

Dear fellow Zontians,

Warm Zonta greetings from my home in Verden, Germany!

How wonderful that you are taking this time to attend your district conference. Whether this is your first conference or you have attended many, district conferences are a wonderful opportunity to meet other Zontians outside your club and to discuss important topics and share ideas about the future of Zonta. I personally also always enjoy the possibility of meeting old friends and making new ones, and I hope that you too find joy.

As you come together with your fellow Zontians, women and girls around the world are facing unprecedented challenges. Conflict and war, climate change, economic hardships and legal and political battles threaten the hard-won gains for gender equity Zontians and others have worked so hard to achieve over the last 100+ years.



However, despite the enormity of the problems we face, I am not discouraged. I still believe our vision for a world where women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential is possible. Why am I so hopeful? Because each and every day I hear stories of Zonta clubs and individual Zontians working together to make our Zonta vision a reality in their local communities and around the world. Thank you for inspiring me with every action you take and every story you share!

At the beginning of this biennium, I presented my biennial goals – **Stand Out for Gender Equity**, **Represent Global Citizenship**, **Develop Future Leaders**, **Celebrate Ourselves** and **Position Zonta for the Future**. We have already made good progress on many of these goals. I am encouraged by the number of new clubs in formation and by the active participation in our Zonta Says NO to Violence against Women campaign and new Zonta Says NOW activities across the Zonta world, as well as our new strategic plan. I am excited about the future of Zonta, but there is still more work to do. To ensure our vision for gender equity is a reality, we must work together, and we must strengthen our position by inviting others to join us.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the 66th Zonta International Convention in Brisbane, Australia, 27-30 June 2024. It promises to be a fun and exciting experience. Until then, best wishes and thank you for all you give to Zonta, your dedication and determination and your generous donations to our Zonta Foundation for Women - to **BUILD A BETTER WORLD FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**.

Warm regards,  
Ute



**Welcome by ZI-ZFW 2022-2024 Vice-President and  
International Representative District 13 Fernanda Gallo-Freschi**

Dear District 13 Zontians,

As your Board Liaison and International Representative, I am honoured to attend your District Conference around the theme “Women Leadership for Sustainable Future”.

I am looking forward to meeting you all, share updates and reflections on our global organisation and its Strategic Plan «Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond» and get feedback from you, as well as learn more about your district, area and club projects, and share some Zonta spirit.



District conferences provide opportunities to network, share information, and plan for the future of districts. Governor Gudrun Halla, her board and host committee have worked creatively and resiliently to organise a District Conference that will be meaningful and helpful to us all.

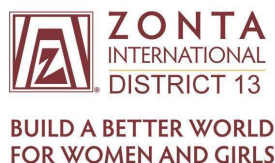
It is a pleasure to work closely with Governor Gudrun Halla Gunnarsdóttir and her board in this biennium, and I am grateful for your constant, resourceful and generous contribution to our Zonta mission: it has been inspiring so far, in this biennium, to see how your clubs have conducted Zonta business, advocacy and service initiatives.

**Together, we are building a better world for women and girls.**

I really look forward to meeting you and learning more about your successes and the decisions that you will take for your future.

Best regards,

Fernanda Gallo-Freschi  
Vice-President 2022–2024  
Zonta International & Zonta Foundation for Women



## **Zonta International District 13 Conference, Akureyri, Iceland August 31st. - September 2nd. 2023**

The Zonta International District 13 Conference and District Meeting will take place in Akureyri Iceland, on August 31. - September 2., 2023. The venue is Hof, Culture House. Social events will take place at various locations. Information on registration and accommodation can be found on the District website <https://zonta-district13.org/>

### **Program**

#### ***Thursday, August 31st.***

**17:00 - 18:30 Welcoming party at Deiglan and at Listasafn Akureyrar (Akureyri Art Museum)**  
Spouses/partners welcome to attend <http://www.listak.is/is/>

