



Zonta Says NOW to Climate Justice Solutions from the Heart

NGO CSW 69

Friday 14 March 2025

Zonta Says NOW Working Group

Love and compassion are
necessities, not luxuries.

Without them, humanity cannot
survive.

Dalai Lama



Today's Journey



Setting the scene

Zonta and our
shared challenges



Connecting and Communicating from the heart

How and Why?



Leading with the heart

Tools, networks
and ripples



Reflection

Call to action

Setting the Scene





Zonta International

WHY DO WE NEED



zonta.org/zontasaysnow

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The climate crisis is a
human rights crisis – and a
women’s rights crisis.”



Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary-General



What is Climate Justice?

- Climate justice puts gender equality and human rights at the heart of any decisions about climate change
- Climate change threatens our human rights to
 - a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
 - access to food, water, education, livelihoods and safety

Gender Equality + Climate action $\text{to protect human rights}$ = Climate Justice

Example

- Girls walk miles to collect drinking water
- Water source dries up (drought)
- They walk further for water – no time for school, and vulnerable to attack

Climate Justice solution has two parts:

- Climate action policy – protects water system
- Gender-equal policy – ensures women and girls can access water as safely as men

The Train

Increased
carbon pollution

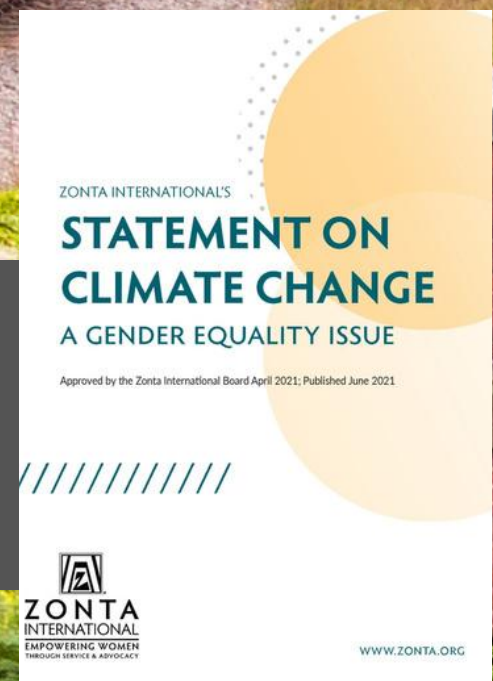
Causes global heating and
extreme weather events

Triggering social
disruption

Magnifying gender
inequality



Stops the train by taking **climate action** (Paris Agreement) and closing the gender gaps in **decision-making, education, economic opportunity, disaster preparedness, health and safety**





Dabor, 9, Sudan
Drought means no time for
school



Judith 42, Clare 7, Canada
Wildfire smoke triggered Clare's asthma.
Judith may lose her casual job caring for Clare



Freya 51, Germany
Temporary shelter for 2 years
after floods, no money



Aayan, 11 Mozambique
Family lost everything in floods,
she is sold into marriage



Maria 79, Australia.
Heart condition made worse in heat,
cannot afford air conditioning



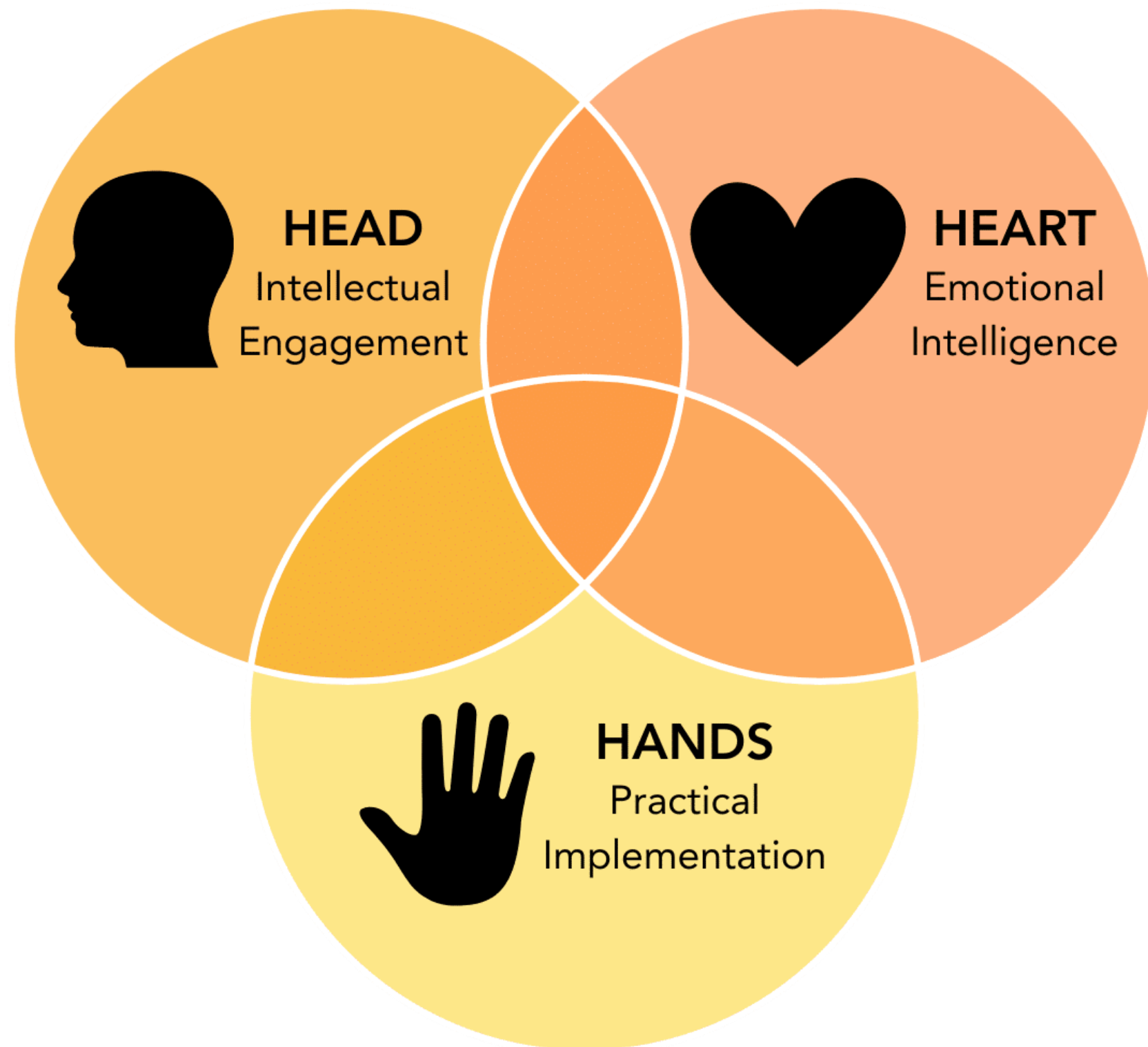
Ralia, 33, Nigeria
Floods destroyed markets taking
away her livelihood.



