



# ZONTA

CLUB OF  
QUABOAG VALLEY

MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

## ZONTA BOG NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018

### Important Dates for your Calendar

#### June 11 Dinner Meeting \*

Installation of officers  
Year in Review  
YWPA Scholarship  
ZI Convention Voting Q & A  
Zontian of the Biennium

**June 22 @ 6pm Campfire** at Debbie's home with the Women from Soldier On

**June 29-July 3 International Convention**  
Yokohama Japan



**Note:** The 2018 Convention will kick-off a two-year centennial celebration for Zonta International. A common action for Zontians world-wide is scheduled November 8, 2019 and a Centennial Anniversary Endowment Campaign is being launched. The celebration concludes at the 2020 Convention in Chicago. Lots more to come!

**August 13 @ pm Summer Gathering** at Trish's home.

**September 8 Golf Tournament**  
Cold Spring Golf Course

#### RSVP

\* 5:30 Social and 6:00 Dinner at the Ludlow Country Club, Ludlow MA  
Member reservations for the dinner meeting are assumed and payment of \$18 is expected **unless notification is made in advance.** Call/Text Trish 413-626-5656 or email [info@zontaqv.org](mailto:info@zontaqv.org) with guest count

#### Collecting for Good Causes:

Toiletries (Danielle) Magazines (Marge)  
Gently used adult and children's books,  
puzzles and yarn (Debbie)



Dear ZQV Members and Friends:

Heartfelt thanks go out to donors and guests who made the 10th Silent "no more!" Auction on May 7th a resounding success. The auction raised awareness and over \$7000 funds this year for projects aimed at stopping violence against women and children; enhancing programming for young mothers at Roca Inc.; and preserving dignity and quality of life for women veterans. Please show support to donor businesses for their generosity: [zontaqv.org/silent-nomore-auction-heroes](http://zontaqv.org/silent-nomore-auction-heroes). Congratulations to the winners of over 100 auction items. Be proud of the difference all of you are making locally and globally by supporting this annual event.



At our meeting on June 11th we will install officers for the 2018-2020 biennium, and mark the beginning of a two-year celebration of ZI's Centennial anniversary. Committee Chairs will be providing their year-end reports and Shanique will share how she is preparing to represent us at the 2018 Convention in Japan. We will also be voting for the Zontian of the Biennium for the Quaboag Valley Club—the award recipient will be honored with a \$100 gift that will be donated in her name to the ZIF Fund of her choice. You might consider such factors as enthusiasm for our mission, participation in club events and fundraisers, committee work, leadership roles, longevity and other criteria important to the work of the club.

As I wind down my tenure as President, four highlights stand out for me. 1. Teamwork—each of you brought your "A game" to the forefront; your attitude and hard work helped us to pull off a year of amazing accomplishments for a small club! 2. Momentum—we have piqued interest among the many guests who were eager to work on our projects this year. I hope we can capitalize on that enthusiasm to grow this club in the new biennium. 3. Impact of our Signature Project—we have made a lasting impression on the women of Soldier On by being there for them month after month for the last several years—they treasure our personal attention as well as financial support. Thank you to everyone who took lead on an event and for everyone who participated in them in the past year. Please be thinking about the types of activities that you would like to participate in with the ladies going forward. 4. Leadership—we are all leaders of this club and many of us have stepped up to take leadership roles in the District and on the International level. As Area 2 Director for the upcoming biennium, I will join Pam Albertson on the District Board.

Thank you one and all for your dedication!

Mary Knight  
President



#### Birthday wishes:

Mary Ann Rubis 6/15  
Marge Cavanaugh 8/27  
Janet DaSilva 8/29



2018 Womanhood Program graduates joined by Marge, Debbie and Gina Sanderson on May 22.

### The Womanhood Program & Digital Storytelling

At the April dinner meeting, Mary introduced Gina Sanderson, a Probation Officer with the Eastern Hampshire District Court and Dr. Aline Gubrium, a facilitator of digital story telling.

Gina spoke first and explained what the Womanhood Program is and that it serves women in various stages of recovery. The objective of the program is to help women achieve a normal, productive, drug free life. The program runs twice a year for ten weeks. There is a formal graduation ceremony at the end of the program which brings the women full circle from interfacing with the police, judges, and probation officers as a criminal to interfacing with them as positive reinforcements to their drug free life. Sixty-two women

have graduated over the past three years. Gina explained that she would like to be able to offer an enhanced version of the program which would include digital story telling.