#### ***Friday, September 1st.***

#### **Venue: HOF Culture House, Strandgata 12**

**08:00 - 09:00 Registration open**

**09:00 - 10:30 Opening session**

Governors welcome: *Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir*

*Póra Ákadóttir runs the opening session and Keynote Speakers Session*

Welcome from Akureyri: *Ásthildur Sturludóttir, Mayor of Akureyri*

International Honorary Member: *Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir*

International President: *Ute Scholtz; Online*

International representative: *Fernanda Gallo Freschi*

Entertainment: *Ylur Duett*

**10:30 - 11:00 Break for refreshment**

**11:00 - 12:30 Keynote speakers**

#### **Climate Change – What is it and why is it important?**

*Reidun Elise Vold, Manager of climate and external environment at AkerBP, Norway (MSc Chemical Engineering)*

#### **Gender and climate change – What are the links?**

*Audur H. Ingolfsdóttir, owner of Transformia, Self-Empowerment and Social Responsibility, Iceland (PhD International Relations)*

#### **What is the role of oppressed groups in battling climate change?**

*Ester Alda Hrafnhildar Bragadóttir, Advisor at the Icelandic Environment Agency (Msc Environment and Resource Management)*

**12:30 - 13:30 Lunch - Hof Culture House / Market Square / Foundation Booth**

**13:30 - 14:00 Panel discussion with keynote speakers**

- 14.00 - 16.00 Business session 1 and Open Forum**  
 Credential report - roll call of clubs / delegates  
 Election of moderator: *Póra Ákadóttir*  
 Election of notetaker: *Guðrún Póra Gunnarsdóttir*  
 Adoption of the legitimacy of the meeting  
 Adoption of the agenda  
 Election of tellers and timekeepers
- 14.30 - 15.00 Break for refreshment**
- 15:00 - 16:10 Zonta, Gender Equity, and a Vision for 2030 & Beyond:**  
*International representative Fernanda Gallo Freschi*
- 16:15 - 16:30 Hand in hand - circle around Hof**
- 19:00 - 20:30 Dinner at Zontians Homes**

**Saturday, September 2nd.**

**Venue: HOF Culture House, Strandgata 12**

- 08.30 - 08.35 Memorial Ceremony - Rose Ceremony**
- 08:40 - 10:30 Business Session 2**  
 Governor's report on the state of the district 2021-2023  
 AD reports 2021 - 2022/ 2022 - 2023  
 Credential report - roll call of clubs / delegates  
 District financial report and budget  
 Treasurer's report on the audited accounts/balance sheets  
 Adoption of the budget  
 Adoption of the dues amount  
**Foundation ambassador:** *Birgit Lenhard Hansen*  
**UN and Council of Europe Committee:** *Dorte Olesen,*  
*Past International Director*  
**Advocacy Committee:** *Maria Jose Landeira Østergård,*  
*Past International President (PIP)*
- 10:30 – 11:00 Break for refreshment**
- 11:00 – 12:30 Keynote speakers and panel discussion**  
**Muslim immigrant women's labour market participation in Iceland:**  
*Fayrouz Nouh is a PhD candidate at the University of Iceland, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics.*  
**New generation of Zontians. How can we grow?**  
*Signý Óskarsdóttir, owner of Creatrix ehf. a consulting company specialised in project management and support in the field of education, culture, and innovation*
- 12:30 – 13:30 Lunch - Hof Culture House / Market Square / Foundation Booth**
- 13:30 – 13:45 Multicultural Club in Copenhagen. Maria Jose Landeira Østergård, PIP**

**13:45 - 15:00**

**Business session 3**

**Report of the Nominating Committee:** *Guðríður Gyða Eyjólfsdóttir*

Election of candidates (District 13 bylaws, article 20)

- Proposal from Area 01 on continuing STEM to be discussed and decided if District 13 will support this proposal.
  - Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend the Zonta International Bylaws Article XI Convention, SECTION 1. Purpose by adding the word “hybrid” before the word “biennial”, and the words “, except in case of unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophes” after the word “convention”.
  - Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend Zonta International Bylaws Article XIII Committees by changing the number of SECTION 15 to SECTION 16 and adding a new SECTION 15
- Other business

