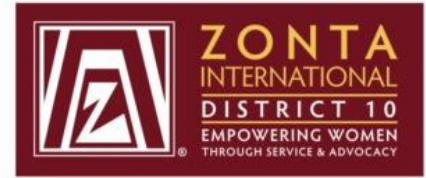


October, 2023

# Zonta District 10

## Advocacy Bulletin



The USA Caucus is a place for clubs and districts in the US to align on key issues and provides a platform for coordinated advocacy actions within the US.

### Ending Child Marriage

On September 26, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ceremonially signed the legislation to make Michigan the 10th U.S. state to end child marriage! In July, Gov. Whitmer signed most of the 10-bill package to ban the practice, but a last-minute procedural issue held up the rest of the package until the open of the current session. Previously, Michigan allowed parents to enter a child **of any age** into marriage, and 5,426 children were married in Michigan between 2000 and 2021. Due to Zonta's significant work on the litigation past Governors Deanna Cambridge and Denise Quarles, current Governor, Cherie Johnson, and Zonta Caucus member, Denise Sylvester, were invited to and attended the signing. Congratulations to the Michigan Zontians who helped end child marriage in the state. For the first time in history, child marriage has been ended in three states in one year and has been ended in 20 percent of the country! Let's keep the momentum going!

Zonta clubs are now helping organize state coalitions to end child marriage in **California** and **Washington**. If you have contacts with organizations in these states that might be interested in joining the coalitions, contact **Katherine Cleland**. Zonta clubs in Southern California held a press event on child marriage on October 5 at Burbank City Hall that included an appearance by the Mayor of Burbank. The Zonta Club of North Puget Sound (aka Zonta Club of Everett) is planning a webinar on child marriage on November 18.



## Equal Rights Amendment

Support the following initiatives of the ERA Coalition, of which the Caucus is a member:

Representative Ayanna Pressley's discharge petition to bring HJ Res 25, the resolution to affirm the ERA and remove the time limit, to the House floor for a vote. Check out this [Discharge Petition Outreach List- Current sponsors/Previous Supporters](#) and list for [Republican Discharge Petition Outreach](#) to see if your legislator is on one of the lists. [Ask your member of the House](#) to sign the discharge petition if he/she has not already done so. And ask your **state** legislature to pass a state bill affirming the ERA as the 28th Amendment, as have [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Minnesota](#), Michigan, Hawaii and Illinois.

H.J. Res. 82/S.J. Res 39 states that the ERA has been validly ratified and is enforceable as the 28th Amendment and calls on the Archivist to certify and publish without delay. See the Outreach list for [H.J. Res.82](#).

Join the National Petition Campaign Supporting the ERA by signing this [petition](#) and engage club members, friends and colleagues to help get the ERA recognized.

[Ask the White House](#) to direct the archivist to publish the ERA. Check out the [survey](#) on the impact of reproductive rights and the ERA on the 2024 elections. See photo of Bobbee Cardillo at press conference below.

Attend the [Women's Convention](#), a weekend of workshops, strategy sessions, inspiring forums, creative expression, and inter-sectional movement building, October 20--22 at the Baird Center in Milwaukee, WI.

Attend [Dendrofeomonology: Tree Ring on the National Mall](#) in person or online and the activation week in D.C. November 1-4. On Nov 3: from 1-4 PM the ERA Coalition will hold an interactive program event in DC at Vital Voices headquarters with a cocktail reception to follow from 4 - 5:30 pm. RSVP [HERE](#) and use this [Partner Toolkit](#) to amplify the event information to your community.

## Climate Action

The Climate Committee has planned three upcoming Think Tanks: Nov 5 focusing on cold weather preparedness; February on financial preparedness and the economic impact of climate change; and April/May on warm weather disasters and heat, fire, hurricane and flood preparedness. If you or any of your club members have or know someone who has experienced either a cold or warm weather disaster, please contact [Bobbee Cardillo](#). The Committee is also planning 10 Days of Activism, March 1-10. Watch for information packets in February.