Aline explained that the objective of the digital story telling piece is to add a two to three minute video that the women will produce telling of a moment in their lives that is significant to them. It will add on a four week module to the Womanhood Program and the program will become Womanhood Plus. Aline will work with no more than ten women at a time, guiding them through prompts to help them think and talk about an important moment in their lives. The program will be multi-dimensional consisting of written portions, visual portions, and audio portions. The women will use laptop computers, some donated by Zonta, to put together their video story. At the end of the program, there will be a formal screening of the videos, with the permission of the women. At the conclusion of Aline's presentation, Debbie Wood presented her with a check from our club toward the purchase of laptop computers.

**Thank you note:** Dear Members of Zonta, Aline and I were finally able to purchase the two laptops to be utilized in our digital storytelling sessions Thank you all for the opportunity to speak at the meeting, for your generous donation and for ensuring a presence at the graduation! Love, Gina & Aline

### Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley District I, Area II, Charter 1317 of Zonta International 2017—2018

- President:** Mary Knight
- Vice President:** Patricia Pupek
- Treasurer:** Joanne Turner-Chiacchia
- Secretary:** Kristin Goold
- Directors:** Debbie Wood  
Dana Burton  
Lisa Sedelow

**Website:** [www.zontaqv.org](http://www.zontaqv.org)

### Committee Chairs 2017—2018

- Finance & Audit Chair:** Pam Albertson
- Membership Chair:** Patricia Pupek
- PR /Communication Chair:** Mary Knight
- Advocacy/UN Chair:** Dana Burton
- Service Chair:** Debra Wood
- Scholarships Chair:** Dana Burton
- Poinsettia Fundraiser Chair:** Liz Reeves
- Golf Fundraiser Chair:** Debra Wood
- Auction Fundraiser Chairs:**  
Patricia Pupek and Dianne Kidd
- Archives Chair:** Marge Cavanaugh
- Nominating:** Pam Albertson, Liz Reeves,  
Marge Cavanaugh

Sometimes the strength within you is not a big fiery flame for all to see; it is just a tiny spark that whispers ever so softly "You got this. Keep going."



## April 9, 2018 Zonta of Quaboag Valley Dinner Meeting

### Ludlow Country Club

**Present:** Pam Albertson, Dana Burton, Marge Cavanaugh, Kris Goold, Mary Knight, Patti Matthieu, Danielle Petrangelo, Trish Pupek, Liz Reeves, Mary Ann Rubis, Shanique Spalding, Joanne Turner Chiacchia, Sue Williams, Debbie Wood

**Not Present:** BJ Bourdon, Janet Da Silva, Tina Gianasso, Dianne Kidd, Lisa Sedelow, Andrea Bordenca

**Guests:** Chris Gerl, Dr. Aline Gubrium, Kathy Picard, Liz Rivera, Regina Sanderson

President Mary Knight called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM. Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then led the group in the Zonta Blessing. People introduced themselves table by table and then proceeded to the buffet.

### Announcements

**Marge Cavanaugh** announced that a fund raiser for the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force will be held at the Steaming Tender Restaurant in Palmer on May 3 from 11:00 AM until 8:00 PM to raise funds for the new women's shelter in Palmer.

**Kathy Picard** told the group that she will be presenting on April 30 at Ludlow High School in a program aimed at preventing sexual abuse.

**Mary Ann Rubis**, the Foundation Ambassador, gave an update on donations to the Foundation. Mary Ann reported that the goal is to have 100% of each club's members in the District donate to Zonta International Foundation. Our club has been a leader in doing this and currently is at 63%. Mary Ann has donation forms with her for those interested in giving this evening. She said that members may donate on line as well.

**Gina Sanderson and Dr. Aline Gubrium joined us to share info about the Womanhood Program & Digital Storytelling.** See summary of that presentation on page 2 of this issue of the Bog newsletter..

### Business Meeting:

**Minutes:** The minutes for the March meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joanne reported that she had emailed the Treasurer's Report and that there had been no questions. The report was approved for audit. Joanne also said that she had sent the due's invoice to everyone and explained that dues must be paid by May 1 in order to meet the reporting deadline to District. In addition, Joanne asked everyone to check the accuracy of their contact information on the sheets going around the room; corrections need to be sent to ZI with dues payment.

**ZI Convention Update and Delegate Selection:** Mary announced that three members are going to convention: Mary Ann, Shanique, and Danielle. Mary said that she received an information package from ZI on matters that will be brought up at convention and that she will give that to the delegate and alternate. Mary explained that the delegate has certain obligations to the club and they include attending all the business meetings, being knowledgeable of what is happening at the meetings, and presenting a summary to the club of the convention. The delegate will receive up to \$500 towards registration from the club. Shanique volunteered to be the delegate and Danielle volunteered to be the alternate. The club voted in favor of both.