**15:00 – 15:30**

**Break for refreshment**

**15:30 – 17:00**

**Continuing Business session 3** if needed

**Why Zonta?** Films from Denmark and Norway

**Closing remarks:** *Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir*

**Welcome to Lithuania:** *Ruta Jasionienė*

**19:00 – 23:00**

**Closing Banquet at Hof Culture House**

*Entertainment, lottery and good company*

**Theme of the District Conference: “Women Leadership for Sustainable Future”**

***How can women lead the way for a sustainable future?***

***Sub-theme 1.: Does the education and background of refugee women affect their position in the labour market?***

***Sub-theme 2: Young Zontians, what do they want? How can we react to their call?***

**Presentation of Keynote Speakers**



**Dr. Auður H. Ingólfssdóttir** is the owner and manager of Transformia, a small business focusing on self-empowerment, sustainability, and social responsibility. Auður has an educational background in international relations, with a special focus on international development, gender studies, environmental policy, and natural resources.

She has worked as a journalist, civil servant, gender advisor, researcher, and a consultant. She also has more than twenty years of experience as a university lecturer, teaching courses related to international politics, peace and conflict studies, natural resource management, gender and environment and on sustainability and social responsibility.

Her research focus throughout the years has been on the intersection between politics, environment, natural resource management and social justice. In her role as the manager of Transformia she takes on various teaching engagements in her field and leads the development of educational material. Auður also served as the chair of the board of the Vatnajökull National Park, Iceland's largest national park, in 2020-2022, and sits on the board of Bifröst University.



**Reidun Elise Vold** has worked with climate and sustainability for the last seven years. She leads the Climate and Environment group at Aker BP, an oil and gas company in Norway. She and her team are responsible for providing input to the climate strategy and influence emission reduction efforts throughout the company. Ms. Vold holds a MSc in Chemical Engineering and lived in Boston, USA for 17 years, where she worked for a biotechnology company developing medicine for rare genetic diseases. Ms. Vold is also the President for Vigrestad & Omegn Zonta Club in Norway.



**Ester Alda Hrafnhildar Bragadóttir** is working at the environmental agency of Iceland in the team of climate and circular economy. She has a BSc in Global Responsibility and Leadership, a program based on the Sustainable Development Goals, and MSc in Environment and Resource Management. Her main interest lies in the intersection of environmental and social issues, best reflected by her research topics in both studies. In her BSc she researched ecofeminism in relation to climate change, and later in her MSc she wrote on environmental justice in climate and biodiversity initiatives. In addition to her studies, she has worked on several environmental projects, for instance one on a sustainability strategy with a municipality and another on wilderness preservation. She is further an active member in the Icelandic Youth Environmentalist Association.

**Fayrouz Nouh** is a PhD candidate at the University of Iceland, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics. Fayrouz comes from Syria, and she moved to Iceland in 2016. She has a B.A. degree in Psychology from Damascus University in Syria. She finished her Master of Arts in Social Sciences faculty, School of Humanities and Social Science at the University of Akureyri in 2020.



**Signý Óskarsdóttir** is the owner of Creatrix ehf. a consulting company specialised in project management and support in the field of education, culture, and innovation. Signý has led and initiated various development projects in cooperation with institutions, municipalities and educational centres. Signý has an MA degree in cultural management and is a yoga teacher. She has worked as an administrator and teacher at primary school, upper secondary school and at university level. She has experience and knowledge in strategy and policy making, quality management and human resource management. Signý also has experience with foreign cooperation and workplace training.