Zonta Says NOW seeks climate justice for women and girls

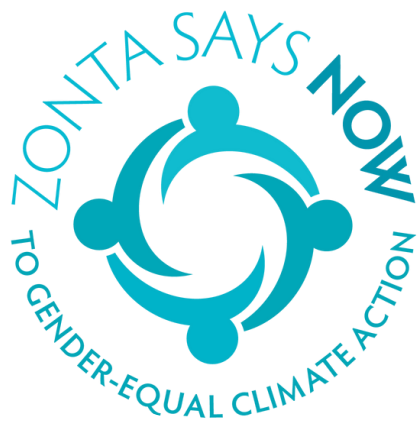
So women and girls can
prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the
impacts of climate change on the same basis as men

We Engage with the Head, Heart and Hands



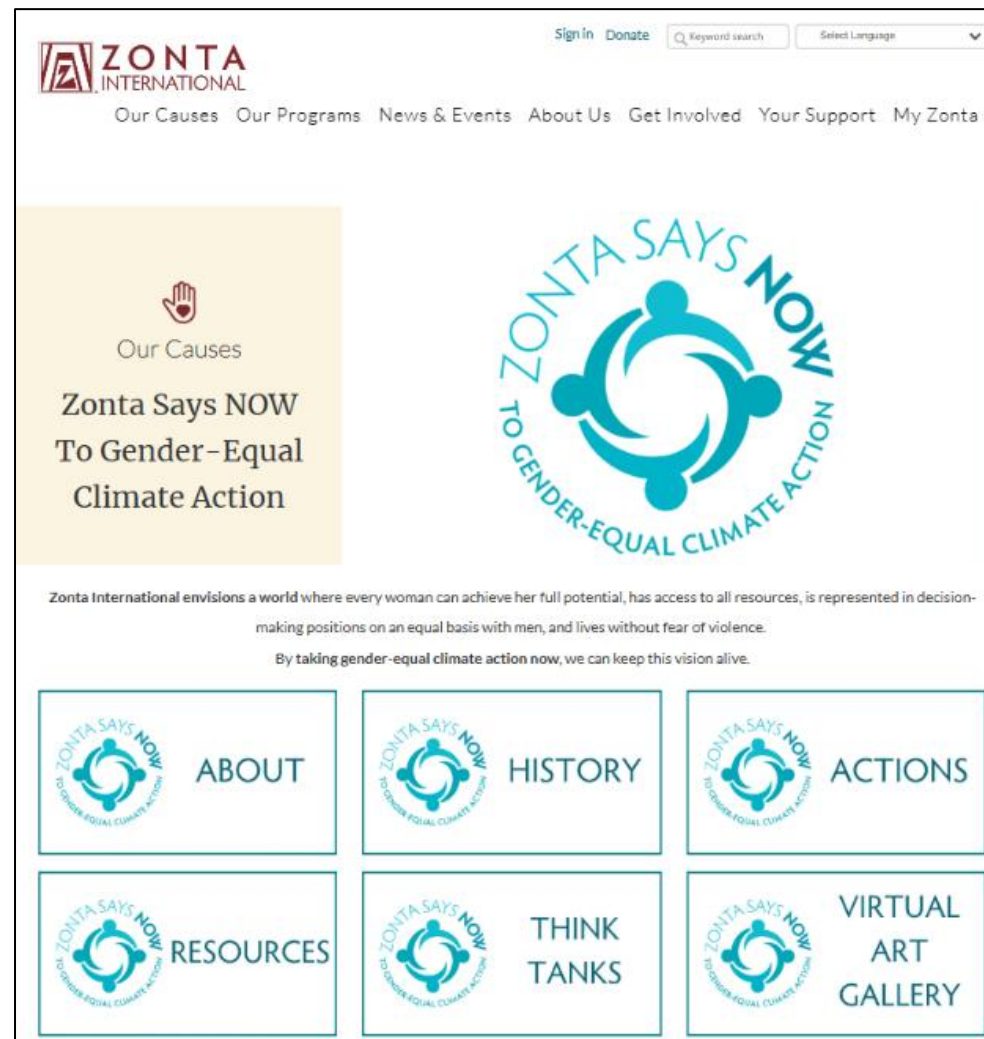
- **Head:** This involves strategic thinking, decision-making, and intellectual engagement.
- **Heart:** This focuses on emotional intelligence, empathy, and the ability to connect on a personal level.
- **Hands:** This pertains to practical implementation, action, and empowering others.

[Source](#)



Zonta Says NOW Resources

Website



zonta.org/zontasaysnow

Virtual Art Gallery

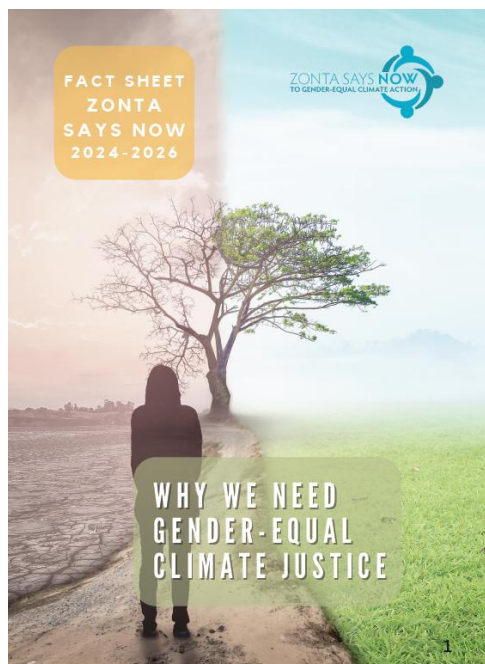


Fact Sheets



How to Take Action

zonta.org/zontasaysnow



APPLY THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION - 1



We can use the five-step Zonta Says NOW Framework to guide our climate justice actions.