### Committee Reports:

**Membership:** Trish Pupek thanked everyone for coming and explained that a variety of membership materials are available for those who are interested in learning more about Zonta. Trish told the audience that the 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Silent no more Auction" will be held on May 7. She explained how the event has grown over the years and invited everyone to attend and spread the word to friends and family. Trish stressed the need for high quality items for the auction and requested that members check their items for expiration dates and for new or nearly new condition. Trish asked members to email her with baskets or gift cards they have for the auction as well as emailing Mary as she will compile the spreadsheet of all items.

Two basket wrapping "parties" will be held with one about two weeks before the auction and another about one week before. Mary will host one at her home and is looking for a volunteer for the second one.

**Scholarship:** Dana Burton stated that the scholarship committee met and reviewed nine applications for the YWPA award. The winner this year is Laura Davis from Palmer High School. Dana will send her a letter notifying her of her win and invite her to the June meeting to receive her award.

**Soldier On Women:** Mary announced that Dana will be doing an acupuncture session for the Soldier On Women this month and that they will be invited to the auction in May.

**Golf Tournament:** Debbie Wood announced that the 24th annual tournament will be held at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown on September 8. She has registration forms and sponsorship forms available and will bring both to the June meeting. Debbie reminded members to be thinking of items for the prize table. She said that gift cards are appreciated and suggested they be in the amount of \$25.

**Area 2 Spring Workshop:** Mary referred everyone to the back of the agenda for information about the Spring Workshop. It is being held on Saturday, May 5 at the Clarion Hotel in West Springfield.

The cost is \$35 or \$30 for those attending for the first time. Registration is available on line. She encouraged everyone to attend.

**Centennial Anniversary of ZI over 2 Years:** Mary announced that the kick-off for the celebration will take place at Convention. November 8, 2019, will be a common day of celebration for all Zonta clubs around the world. Every club should determine what they will do. District will have a committee working on the celebration and is looking for five people to be on the committee. The International Convention in 2020 will be in Chicago making it feasible for many of us to attend. Mary referred everyone to the agenda for more information about the anniversary.

**Guest Raffle:** Dr. Aline Gubrium won the guest raffle and Marge Cavanaugh won the second raffle this evening.

**Closing:** Mary adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Goold, Secretary



**IT'S TIME TO PROTECT OUR GIRLS**

Several places in the USA, including the state of Massachusetts, allows girls as young as 12 to get married in "exceptional circumstances" with the consent of a judge. Representative Kay Khan spoke at the Fall Conference in the Berkshires and encouraged us to take action to change that reality. At this date, there still has been no progress in getting this legislation out of committee. Please consider sending the following message to your district legislators.

To the Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

Almost 1200 Children as young as 14 were married in Massachusetts between 2000-2014. 84% were young girls wed to adult men, according to Rep. Kay Khan. I am asking for your support of legislation H.2310 and S.785, to make 18 the legal age for marriage in Massachusetts, like most of the country and world.

It's not just about a child's state of mind--minors are not protected by adult laws, even if married. They lack rights that can trap them in bad situations, without ability to get out.

As a member of the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, I ask that you do all in your power to move this issue out of the Judiciary Committee to be voted on this session. Zontians work to empower women through service and advocacy and I ask you to join us in protecting our girls.

Sincerely,

**Resources:** Enter your county to search for contact info on legislators for your district.

<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Members/House>  
<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Members/Senate>

The letter above can be copied and pasted from the following page: [http://zontaqv.org/child\\_marriage/](http://zontaqv.org/child_marriage/)

**Shanique Spalding, our delegate to Convention, will be open to our input at the June meeting on four major areas of business to be voted on in Japan. You are encouraged to review the materials at [membership.zonta.org/Tools/Membership-Tools/Club-Mailing](http://membership.zonta.org/Tools/Membership-Tools/Club-Mailing)**

**Elections—Slate of Candidates/Bios**  
In addition to reviewing the backgrounds on the nominated Officers, Directors and International Nominating Committee Members, Shanique will hear candidate presentations and attend a "Meet the Candidates" session to become informed and develop a qualified opinion. We cannot direct her how to vote.

**Proposed Amendments & Resolutions**  
Over 40 proposed amendments to the bylaws and 4 resolutions will be voted on at convention. The wide variety of changes are outlined in the document "*REPORT TO CONVENTION OF THE 2016-2018 ZONTA INTERNATIONAL BYLAWS AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE*", along with rationale for consideration and recommendation for adoption by the Zonta International Board. Definitely worth skimming to see what the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, and District proposals have focused on for 2018-2020.

