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# District Advocacy Committee

## Role & Responsibilities

International Advocacy Committee 2020-2022

June 2020



# District Advocacy Chair & Committee

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- Chair is appointed by the governor at the start of each biennium.
- Where possible/suitable, it can be very valuable for the district advocacy chair to hold office longer than one Biennium to ensure consistency and sustainability.
- If this is not possible, perhaps the previous chairs would consider remaining on the committee as a member to provide continuity of service and guidance to the incoming chair.



# District Advocacy Chair & Committee

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- It is recommended that the district advocacy chair establish a district advocacy committee comprising one member from each country or state (or area) in that District (this could/should also be the area advocacy representative).
- This committee member represents their region in the committee and is responsible for the committee's activities in that region.
- It is highly recommended that the district advocacy chair attends the District Conference and in agreement with the governor reports on ZI advocacy and advocacy activities in the district. Additionally, an advocacy workshop could be organized during or outside of the conference to raise awareness and train Zontians in advocacy techniques.
- It is also recommended that in agreement with the area director, the district or area advocacy representative presents local, national or international advocacy activities at the area conferences to motivate and support the clubs.



# Role & Responsibilities

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- ZI District Manual, p. 28 states the following pre-condition for the role of district advocacy chair and committee members:  
“The chairman and members of the committee must be knowledgeable about the Objects of Zonta International and projects, purpose and activities of Zonta International.

The chairman and members must be familiar with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal #5 and other resolutions pertinent to women.”



# Role & Responsibilities

- To promote Zonta advocacy among the districts' clubs; i.e. to motivate and support clubs to advocate effectively for women in their region/country/state
- To share and provide information and materials with the clubs on advocacy issues
- To facilitate the sharing of Advocacy Best Practices (e.g. successful campaigns and activities) among clubs, areas and districts
- To collate information on the activities of the clubs and communicate them back to ZI via the governor and/or International Advocacy Committee
- To collate information on women's issues and rights in the countries of that district and share this information with ZI and its committees
- Where appropriate coordinate and execute advocacy campaigns (e.g. Zonta USA Caucus)



# Resources for District Advocacy Committee

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- The District Manual outlines the main responsibilities and communication structure – Section 3 District Committees Advocacy Committee.
- District advocacy committees should make use of the tools provided by the ZI Advocacy, UN and the Council of Europe committees posted on the ZI website under My Zonta as well as the ZI project presentations on the ZI website (e.g. ZI / foundation ambassador presentation on Ending Child Marriage).
- They can also develop their own presentations using their knowledge of best practices from other regions or countries or by incorporating the input of local Zonta experts.
- ZI has made a Dropbox folder available for advocacy-related presentations, particularly district, area and individual presentations that are not practical for the ZI website – here ideas and best practices can be shared among district advocacy chairs and committees.