1. Gather the Facts

Individually, we can:

- Increase our awareness of climate change and its gender-related consequences by reading books, watching videos, reading articles and listening to podcasts from reputable sources.
- Register for the Intercontinental Zonta Says NOW Think Tanks.
- Attend area workshops, district conferences and international conventions.
- Learn more about our countries' commitments to the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Use our voice

Individually, and as a club, we can raise awareness locally about climate change and its gender-related consequences by:

- Developing climate/gender equality elevator speeches or lists of key facts as conversation starters to use with family, co-workers and friends—and practise saying them.
- Joining local environmental, climate justice, and emergency management organizations to learn more about what is happening locally and raise awareness of climate justice issues.
- Engage with elected officials at all levels of government to raise awareness of climate justice issues and discuss solutions.

2. Lead by example

Individually, we can:

- Reduce our personal greenhouse gas emissions with the United Nation's ten simple actions.
- Set our own sustainability challenges e.g. eating and purchasing more sustainably, walking and using public transport more often.
- Support environmentally-sustainable businesses with our purchases and investments.
- Develop our household emergency preparedness plan.



The Zonta Says NOW Framework for Gender-Equal Climate Action

APPLY THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION - 2



Use the Framework to plan your activities.

4. Advocate

Through our club advocacy committees, we can:

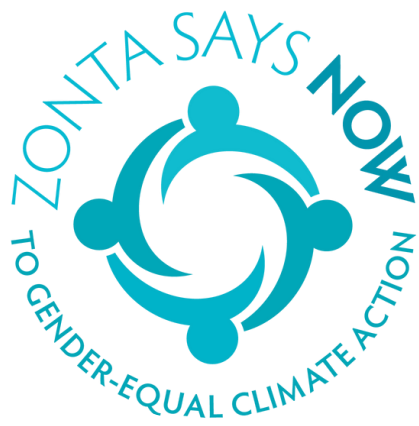
- Contact community representatives, elected officials, local governments, and local NGOs to learn about local sustainability initiatives and whether the needs of women have been considered (or not) in the development of climate change response and disaster management plans.
- Demand and support the equal involvement of women and men in national and local decisions regarding environmental sustainability and disaster risk management.
- Demand and promote girls' education and the inclusion of climate literacy in schools, as well as the education of girls and women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to increase the scientific and technical contribution of women to climate protection.
- Advocate for national climate policies that take into account women's economic opportunities and ensure their full and equal economic participation.

5. Collaborate

With the advocacy teams in our clubs, areas, districts, and national bodies, we can:

- Work with other Zonta clubs, Golden Z clubs, Z clubs, and Supporting Members to magnify our voice in the community, educate on climate change, and raise awareness of local issues to achieve gender-equal climate justice.
- Work smarter, not harder, by collaborating with like-minded organisations, for example, UN Women, Soroptimists International, 1 Million Women, local branches of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Plastic Free July, etc.
- Find out who is working for gender-equal climate justice in our area, see if our goals align and work with them.





Intercontinental Think Tanks

Global North joins Global South

Host: Africa/Europe



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS






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Women's Health in the Context of Climate Change


Intercontinental Think Tank Africa-Europe June, 23,
10 am until 11:30 am

Host: North/South America



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FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS





Focus on Food and Water Insecurity

Intercontinental Think Tank North/South America, 15 October
6.00 pm to 7.30 pm UTC

Host: Asia/Oceania



ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
BUILD A BETTER WORLD
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS







Menstrual Health and Sustainability

Intercontinental Think Tank 12 January 2025
3 am to 4.30 am UTC

Mwanahamisi Singano (Mishy)




Global Policy Lead
Women's Environment and Development
Organization (WEDO)




OUR PROGRAMS

ISSUES	OUR PROGRAMS
CLIMATE CHANGE	GENDER JUST CLIMATE POLICY
BIODIVERSITY	WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: THE WOMEN DELEGATES FUND
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	FEMINIST ACTION NEXUS FOR ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE JUSTICE
SUSTAINABLE CITIES & TRANSPORT	U.S. ADVOCACY
PEACE, CONFLICT & NATURAL RESOURCES	GENDER + ENVIRONMENT DATA ALLIANCE (GEDA)
INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & TRADE	GENDER JUST CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



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FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS







Photo: Pexels

How Gender-Equal Climate Action Works to End Poverty


The Zonta Story

NGO CSW68 - Sunday 17 March 2024

NGO CSW68



ZONTA SAYS NOW
TO GENDER-EQUAL CLIMATE ACTION





Are you and your community disaster-ready?

Thursday 27 June 2024

Brisbane Convention

HANDS UP

Which types of extreme weather events have affected your life, livelihood and/or community?

Please raise your hand if you have been impacted by

Storms

Heat

Other

Flooding

Drought

Rising sea level

Fires / smoke

Not affected

Setting the scene

Key messages

- We all breathe the same air
- Zonta Says NOW works for human rights and gender equality to achieve climate justice
- Impacts of climate change are far-reaching



Today's Journey



Setting the scene

Zonta and our
shared challenges



Connecting and Communicating from the heart

How and Why?