**Proposed Biennial Goals**  
Goal 1 Maximize our impact through service and advocacy initiatives and educational programs that empower women and girls.  
Goal 2 Strengthen our resources to support our mission.  
Goal 3 Enhance our profile around the world through our centennial anniversary activities.

**Proposed \$5M for Service Projects and Programs**  
Let Us Learn Madagascar 1,000,000  
Eid bi Eid (Hand in Hand) Jordan 1,000,000  
ZISVAW Ending Child Marriage 2,000,000  
Amelia Earhart Fellowships 600,000  
JMK Women in Business Scholarships 100,000  
Young Women in Public Affairs Awards 100,000  
Rose Fund 200,000

**2018-2020 ZI and ZIF Budgets**  
While delegates will vote on the proposed biennial goals and projects, the ZI and ZIF Boards have already approved the budget. Note: There is a request for the membership to consider a membership dues increase and an increase in the new member fee.

## Committee Reports for 2017-2018

### Nominating Committee—Marjorie Cavanaugh, Pam Albertson, Liz Reeves

We proposed and received a unanimous approval on the following slate of officers for 2018-2020:

Pat Pupek, President ~ Dana Burton, Vice President ~ Shanique Spalding, Secretary ~ Joanne Turner-Chiacchi, Treasurer

Board Members: Andrea Bordenca, Danielle Petrangol.

The 2018-2020 Nominating Committee: Marjorie Cavanaugh, Pam Albertson, Liz Reeves

### Membership—Trish Pupek, Chairman

We have seen great interest in our club this past year, as a result of our wonderful programming, active outreach by club members and publicity of our special events. We have also enhanced membership materials to better educate guests about our mission and are exploring joint ventures with other Zonta clubs and like-minded organizations like the Girl Scouts and women-focused non-profits to expand our reach. We currently have two individuals who are ready to serve, and a few other women who are considering membership.

### Service Committee—Debbie Wood, Chairman

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has been generous this past year, disbursing over \$7000 to the following:

YWPA and Jane M. Klausman Scholarships, District Auction, Zonta International Foundation, Quaboag Hills Community Coalition (Founder's Day), International Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Food pantries, Women's Correctional Center (gift cards, supplies, yarn and used books and puzzles), Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force for Yellow Dress performance, Soldier On activities including holiday gifts and dinners, Womanhood Program for purchase of laptops, American Legion for Girls State, Roca Program for Young Mothers, Kathy Picard for distribution of her book, donation of items for the Period Project, WCC and Soldier On, Toiletries for shelters, and Magazines for Wing Memorial Hospital. ***Please bring books, puzzles, yarn to the June meeting for WCC delivery.***

### Educational Awards—Dana Burton, Chairman

\$1000 awards were given out to two deserving applicants:

2017 Young Women in Public Affairs (YWPA) Awarded to **Camier Hall** of Tantasqua Regional High School

2017 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship winner: **Christina Rivera**

### Golf Tournament Committee—Debbie Wood, Chairman

Thanks to the generosity of members who donated pastries, snacks, desserts, prizes and gift certificates and our sponsors the 23rd Annual Golf Tournament realized a profit of \$4000 for the tournament held on September 9th 2017 at the Cold Spring Country Club. Our 24th tournament will be held on September 8, 2018 at the same location, so mark your calendars!

We have received several checks from sponsors but some are outstanding and we can always use more. Sponsor forms will be available at our June meeting and are posted at [www.zontaqv.org/golf](http://www.zontaqv.org/golf) as well.

It is not too early to start collecting prizes as we award them to all players. Items and gift certificates with a \$25 value are appreciated. If you have smaller items we will combine them with others. I will have a list of possible gift certificates to consider at the June meeting along with a task list of ways you can help out on the day of the tournament.

Lastly we need players to make our tournament successful so please encourage players at all levels to join us for a day of fun for a good cause. Player registration forms are also available at [www.zontaqv.org/golf](http://www.zontaqv.org/golf).

### Poinsettia Fundraiser—Liz Reeves, Chairman

Another successful fundraiser this year. It came off very smoothly thanks to many of our members and our customers' participation. Our profits were \$1803.75 this year. Not quite as much as 2016 but close (\$1831.00). Thanks again to our members and all of our customers! We look forward to another successful fundraiser in 2018.

### Silent "no more!" Auction—Dianne Kidd, Trish Pupek, Co-chairmen

Our Silent Auction resulted in a profit of \$7,221. Isn't it amazing what our Club can accomplish! We will be presenting checks in the amount of \$2,407 to each of the following - Zonta International Foundation, ROCA and Soldier On, Women's Programs.

