

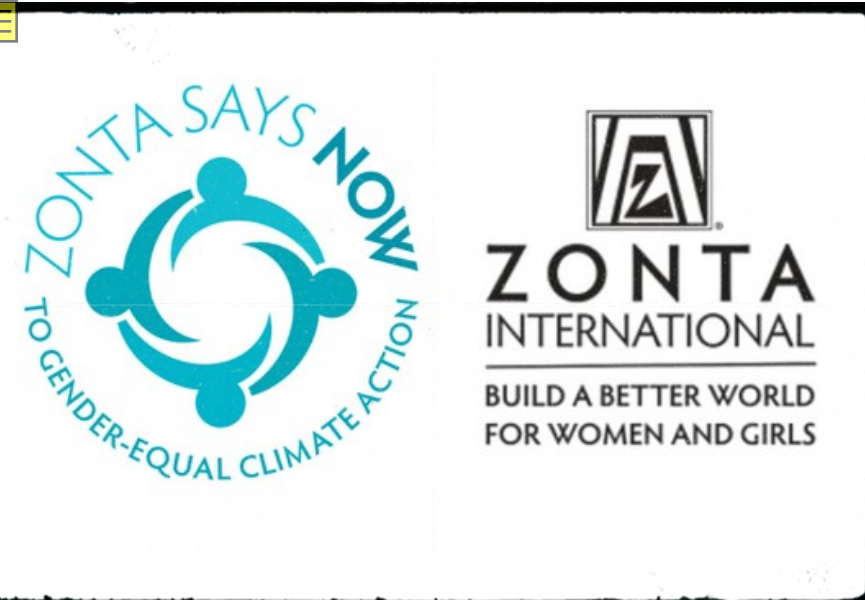


Transform Climate Action

Women as leaders and decision makers for sustainable change

Intercontinental Think Tank Sunday 10 May 10 am UTC | Zonta Says NOW Working Group





Transform Climate Action

Women as leaders and decision makers for sustainable change

Welcome and Context



Housekeeping



Use the chat line to ask questions and make comments

Use welcoming and inclusive language

Ask short, succinct questions

Answer questions or comment respectfully

The Train

Increased carbon pollution

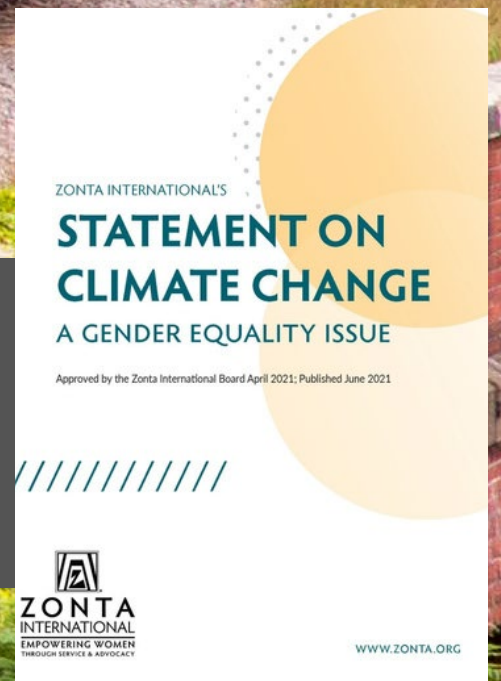
Causes global heating and extreme weather events

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 job as she cares 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
Heat made heart condition worse,
cannot afford air conditioning



Flora, 23, Vanuatu
Sea level rise and cyclones destroy
crops and fuel gender-based violence

Up to 1.2 billion climate
refugees by 2050



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

Today our focus is on empowering women as leaders and decision makers for sustainable change

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





INFOGRAPHIC
Women
and Sustainable
Decision Making

Representation
Globally, **27%** of parliamentary seats are held by women.
Around **one third** of national climate negotiators are women.

Economic Participation
32% of the clean energy workforce are women.
2 to 4% of global climate finance supports gender-equal climate initiatives.
Closing gender gaps could increase global GDP by up to **6%**.

Education and Skills
Two-thirds of the world's **739** million illiterate adults are women.
The **digital gender divide** limits women's access to **STEM** careers.
Women spend up to **3x** more time than men in unpaid care and domestic work, restricting their ability to pursue learning and leadership opportunities.

