

Affiliation with Other Organizations Guidelines

The *Bylaws of Zonta International* provide that Zonta International, its districts and clubs shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

The *Rules of Procedure of Zonta International* states that Zonta International is recognized as having:

- general consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC,
- consultative status with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO,
- special relationships with United Nations entities promoting women's rights, and
- participatory status with the Council of Europe.

▶ *Bylaws of Zonta International*, Article III, Section 1.

▶ *Rules of Procedure of Zonta International*, Section 8.

The *Affiliation with Other Organizations Policy* encourages Zontians to work with others when effective.

Affiliation is defined as any kind of association with other organizations. General conditions for affiliation are given in the policy, including provisions for joining, cooperating and participating. Decisions on affiliation with others are the responsibility of the Zonta International Board or international president, or as provided for in the policy.

In any affiliation with another organization, it should be noted that:

- Zonta International is nonpartisan and nonsectarian and this character must be preserved.
- Zonta International's name and credibility must not be adversely affected.

Guidelines on Affiliation on International Level

Zonta International will join selected organizations who promote and facilitates NGO¹ relations with the United Nations and the Council of Europe. Examples:

- Conference of NGOs (CoNGO)
- Conference of INGOs² of the Council of Europe.

Zonta International may also align with specific UN campaigns. Examples:

- UN campaigns to end violence against women

¹ NGO = nongovernmental organization

Zonta International will observe relevant United Nations international days. Examples:

- 8 March, International Women's Day, and
- 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Zonta International may cooperate with United Nations agencies and selected NGOs on specific projects or programs.

Zonta International participates with the Service Club Leaders Conference to share experience with other club organizations.

Guidelines on Affiliation on District and Club Levels

Districts and clubs shall act responsibly when selecting partners, and when deciding about type of affiliation. All partners must promote women's human rights. Affiliation shall not affect Zonta International's nonpartisan and nonsectarian character. Affiliation should be for real impact, not just to have the Zonta name on lists. Evaluation must be possible.

Affiliation is normally recommended for specific activities. Long term involvements should be evaluated preferably every two years but no longer than four years.

Districts and clubs can affiliate with local branches of international organizations, such as the National Committees for UN Women or governmental organizations if they are set up by a democratic governments and work independently in a nonpartisan and nonsectarian way.

Umbrella organizations are often established to coordinate NGO efforts at regional or national level. Joining an umbrella organization may be necessary. However, it is critical to determine that Zonta shares the clear goals of the organization and that Zonta International is allowed to endorse only nonpartisan and nonsectarian positions.

Member-based nonpartisan and nonsectarian NGOs. Zonta International districts and clubs are generally recommended to cooperate with;

- NGOs with generic goals for all levels of the organization, for example *Soroptimist International*,
- NGOs, with mainly educational goals, for example *Graduate Women International*, regional groups and associations, and
- NGOs with mainly professional goals, for example *National Associations of Women Lawyers*.

Partisan and Sectarian NGOs. Zonta International, its clubs and members may be part of a broad coalition to influence decision-making in support of Zonta International's goals, always making it clear in all messages and promotional material that Zonta International is nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

Other NGOs. Some NGOs may be created by special interest groups or by individuals. Such NGOs are often temporary and created around one issue or one event. Such NGOs must be considered carefully and are generally not recommended for affiliation.

Participation in coordinated group actions such as movements, rallies or campaigns. Affiliations that include legal or financial obligations shall be with legal entities with which Zonta districts and clubs can make agreements as provided in the *Affiliation with Other Organizations Policy*.

Other support, such as attendance at rallies or events, should be considered carefully. Such support is deemed acceptable when the goals of the event are nonpartisan and nonsectarian, when the event actively supports the *Objects of Zonta*, and when presence at the event will both enhance its impact and give public visibility to Zonta. It must be clear in all messages and promotional material that Zonta International is nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

- ▶ *Affiliation with Other Organizations Policy* under Governance/Policies & Guidelines on the website

Document control:

Original Document	Date: November 2014
First adopted by the international Board	Date: November 2014
Most recent review by the risk manager	Date: April 2018
Amended policy adopted by the Board, posted on website	Date: May 2018
Next review date	Date: September 2019
Committee Responsible	International Advocacy Committee