Leading with the heart

Tools, networks
and ripples

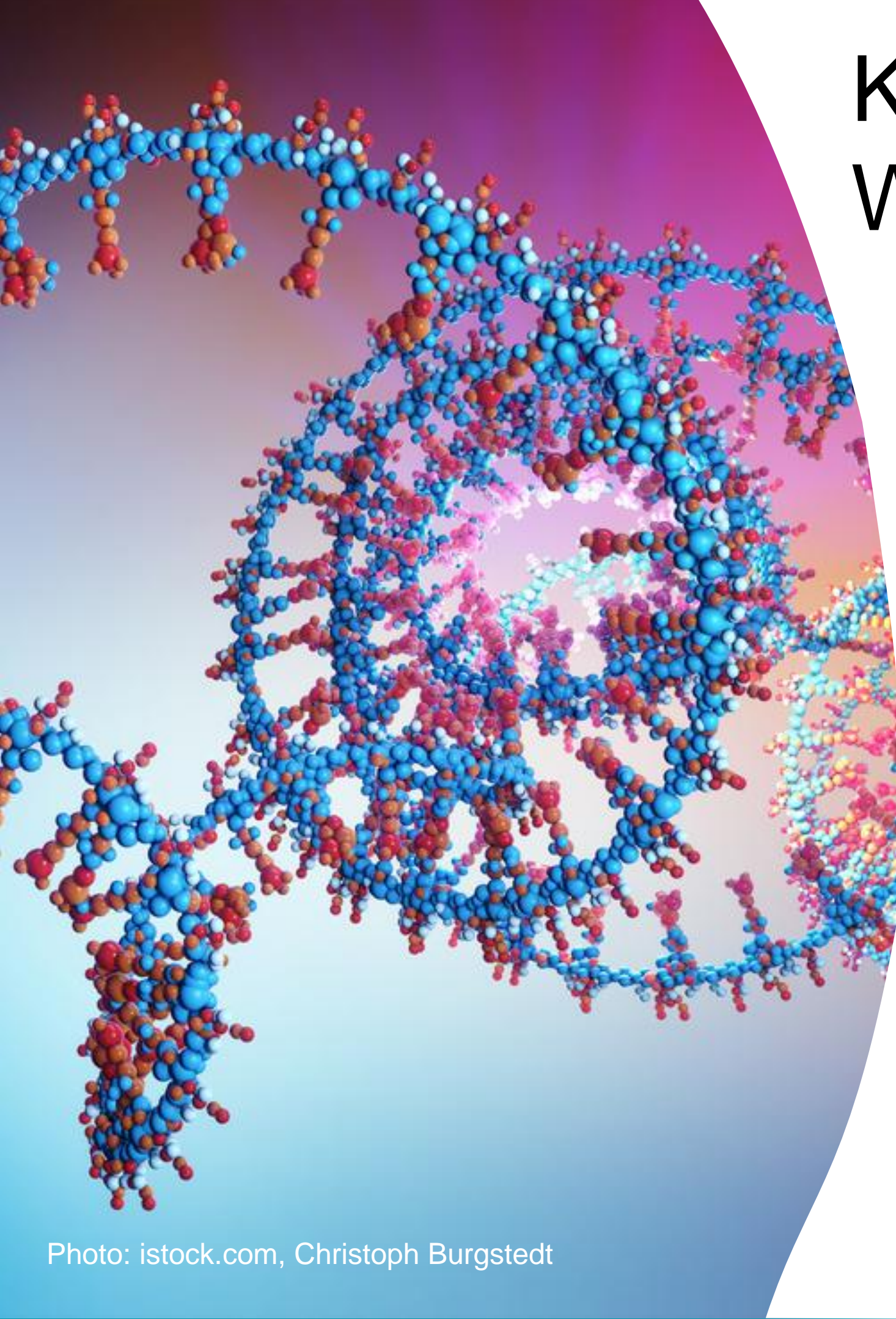


Reflection

Call to action

Connecting and
Communicating
from the heart





Key molecules of life: We share more than we think.

DNA is the building block of life; human DNA is the same except for a small amount.

What makes us different is not only the 0.1% of our physical selves.

Our differences lie in our traditions, religions, cultures, languages, experiences, self-identities, abilities, and geographic location.

Ask yourself...

Can we connect and communicate to achieve gender equality?



World Wood Web: It is all about connection and communication

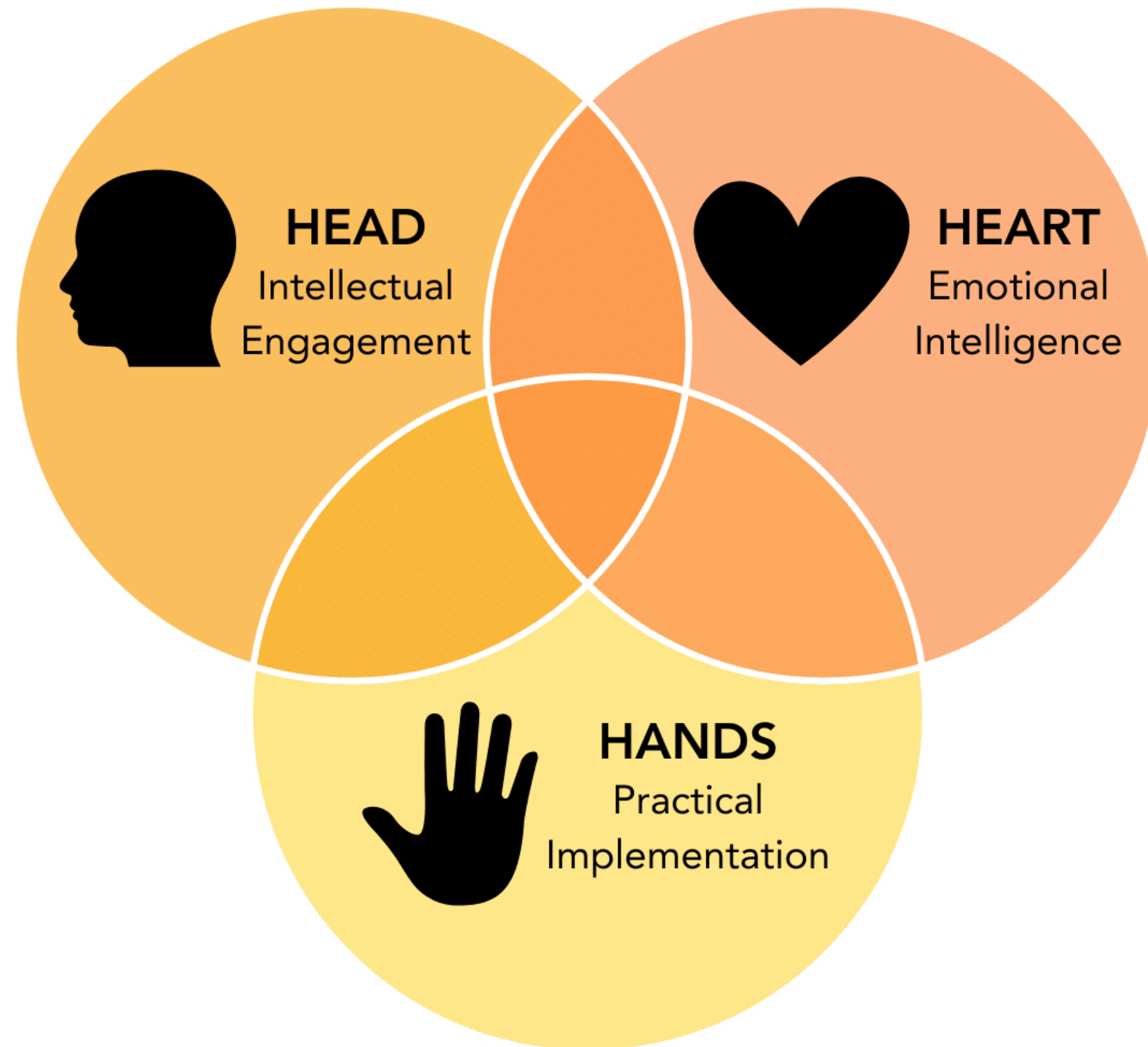
When we connect and communicate, we have a stronger message.