Leadership and Influence
Countries with more women in government are associated with **stronger climate and sustainability policies**.
Women control around **US\$31.8T** in spending, and influence **70-80%** of consumer decisions with a stronger focus on **sustainable consumption**.

For more information, see the Background Paper that informs this infographic, and the Fact Sheet that summarizes key information, available from the microsite page at zonta.org/ontasaysnow
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POLL

In your club, what are some of the challenges to members engaging with Zonta Says NOW

1 We are already taking action with Zonta Says NOW

2 Climate justice is not an issue in our area

3 We don't know what to do with Zonta Says NOW

4 Zonta Says NOW is another international campaign, and we don't have the time or resources to do it

5 Other (Please share in the chat)

POLL



The Economic Cost of Climate Change and the Value of Climate Action

Global economic impact

- Climate damages could reach several trillion dollars **per year** by mid-century

Sources: international economic assessments and climate risk studies (IPCCC, World Economic Forum, Deloitte)

Example Germany

- Estimated cumulative climate damage in Germany: 800 billion euros by 2050

Source: German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)

Economic benefits of solutions

- Renewable investments can generate 2–5X economic returns

Source: German Institute for Economic Research (DIW)

How Climate Action is Evolving

Global Shared Goals and Principles

(Normative Framework)

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Paris Agreement
- Gender Equality Commitments
- UN Pact for the Future

Managing Transformation

(System Change)

- Just Transition approaches
- Inclusive climate governance
- Resilient communities and institutions
- Addressing structural barriers

Stability and Climate Justice

(Risk Management)

- Loss and damage mechanisms
- Technical support and capacity building
- Fair access to finance and resources
- Protection of vulnerable communities

Women's leadership is essential across all three levels

Power, Wealth, and Climate Impact

- 3,000 billionaires globally
- 4,000 times more likely to hold political office
- 13% are women
- 12 billionaires hold more wealth than half of humanity

- Wealth concentration leads to unequal influence and power
- Too often, wealth is used to promote fossil fuels and erode democratic processes
- Less government funding for development programs, more reliance on philanthropy



How can women participate more effectively in sustainable decision-making?



Today's Journey



THE WHY

Why we need women's full participation in climate and sustainability decision-making



BARRIERS

What holds women back



WHAT WORKS

How to support women to lead successfully



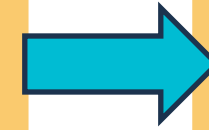
WHAT ZONTIANS CAN DO

How we can strengthen women's leadership and decision-making for sustainable change



Why Women's Leadership Matters in Climate Governance

Inclusive decision-making leads to stronger and more sustainable climate policy

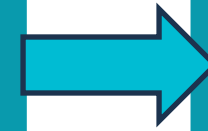


Women's leadership strengthens community resilience and peacebuilding



Women's leadership strengthens climate governance and improves equitable resource distribution

Women's Participation



Better Policies



Stronger Climate Outcomes

When women are included in decisions...



Enhanced
Climate Policies



Inclusive
Decision Making



Drive Green
Economic
Growth



Lead
Environmental
Stewardship

Women's leadership is not just fairness – it's a strategy for a sustainable future

