



**TITLE/NAME OF POLICY:**      ADVOCACY DEFINITION AND POLICIES

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**Related Documentation** (by-laws, procedure, process, guidelines):

**POLICY:**

Zonta International Bylaws

Article III Policy

Section 1. Nonpartisan and Nonsectarian. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

Section 2. Principles and Public Issues. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs may express themselves about, and become involved in principles and public issues having a bearing on the Objects of Zonta International, following the guidelines established by the Zonta International Board of Directors.

Pursuant to Article III. Sections 2 and 3 of the Zonta International Bylaws (1998), the Zonta International Board, at its February 2000 meeting, adopted the following definition and policy:

**Advocacy Definition**

*Advocacy is the expression of support for or opposition to a cause, argument or proposal. Advocacy may include influencing laws, legislation or attitudes. Zonta advocacy is an action taken in "the public interest" or for "the greater good" with respect to advancing the status of women and girls and their human rights.*

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## **Advocacy Policy**

1. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs are urged to express themselves about and become involved in issues which:
  - improve the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women;
  - advance understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of executives in business and the professions; and
  - promote justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs are encouraged to support proposed or introduced legislation that advances the implementation of the Objects and Resolutions of Zonta International, the Beijing Declaration, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Millennium Development Goals and their updates, as well as other United Nations and Council of Europe conventions.
3. a. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs will ascertain if there are other like-minded organizations or individuals researching issues regarding the legal, political, economic, educational, health and professional status of women, and cooperate with these other organizations and individuals when appropriate.  
  
b. Whenever it is effective to do so, Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs will work in cooperation with other organizations or individuals to educate people (including ourselves) about these issues and the actions we must initiate to effect a positive change.
4. When Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs host or sponsor educational activities, every effort should be made for a well-balanced presentation of the facts and viewpoints.
5. a. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs shall not advocate on behalf of or endorse a political candidate or party, or any religion or religious denomination.  
  
b. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs may endorse qualified individuals for non-partisan positions.
6. The Convention may express opinions on issues on behalf of Zonta International. Between conventions, only the Zonta International Board may express opinions on issues on behalf of Zonta International.
7. a. Zonta clubs may express their opinion on issues only as clubs. Zonta districts may express their opinions only as districts.  
  
b. Districts may include guidelines for the process for determining their advocacy activity, providing that such guidelines conform to the Zonta International advocacy policy.
8. Zonta International, its districts, and its clubs may register protests concerning

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violations of human rights with the Zonta International United Nations Committee.

9. a. Districts, clubs, and individual Zontians shall not otherwise express positions on issues involving a country other than their own, except with the prior approval of the International President through the International United Nations Chairman.

b. Individual Zonta members may express a position on issues involving a country other than their own, providing they use the exact wording of the position adopted by the Zonta International Board, or of the International President, in the approval given through the International United Nations Chairman.

c. Individual members may express their personal views on issues as private citizens, but must never attribute their personal views to a Zonta club, district, or Zonta International.

**Changes tracking log:**

**Revision(s) date: 14 November 2012**

**Revision(s) made: Megan Radavich**

**Approved by:**

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