Advocacy...building awareness of an issue, using our voice to talk about an issue, examining issues to make improvements, and at times fighting for our rights... is a necessary task we all can support.

We can be like the fungi and tree roots that communicate in their forest community to protect future generations.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-48257315>

What empowers our communication and connection processes?





NGO CSW69/Beijing+30 Forum

Poll question
**Have any of these things
that you like or love been
affected by environmental
changes?**

My response

Beaches and coastlines (erosion, rising ...



Health and well-being (heatwaves, dise...



Home and community (flooding, storms, ...



Food and agriculture (crop failures, ...



Only displaying the top results. There were 5 other poll options

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NGO CSW69/Beijing+30 Forum

Poll question
Climate Change worsens
existing gender inequalities.
Which of the following effects
on women's rights concern
you the most? Select all that ...

My response

Fewer economic opportunities for women



Increased food and water insecurity ...



Greater exposure to climate-related ...



Increased gender-based violence (e.g. ...



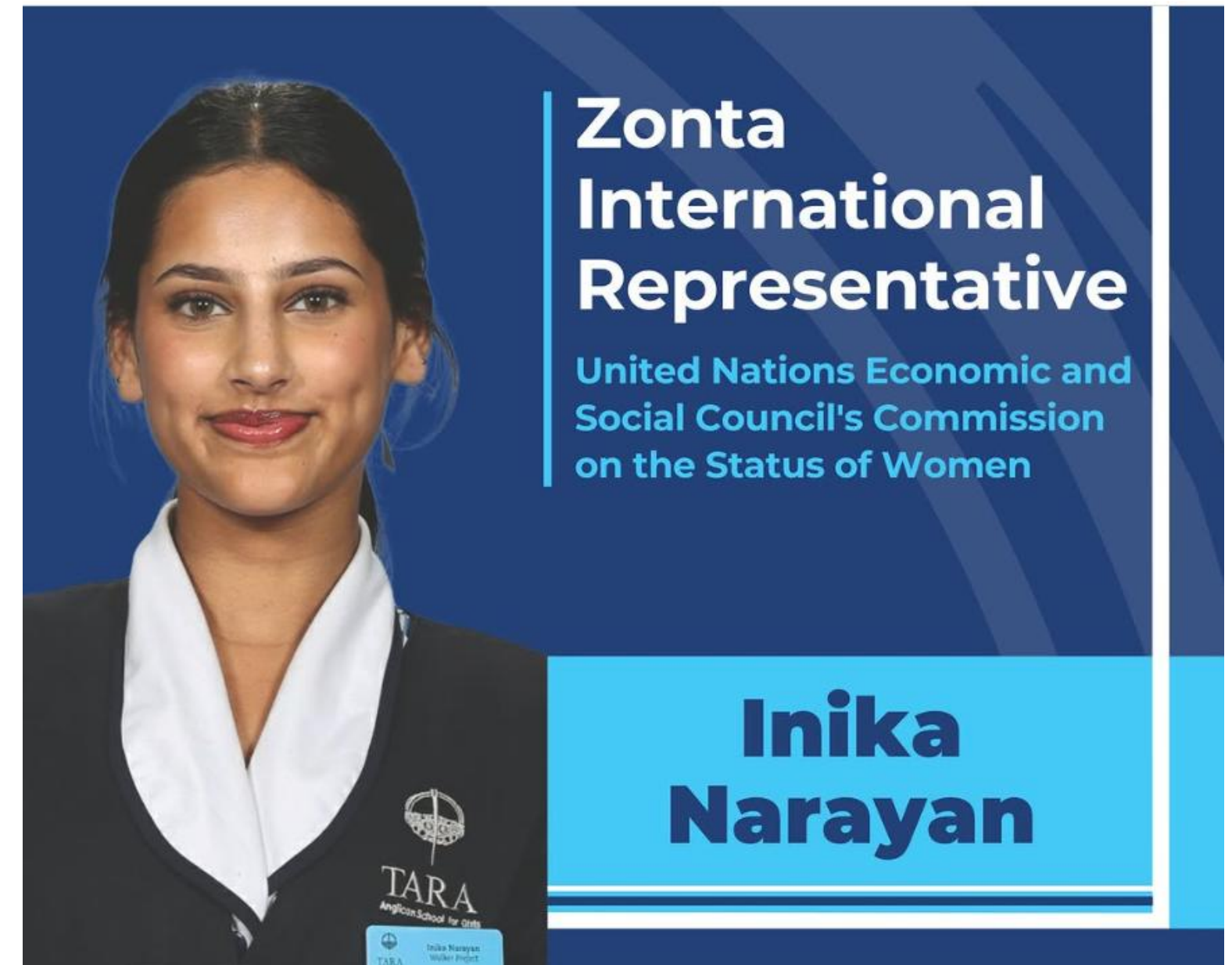
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Stories are remembered up to 22 times
more than facts alone

