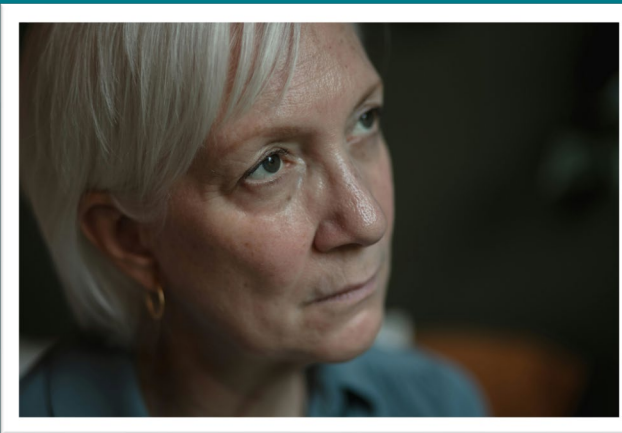
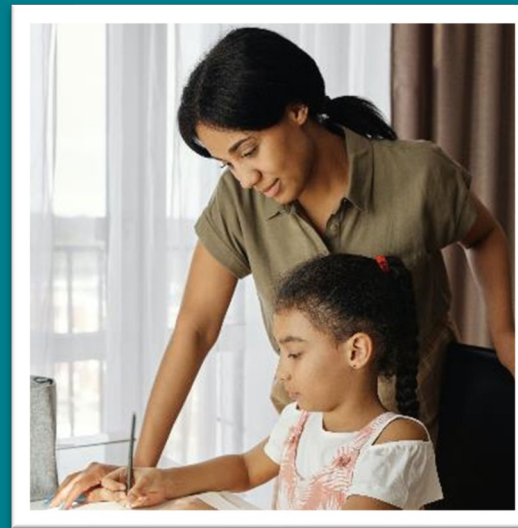
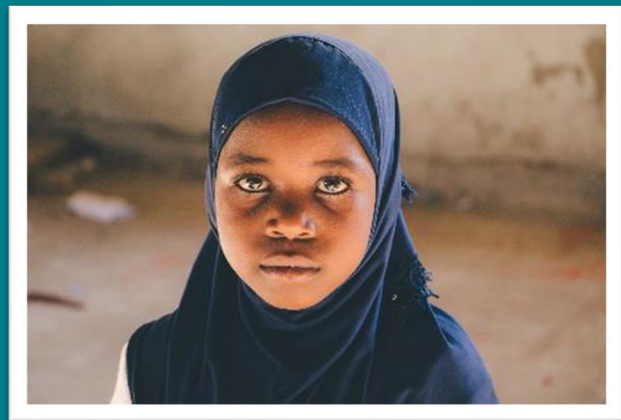


[Bloomberg.com/originals/series/  
an-optimists-guide-to-the-planet](https://Bloomberg.com/originals/series/an-optimists-guide-to-the-planet)



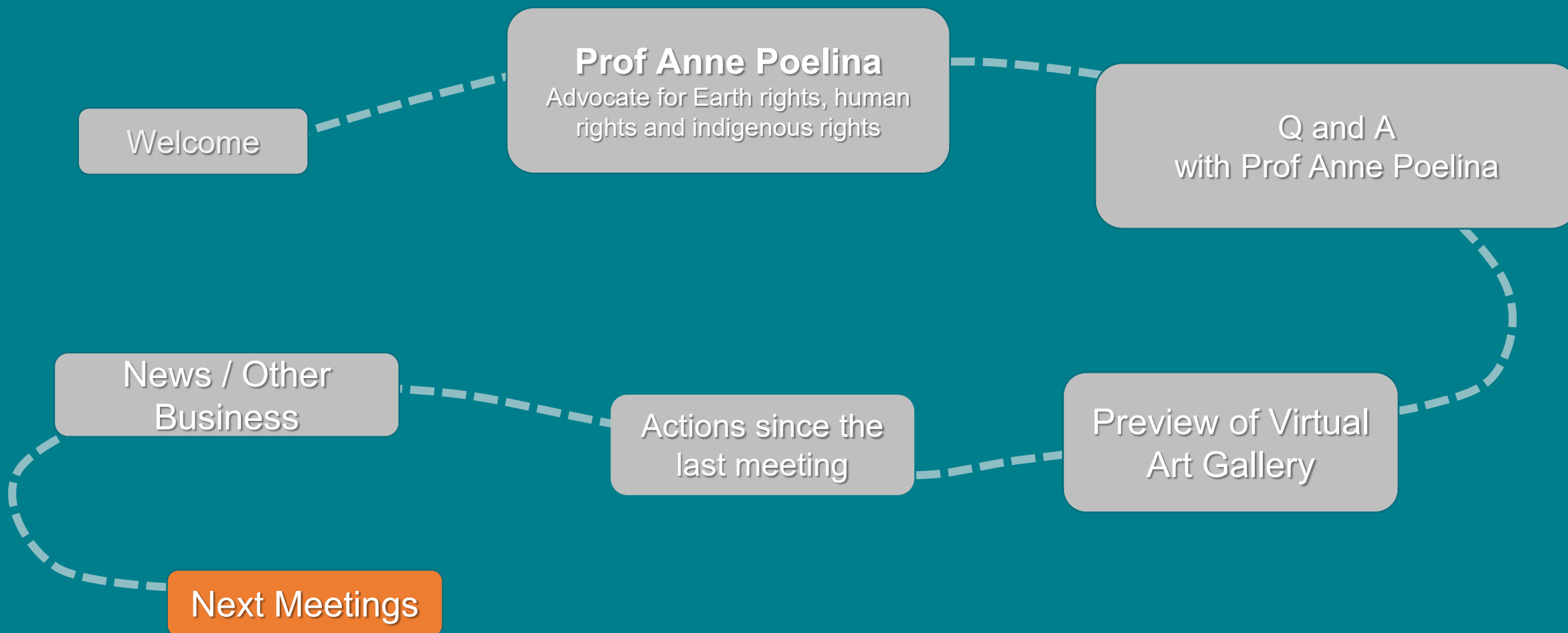


# Working to achieve climate justice for women and girls





# Today's Journey





# Next Meetings

**NEW DATES for  
May and June meetings!  
Register at Zonta Events**



## **May - Zonta International Pre Convention Virtual Workshop**

- **Friday 24 May, 1 pm to 2.30 pm UTC**
- Chicago 8 am to 9.30 am
- You need to register for the Convention to access the virtual workshop.

## **June – Intercontinental Think Tank**

- **Sunday 23 June at 10 am UTC** (note new date!)
- This session will be hosted by Zontians from Europe and Africa. [Register](https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/)

For 2024's MEETING DATES and the video and slides from today's meeting, visit:  
<https://zontasaysnow.org.au/intercontinental-think-tank/>





# Intercontinental Think Tank

## Thank you

Resources: [zonta.org/zontasaysnow](https://zonta.org/zontasaysnow)

Draft resources, meeting notes, videos: [www.zontasaysnow.org.au](https://www.zontasaysnow.org.au)

Email: [info@zontasaysnow.org.au](mailto:info@zontasaysnow.org.au)