Today's Journey



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BARRIERS

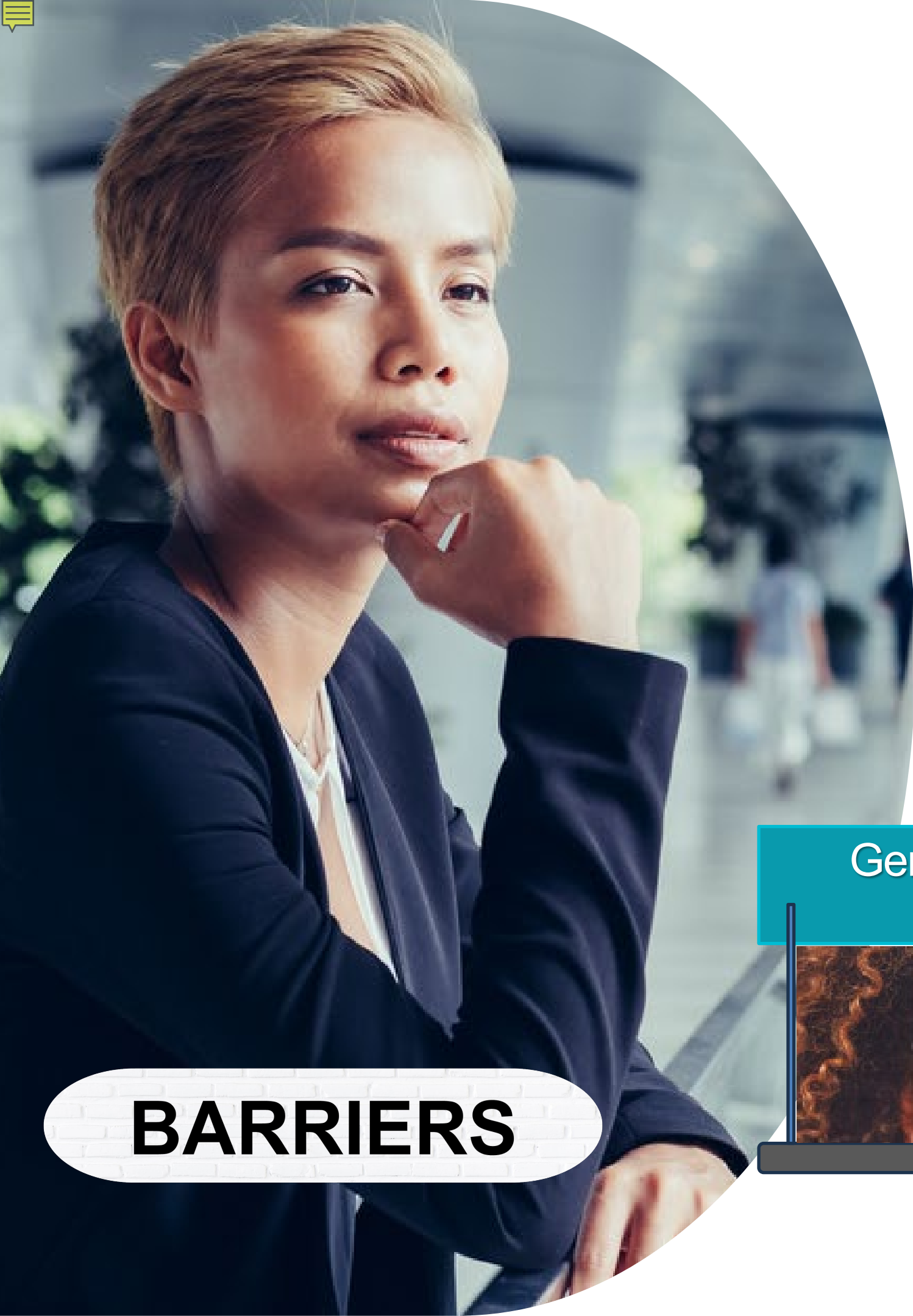
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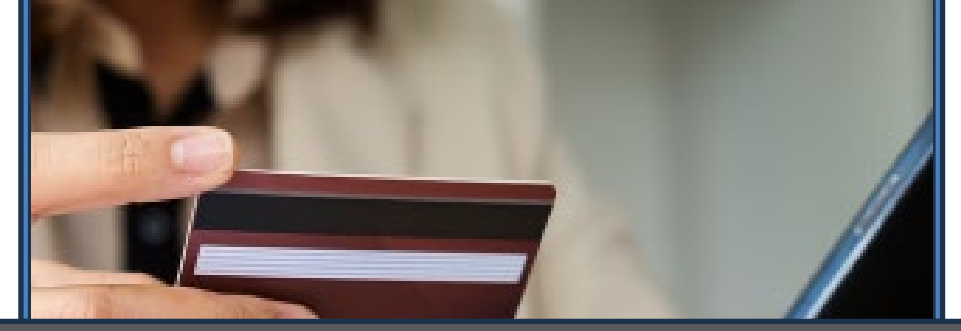