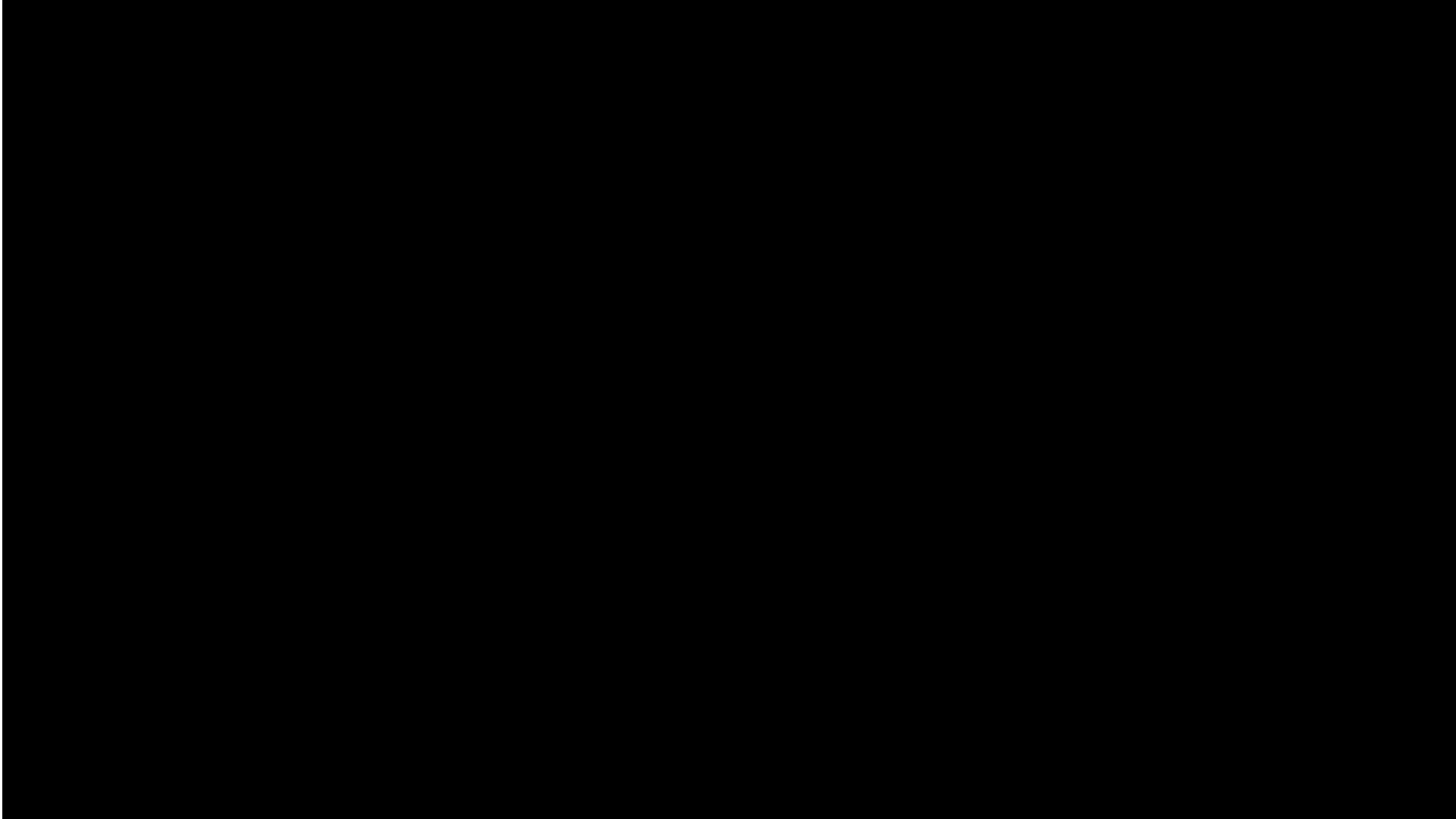
Jennifer Asker, Stanford University



- Inika is one of Zonta International's Youth Ambassadors.
- Advocacy, service, and education have been part of Inika's journey in Australia.
- Today Inika will share her story.



- Alex Nelson
- Golden Z Club member
- University of Denver, Colorado, USA





A conversation presupposes the assumption that the other person might be right.

Hans-Georg Gadamer
20th Century German Philosopher

Connect with the heart, head, then hands

- Advocacy starts with the heart, travels to the head, then action comes from the hands.
- When we truly listen, accept and show up authentically, we create space for change.
- Two minutes for each person share:
 - What do you love that you fear may be taken away due to climate change.



Group Discussion

What do you love that you
fear may be taken away due
to climate change?

Connecting and communicating from the heart

Key messages

- When we connect, despite our differences, we are stronger
- Stories are more powerful than statistics
- Talking about climate justice is a form of advocacy





We act not because we are afraid of losing, but because we love what we are protecting.

Marianne Williamson

Please collect a heart as you leave the room

Today's Journey



Setting the scene

Zonta and our
shared challenges



Connecting and Communicating from the heart

The power of
love



Leading with the heart

Tools, networks
and ripples



Reflection

Call to action

Leading with the heart



“

We will get through
this together, but only
if we stick together.

**Be strong
and be kind.**

”

Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister of New Zealand



Healed femur

Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts.

Attributed to Margaret Mead



Jacinda Ardern practices Kindness 'with a capital K'

- Kindness
- Empathy
- Compassion
- *Manaakitanga* - hospitality, kindness, generosity, support - the process of showing respect, generosity and care for others
- *Aroha* - affection, sympathy, charity, compassion, love, empathy

What drives your action?

What are your top 3 core values?

**CORE
VALUES**

Courage

Justice

Love

Respect

Leadership

Creativity

Hope

Responsibility

Empathy

Sustainability



Connecting values to action

What are your top 3 core values?

Justice

Courage

Love

Respect

Leadership

Creativity

Hope

Responsibility

Empathy

Sustainability

Where did you learn these values?

How do these values influence your decisions?

How do these values show up in your leadership?



NGO CSW69/Beijing+30 Forum

Poll question
Which of the following
international agreements or
frameworks on gender
equality and climate action are
you familiar with? Select all ...

My response

Paris Agreement (2015) - International ...



Beijing Declaration and Platform for ...



CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination ...



Pact for the Future (Upcoming in 2024) - ...