The bipartisan and bicameral Conservation and Innovative Climate Partnership Act of 2023 (S. 900 and H.R. 2719) would bridge the divide between the innovative research taking place at land-grant institutions and those who farm for a living by helping family farms adopt climate-friendly strategies like planting cover crops and using no-till practices. Urge your legislators to co-sponsor and support these bills with Zonta's pre-prepared [letters](#).

## Health

In honor of Period Action Day, October 14, PERIOD is calling on the global menstrual movement to collectively donate ONE MILLION period products to communities in need. You can [virtually donate](#) period products, find a product drive near you, or directly donate period products to a local non-profit. Learn more [HERE](#).

Listen to a [congressional briefing](#), held by the Women's Congressional Policy Institute (WCPI) on "The Disproportionate Impact of Cardiovascular Disease on Women."



# Gender-Based Violence

Now is the time to be preparing for the [\*\*2023 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence\*\*](#). If you missed ZI's online meetings launching our 2023 initiatives, you can watch the recordings [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) (passcode nAZ3++Y=) and [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) (PC B2i#g48B) and find the slides for the presentation [\*\*HERE\*\*](#). ZI is especially urging clubs to make their activities for the campaign visible so that more people learn about Zonta and to share their stories on this easy-to-use [\*\*form\*\*](#).

D10 has adopted the assembly of [\*\*Beloved Bundles\*\*](#) and related advocacy activities around sexual assault as a district-wide 16 Days service/advocacy project. The bundles are funded by [\*\*Project Beloved\*\*](#), founded by a Ft Worth, TX mother in response to the rape and murder of her daughter, and volunteers assemble and deliver the bundles locally—a simple and rewarding volunteer activity. The bundles go to sexual assault survivors who have a forensic exam (rape kit) and include simple clothing, undergarments, small hygiene products and stress-relieving items.

D10 clubs are asked to find local facilities that do rape kits or accompany survivors to such exams that do not currently have but want bundles, and assemble them for the groups. D10 has prepared a [\*\*toolkit\*\*](#) that provides detailed instructions on the project as well as educational materials about sexual assault and suggestions for ways to address it at the federal, state and local levels that you are welcome to share with your club and the community at large.

Project Beloved Founder, Tracy Matheson, gave a virtual talk for D10 on October 3 to discuss her story, what she has learned about sexual assault, and the related laws she has helped get passed in Texas. If you missed Tracy's moving presentation you can view the recorded talk [\*\*HERE\*\*](#). Consider also sharing it with your club.

Also check out "Dateline"'s [\*\*episode\*\*](#) about Tracy's daughter's case which addresses the serial nature of rape and the need for law enforcement agencies to communicate with each other. Please let [\*\*Therese Hartwell\*\*](#) know if you are planning to do an assembly and contact her with any questions.

The University of Delaware's Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence has built a [\*\*database\*\*](#) cataloging occurrences and outcomes of specific cases of gender-GBV by professional and collegiate athletes and can be searched by sport.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Ending Violence Against Women Committee encourages you to check out the website of the National Network to End Domestic Violence for information on the [\*\*launch of the 2023 campaign\*\*](#) and an accompanying [\*\*toolkit\*\*](#). The first Domestic Violence Day of Unity was held in October, 1981, evolving into an entire month of awareness. Purple has become the color to promote awareness of domestic violence and is meant to be a symbol of peace, courage, survival, honor, and dedication to ending violence. October 19, 2023, the third Thursday of the month, is designated as Purple Thursday. Please consider wearing purple this day to raise awareness and show support for survivors of domestic violence.

Research shows that domestic violence and gun violence are deeply interconnected and that guns are more likely to turn abuse fatal. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that the woman will be killed, and guns magnify the power and control used by abusers. Find related statistics [\*\*HERE\*\*](#). Watch for the U.S. Supreme Court decision on whether a 1994 federal law that bars people under domestic violence restraining orders from possessing firearms violates the Second Amendment of the US Constitution. Read [\*\*MORE\*\*](#) about this important case for women's safety.