Structural Barriers

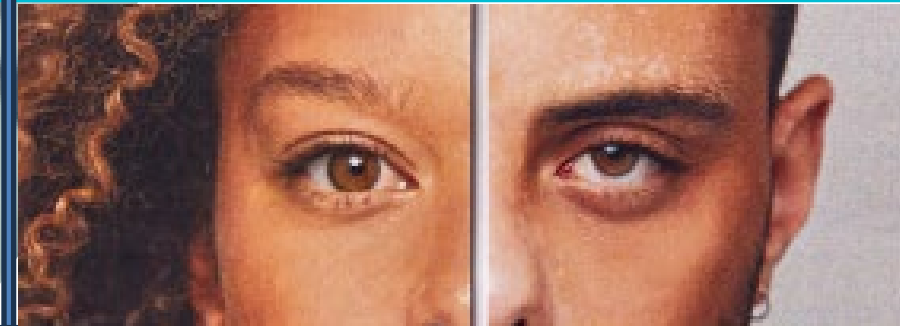
Institutional and political barriers



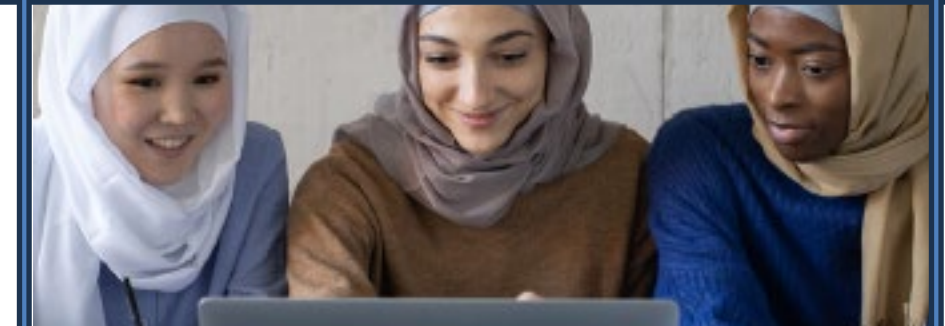
Economic barriers



Gender stereotypes and social norms



Limited access to education and skills development



BARRIERS

Bringing decision-making barriers to life

Composite personas drawn from global evidence and lived realities



Maria – South America



Amina – Africa



Emily – Europe



Leila – Asia

REFLECTION

Which of these barriers resonates with your own work or life?

Take a moment to reflect and share in the chat



Today's Journey



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WHAT WORKS

Solutions and Strategies for Inclusion

Build frameworks supporting gender-responsive policies

Invest in capacity building and education

Enable women's financial inclusion and economic empowerment

Support women to lead change in government, corporate boards, civil society and the courts

What works in practice ...



Maria – South America



Amina – Africa



Emily – Europe



Leila – Asia

When systems change, women's leadership is unlocked.



DISCUSSION

What have you learned from today's session that could motivate you/your club to engage in sustainable decision-making?

15 Minutes

What enables impactful climate action?



Feedback

What have you learned from today's session that could motivate you/your club to engage in sustainable decision-making?

Today's Journey



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Some ideas from the *Women and Sustainable Decision-making* resources

Individuals



- Read Zonta Says NOW resources
- Learn about Zonta International's Climate Empower project
- Calculate and review your personal carbon footprint at climatehero.org



- Participate in Earth Day events
- Lead a climate justice project in your club
- Support sustainable businesses led by women



- Enter the Virtual Art Gallery
- Meet your local politicians
- Share Zonta Says NOW messages on social media

WHAT NOW



Clubs

Put in the chat the action(s) you would like your club to do

WHAT NOW



Gather the facts

- Brief members on Zonta Says NOW resources
- Subscribe to [UN Women](#), [WEDO](#), [WECAN](#)
- Invite local sustainability experts to club meetings



Lead by example

- Participate in Zonta's awards, Earth Day & Zonta Says NOW Virtual Art Gallery
- Celebrate members leading in sustainability
- Integrate sustainability into club operations/events to reduce carbon footprint



Use our voice

- Speak out on issues affecting women and the environment in newsletters and social media
- Write letters to newspapers and politicians
- Share and amplify youth voices for climate justice



Advocate

- Advocate for gender-responsive climate policies, flexible work, child/elder care
- Encourage gender quotas/targets
- Push for gender-responsive budgets



Collaborate

- Partner with Z & GZ clubs on climate justice events
- Advocate/host events with like-minded local organizations on local issues
- Ally with men to support inclusive leadership