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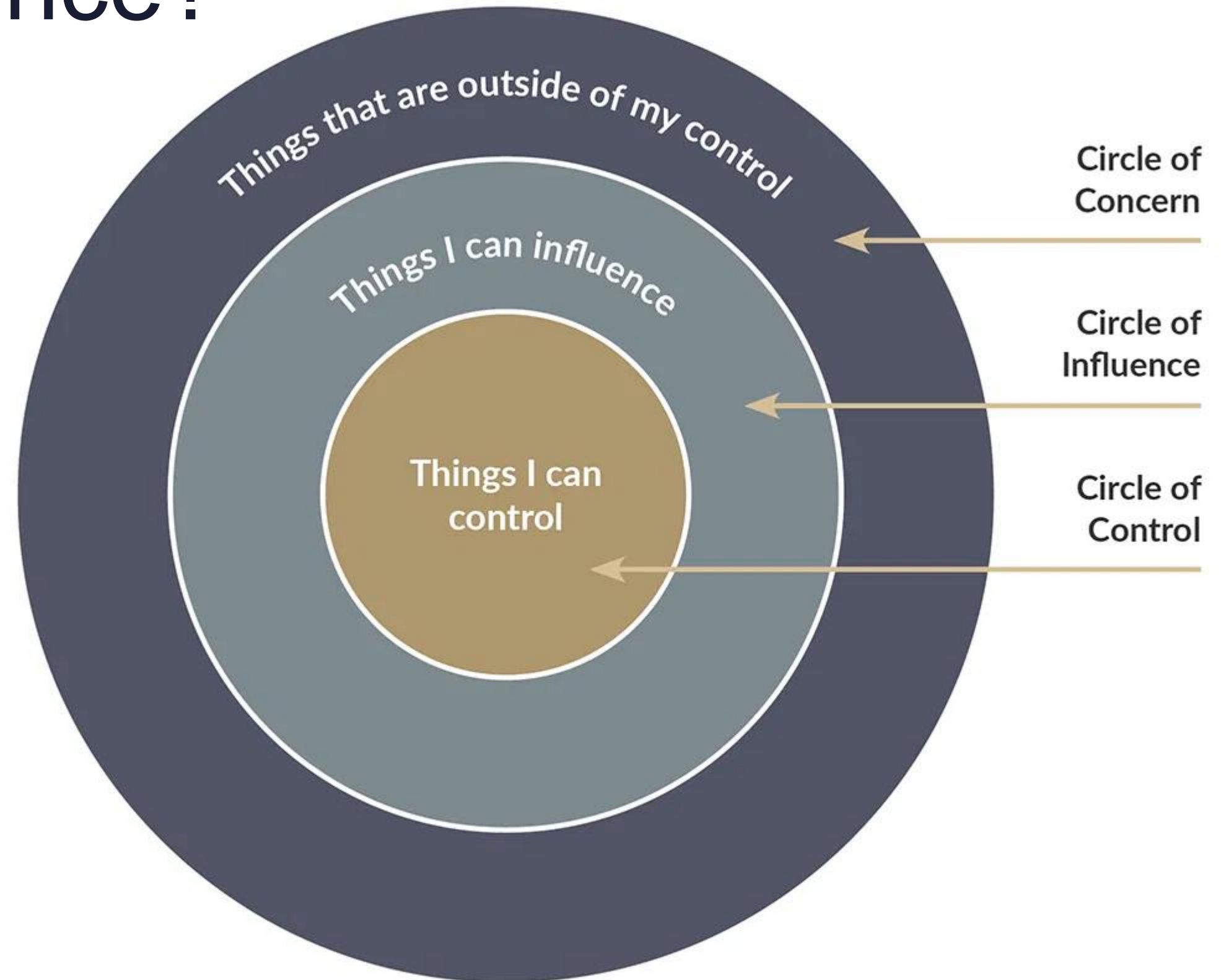


Connecting values to action

Core Value	Global Agreement	Possible Action
Justice	CEDAW, SDG 5 (Gender Equality)	Advocate for policies that protect women's rights in climate action.
Empathy	Pact for the Future (Disaster relief)	Ensure that people affected by humanitarian emergencies receive the support they need.
Sustainability	Paris Agreement (Climate Change)	Support renewable energy initiatives in your community.
Leadership	Beijing Platform (Women in Decision-Making)	Mentor young women in climate advocacy.
Creativity	Lima Work Programme (Gender & Climate Change)	Use storytelling, art, or social media to raise awareness.



Who is in your circle of influence?





How are you exercising your influence?

“Human equality vs gender equality”

Pause for Thought

The word
‘Patriarchy’ is to women
what
‘Gender equality’ is to men?



Your Ripple Effect

Your words and actions,
no matter how small,
can spark a change!

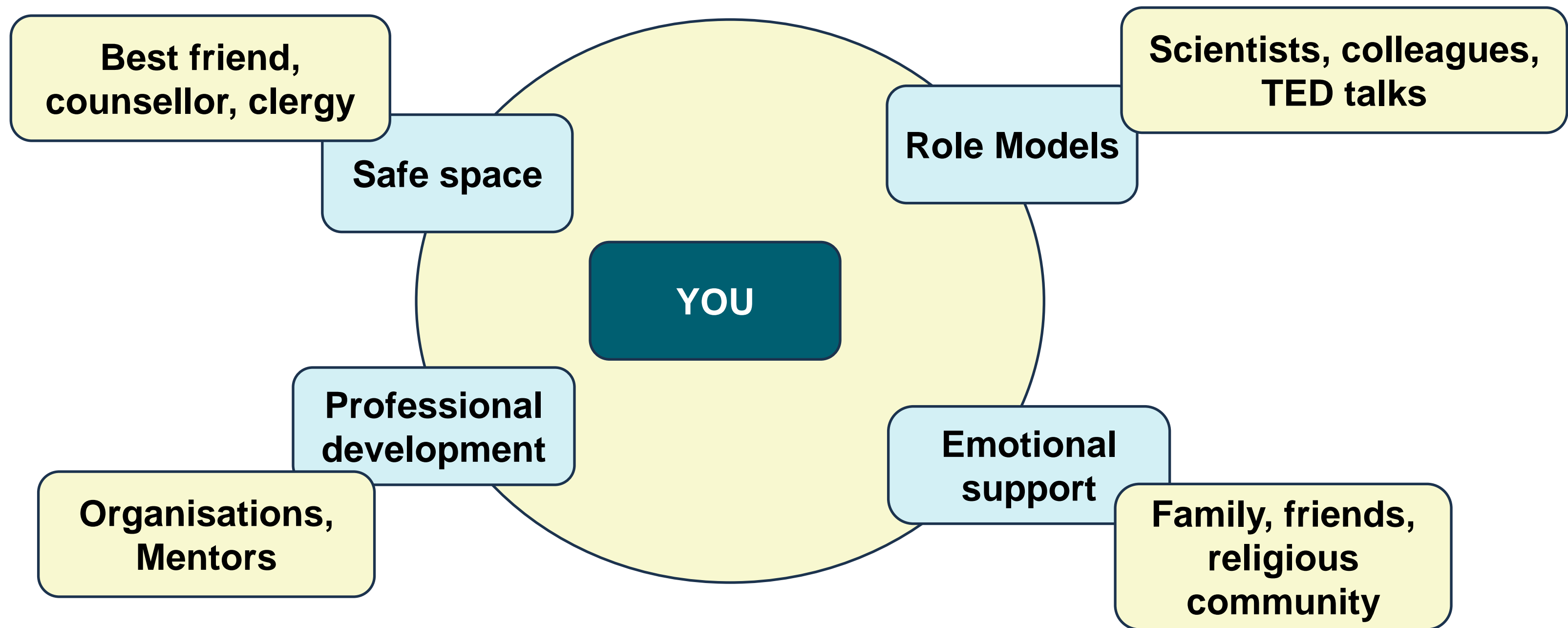
From little things, big things grow



Who has helped
shape your
awareness?