## District 13 Bylaws

### **Article 17. Delegates:**

*Number of club members as of 1 June in odd years decides the number of the club's delegates. The number of club members is the number of members for whom the club has paid ZI and District dues for the Zonta year starting 1 June in odd years.*

*Each club in good standing is entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. If the membership exceeds 30 the club is entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates, if the membership exceeds 60, the club is entitled to three (3) delegates and three (3) alternates*

*Clubs with more than one delegate may decide to send only one delegate who may carry all the club votes. If a club cannot send a delegate, it may give proxy to another club's delegate. The proxy comprises all club votes.*

*No club may carry more than two proxies*

*A district board member shall not be a club delegate, an alternate or carry proxy.*

*A delegate shall not be the "ordstyrer"*

*The governor shall register all delegates, alternates and proxies no later than 30 days before the District Meeting*

*You find More information concerning District Conference/District Meeting in article 15 through 20 in District 13 Bylaws*

[\*\*Zonta International District 13 Bylaws \(With updates on article 4, from Convention in Nice 2016\)\*\*](#)

### **Business session 2**

Financial reports - [Financial reports](#)

Proposed budget - [Proposed budgets](#)

### **Business session 3**

**Slate of Candidates:**

**Candidates for District Board 2024-2026:**

**Governor: Rūta Jasionienė, ZC Alytus, Lithuania**

- Born in 1969 and works as an editor of books and a newspaper and teaches young journalists. She joined the Alytus Zonta Club in 2009 and has been active in her club and in committees of District 13. She has been a secretary of the District 13 Board and is presently Lt Governor of D13.

**Lt. Governor: Helle Larsen, ZC Aalborg, Denmark**

- Born in 1964. She is a lawyer in her own business. She joined Zonta in 2006 and has been active in her club and area in District 13 as the president Area Director of Area 1.

**Treasurer: Mette Kloster Blom, ZC Sønderborg, Denmark**

- Is an accountant and has been active in her club and been an Area treasurer. She was earlier elected as District 13 treasurer, but could not take the post due to uncontrollable causes.

**Treasurer – alternate: Elsebeth Lauridsen, ZC Copenhagen I, Denmark**

- Born in 1950. Teacher, adult education including volunteer work. She is active in her club.

**Auditor: Ragnhildur Traustadóttir, ZC Sunna, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland**

- Born in 1960. She is an accountant. She has been an Area treasurer.

**Auditor – alternate: Eli Wikse, ZC Egersund og omegn, Norway**

- Worked as a mail superintendent, retired.

## **Nominating Committee Candidates for 2024-2026**

### ***Jane Bordal, ZC Oslo Norway***

- Born in 1959. She works as a manager in the Norwegian Public Roads Administration. She has been active in her club from 2008 and the D13 Board. She served as a Governor and is now an Area Director for Norway.

### ***Rasa Birutiene, ZC Vilnius, Lithuania***

- Born in 1966. She is a lawyer and has worked as a Notary in Vilnius. She joined Zonta in 2004 and has been active in her club and the D13 Board as an Area Director for Lithuania and Lt. Governor 2020 - 2022.

### ***Elsemette Cassøe, ZC Aalborg, Denmark***

- Born in 1953. Law degree in 1977 from Århus University. Worked in the Prosecuting Service, Police and High court until 2017. Retired. Last job was chief of North Jutland Police. Member of Zonta since 2014. Club president 2019-2021. Member of District 13 UN Committee 2017-2019.

### ***Guðrún Halla Gunnarsdóttir, ZC Reykjavík, Iceland***

- Born in 1952. She has worked in regional and city planning at the State National Physical Planning Agency, recently retired. She has been active in Zonta for over 30 years at club, area and District level. She is presently Governor of D13.

### ***Siri Meling, ZC Egersund and omegn, Norway***

- Born in 1963. Works as Municipal director of Egersund Municipality. She has been a member of her club from the beginning in 1998 and as an Area Director for Norway and the D13 Board.

[Proposal from Area 01 on continuing STEM to be discussed and decided if District 13 will support this proposal.](#)

[Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend the Zonta International Bylaws Article XI Convention, SECTION 1. Purpose by adding the word "hybrid" before the word "biennial", and the words ", except in case of unforeseeable and unavoidable catastrophes" after the word "convention".](#)

[Proposal from Area 01. District 13 moves to amend Zonta International Bylaws Article XIII Committees by changing the number of SECTION 15 to SECTION 16 and adding a new SECTION 15](#)