How Zontians can support women



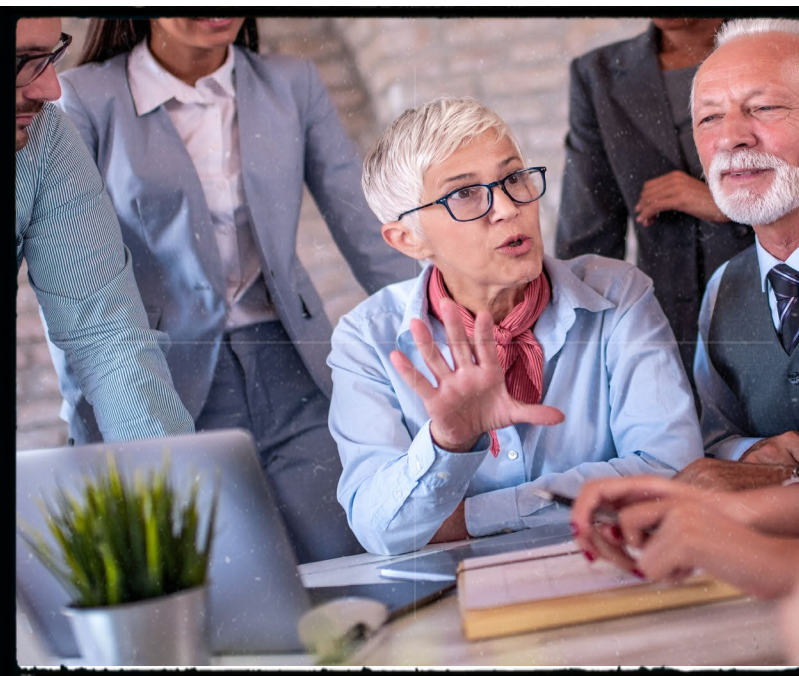
Maria – Community Level

- Advocate for child care



Amina – Project and Economic Level

- Mentor
- Scholarships



Emily – Institutional Level

- Contribute to public consultation



Leila – Political Level

- Message of support
- Vote on policies that support gender equality and sustainability

What we have learned

Inclusive decision-making is not optional – it is essential for just, effective and resilient climate action

THE WHY

Women's participation strengthens climate and sustainability decision-making at all levels

BARRIERS

Barriers are structural: care work, legal gaps, underrepresentation, resource limits and safety risks

WHAT WORKS

Enabling conditions – policies, education, finance, institutional support – make leadership possible

WHAT ZONTIANS CAN DO

Lead on sustainability through individual and club actions, amplify women's voices, advocate for equitable policies, and create networks that support leadership and safety.

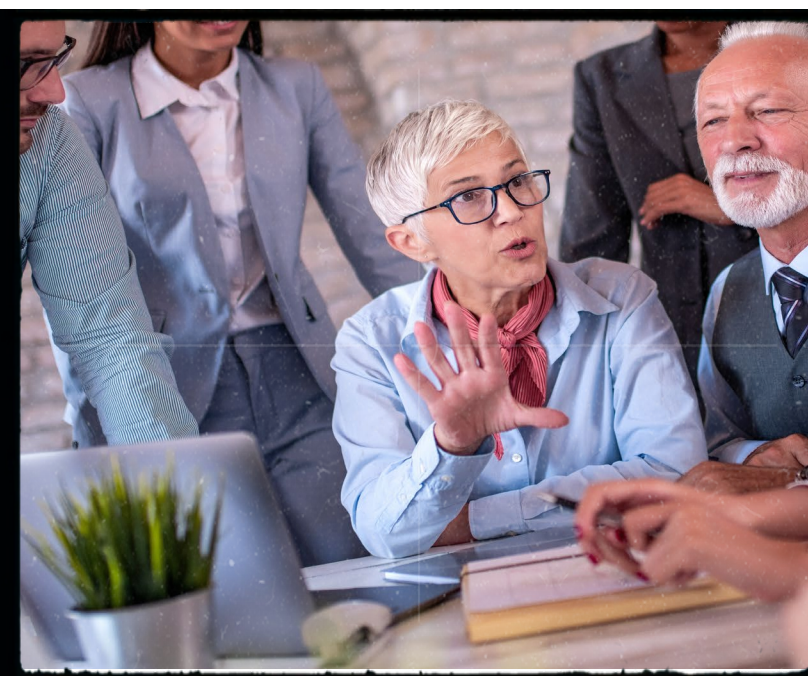
Bringing it together – Zontians in action



EMPOWER



SUPPORT



CONNECT



PROTECT



Transform Climate Action

Women as leaders and decision makers for sustainable change

THANK YOU

zonta.org/zontasaysnow