Your support network - you are not alone

Who do you turn to
for advice, support
or encouragement?



Are there any connections you want to strengthen or build?



NGO CSW69/Beijing+30 Forum

Poll question
What actions can you take to advance gender-equal climate justice? Select all that apply

My response

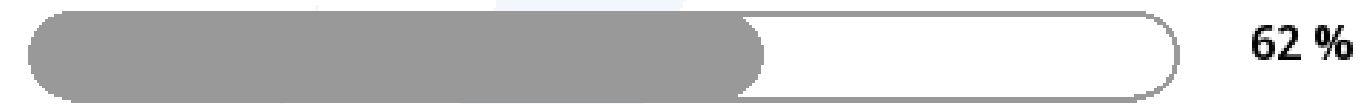
Reduce your own carbon footprint with ...



Promote women and girls in STEM and ...



Mentor young women and advocate for ...



Support or join organizations working ...



Only displaying the top results. There were 6 other poll options

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Take  Action

What is one small values-driven action you can take in the next month?

Write down your action on the post-it note

Leading with the heart

Key messages

- Identify your heart-felt values
- Use your values in your actions
- One action from the heart can start a movement



Today's Journey

Setting the scene

- We breathe the same air
- Zonta Says NOW works for human rights and gender equality to achieve climate justice
- Impacts of climate change are far-reaching

Connecting and Communicating from the heart

- When we connect, despite our differences, we are stronger
- Stories are more powerful than statistics
- Talking about climate justice is a form of advocacy

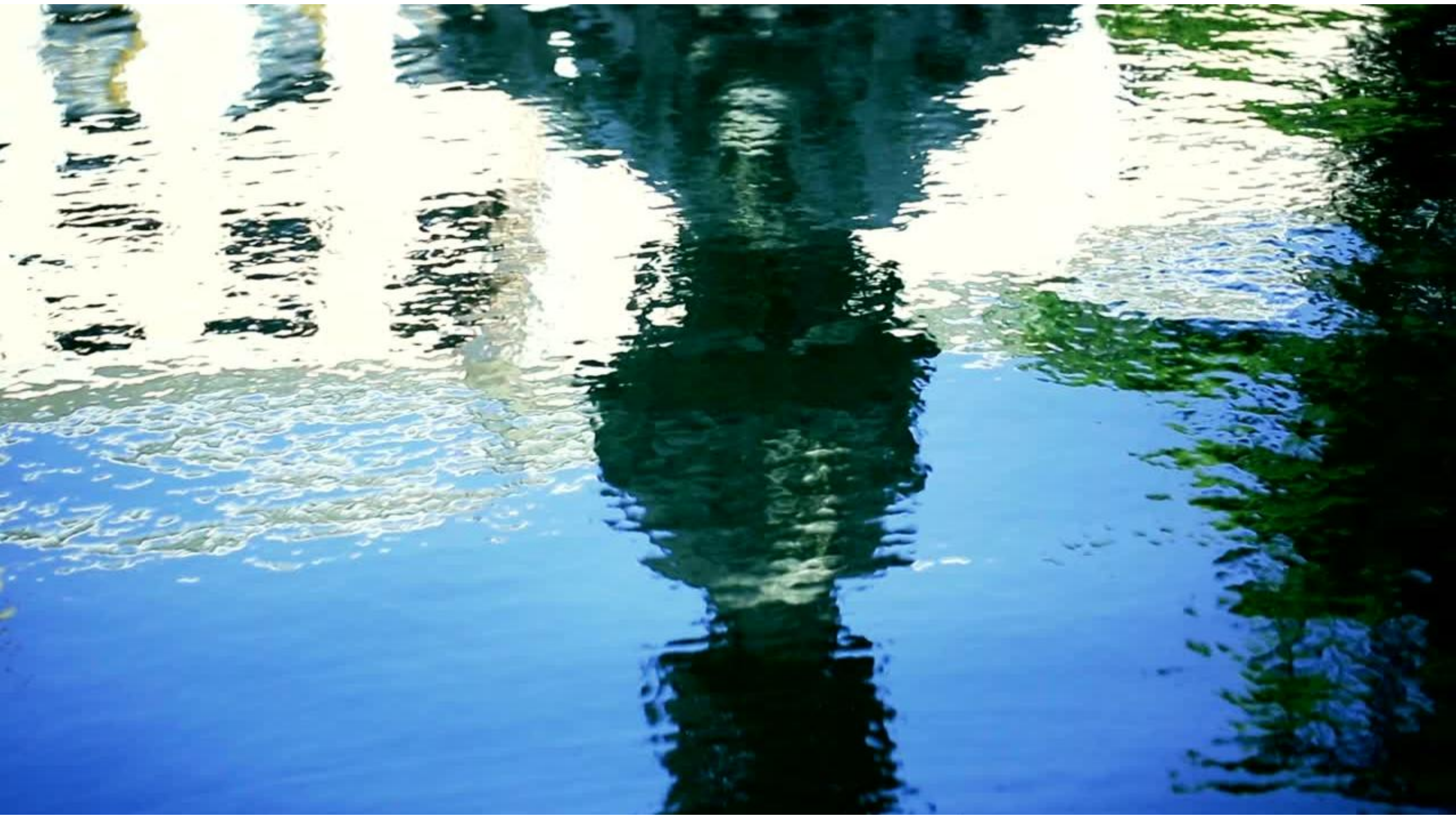
Leading with the heart

- Identify your heart-felt values
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Reflection

Reflection





Zonta International

WHY DO WE NEED



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Zonta Says NOW to Climate Justice Solutions from the Heart

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