



Intercontinental Think Tank UPDATE

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Uniting for Climate Justice and Equality

Working for gender equal climate justice is a marathon not a sprint. We can learn a lot about endurance and teamwork from flying geese. They travel enormous distances, flying in a V formation to maximise efficiency, and take it in

turns to lead the flock. If geese get tired, they land and other geese stay with them until they can rejoin the formation.

With *Zonta Says NOW* we work together like geese. We are on a long journey and support each other to lead, educate and advocate for climate justice. On our journey, we learn more about each other, share our Zonta spirit, and support each other through the harder times.

The theme for our Pre-Convention Virtual Workshop is *Uniting for Climate Justice and Equality*. In this workshop there will be polls and break out rooms as well as videos of 'Stories from the Think Tank'. You will hear Zontians' first hand experience of how climate change impacts their countries. We will explore solutions and what we can do in our clubs and as individuals to support women and girls.

How to join the workshop?

You must [register for the Convention](#) to attend the Virtual Workshop. When you register you will receive instructions about how to download the Whova app.

The workshop is accessed via the Whova app. You will also receive instructions about how to access Whova from your laptop or desktop computer.

The Workshop is on Friday 24 May at 8.00 am Chicago time - so register today!

[Register for the Convention today](#)

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Are You and Your Community Disaster Ready?

At the Brisbane Convention, we will be hosting a Zonta Says NOW workshop that focuses on disaster readiness. This will be an interactive session, with discussions and practical hands-on activities.

There may be many reasons why you need to leave your home in a hurry and some of them may not be weather-related. For example, it could be a flood or storm, but there may be a disturbance in your street, the house next door may be on fire, or you need to escape violence. The bag you leave with may be all you have to restart your life. We'll show how to prepare yourself, mentally, and physically for an emergency situation and how to protect what matters to you. We'll also explore how to advocate for women's health and safety needs to be included in your community's disaster plan.

The workshop will be held at the Brisbane Convention on **Thursday 27 June at 1.30 pm to 3 pm**. Be sure to mark the event in your Whova App. This event is for in-person attendees and will not be streamed.

[Register for the Convention today!](#)

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From Passion to Purpose

In a world where passion ignites purpose, women are breaking barriers, challenging norms, and turning their heartfelt convictions into meaningful action.

The upcoming Zonta Says NOW Round Table Discussion at the Brisbane Convention promises to delve into this transformative journey—from passion to purpose—focusing on climate justice and climate change.

The round table discussion on Sunday 30 June will feature :

- *Lisa Blair*, adventurer and climate activist. Lisa is the fastest person to sail solo, non-stop and unassisted around Antarctica on her yacht Climate Action Now. On the Antarctic voyage, Lisa worked in partnership with the Australian Institute of Marine Science to complete the largest microplastic survey of the Southern Ocean.
- *Dipisha Bhujel*, social entrepreneur and climate activist. Dipisha is a former international YWPA awardee who established project Sparsa in Nepal to produce compostable menstrual pads made from banana fibres and educate communities about menstrual health.
- *Carole Theobald*, Zontian and climate justice advocate. When Carole realised how climate change was sending gender equality backwards and triggering conflict, she had to do something - and Zonta Says NOW was the result.

Dr. Judith Ainsworth, a Zontian and specialist in cross-cultural communication, will facilitate the panel discussion. With academic expertise spanning Canada, Ghana, and China, Judith brings a global perspective to the conversation.

As Lisa Blair aptly puts it, “just do...because the world is changed by doers.” These remarkable women exemplify that sentiment. Join us at the Brisbane

Convention as we explore how passion transforms into purpose, and how ordinary individuals become extraordinary change-makers.

[Register for the Convention today](#)

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April Meeting

What a pleasure it was to hear from Dr Anne Poelina at the April Meeting. She spoke of her love of country and how we must preserve what we have before we lose it. She said:

...we are in a moment in time where we are dominated by the politics of economics. But I believe this ethics of care and love that is hardwired into us can be the catalyst for networking, can be the catalyst for transforming the planet, can be the catalyst for looking at new ways of having ... forever economies or the economies of well being. ...there are alternative ways. It should not be business as usual. And we as planetary citizens have got to raise our voices, particularly women. So I say that if you want to be a brave, you must be brave.

We also launched the Zonta Says NOW **Virtual Art Gallery**. Sadly, Julie Trone who led the team to create it was unwell, but fellow team members Hillary Norfleet and Laura Wood were on hand to show the gallery and lend their support. Thanks also to Mita Mitra, Sally Anzan-Delbeque and Pamela Morgan for getting this project off the ground!

You can view the [Virtual Art Gallery here](#) - and the artwork is also on the Convention's Whova app.

Slides and videos from the April meeting

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June Think Tank Meeting

As you are aware, we are now rotating Think Tank meetings through three time zones. On Sunday 23 June, the meeting will be held at 10 am UTC - a time

best suited for Europe and Africa. (Note the new meeting date.)

A team of Zontians from these two continents will be exploring the impacts of climate change on health. So register today!

We will also be outlining the plans for the next biennium.

[Register for 23 June Think Tank](#)

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Help us to reach our fundraising goal!

We are so close to reaching our biennial fundraising goal! It will take just US\$10 from each member to achieve it.

Will you donate today? How about making a donation in honour of Zontians who have supported you during the biennium? Or recognise the quiet achievers in your club?

Please spread the word - so we can continue to make a global impact and build a better world for women and girls.

[Donate to the
Zonta Foundation for Women](#)

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