### Advocacy—Dana Burton, Mary Knight

We kept members and the public abreast of issues around gender inequality and violence against women (Zonta Says No); we expanded the Period Project throughout Western MA; we introduced Lucy Stone to a new generation; and we highlighted International Service, ZISVAW projects, and women-centered current events in our newsletter and on Facebook.

## Laura Davis 2018 YWPA Winner

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley would like to announce the 2018 Young Women In Public Affairs Scholarship recipient, Laura Davis!

Laura is a senior at Palmer High School. While attending high school Laura has participated in track and field, cross country, As Schools Match Wits, and Lifesmarts. Outside of high school she has been a member of Nomads for Hope, an organization which travels to impoverished areas both in the US and internationally to improve conditions for those not able to afford them otherwise. She has traveled to Native American reservations in Arizona, Montana, and New Mexico, and also Ecuador. She will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall and wants to major in chemical engineering. She plans on joining the track and field team there and is also interested in joining an Engineers without Borders group. Her ideal career is one where she can work to solve environmental issues.

Laura is unable to attend our June meeting so Marge will present her the \$1000 check and a yellow rose at the Palmer High School awards night. Congratulations!



## Two New Members Proposed

These women will look very familiar! Once approved by Quaboag Club membership, they will be inducted at our September meeting

### Linda Tsoumas



Linda is a skilled physical therapist with a BS in Physical Therapy, MS in Exercise Science and EdD in Educational Leadership; she has 30+ years experience in teaching and leading academic programs in physical therapy. Having recently retired, she is now using that considerable history of working in the higher education industry as an Educational Consultant, skilled in program evaluation, academic advising, literature reviews, instructional design, and curriculum development. She lives in Belchertown, served on the town's School Board and is enthusiastic about being part of our organization.

### Nancy Ayers



Nancy received an Associate in Science degree with a major in Dental Hygiene from Westbrook College, and was awarded a BA in Liberal Arts from Bay Path University. She worked as a dental hygienist for 37 years, and then as a special needs paraprofessional in Hampden and Wilbraham for seven years before retiring. She is the sister of Zontian Dianne Kidd and a familiar face at our Silent Auctions and other special events.

**Spring Ahead ~ Get Inspired** Area 2 Workshop held Saturday, May 5, 2018 at the Clarion Hotel, West Springfield. A great number of interesting and educational topics were covered during this year's event. The handouts, PowerPoints and video's will be available shortly at [zontadistrict1.org](http://zontadistrict1.org). Below is an outline of the agenda:

**Nurturing Your Club through Recruitment & Retention**—Governor Joanne Puopolo discussed best practices and tips on creating a happy club life. Great tools available for our club: [membership.zonta.org/Tools/Global-Membership-Drive](http://membership.zonta.org/Tools/Global-Membership-Drive)

**Growing the HeForShe Movement**— Millie Blum introduced this UN Women initiative with a video and spoke about ZI's intent to provide members with tools and resources to engage men and boys in our quest for gender equality. Each club is encouraged to create an action plan on how to promote #Heforshe in its communities.

**UN Women, Little Stones Update**— Lynn Goodhue, Donna Sroka, and Audrey Millgate shared their amazing experiences at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 62) in New York City in March.

**Green Thumb Tips on Philanthropy**—Judith Luddy identified practical ideas for individuals of any means to contribute to causes they truly care about.

**Advocacy** - Sandy Carroll and Vickie Palardy shared statistics and advocacy ideas on weeding out inequality and promoting a bill to end child marriage in Massachusetts

**Enriching the Zonta Experience through Leadership**—Millie Blum spoke of the many ways you can hone your leadership skills in Zonta - including self-development courses at [membership.zonta.org/Tools/Leadership-Development-Tools](http://membership.zonta.org/Tools/Leadership-Development-Tools)

**Centennial Project** —Joanne Puopolo shared key dates, goals and resources being developed to help us celebrate ZI's 100 years at the club, district and international level. District info will be posted at [100.zontadistrict1.org/](http://100.zontadistrict1.org/)

**We ended the day by Harvesting the Best Ideas - takeaways and Q & A's.** A chock-filled day indeed!

# THE ZONTA CLUBS OF DISTRICT 1, AREA 2 ARE...

Located in Berkshire County, Northampton, Quaboag Valley, and Springfield in Massachusetts

Dedicated to local service by collaborating with Girls Inc.; Christmas for Kids; Dress for Success; Top Floor Learning at the Palmer Library; HelpUsKids; Domestic Violence Shelters in Springfield, Holyoke and Northampton; Tapestry Health; Domestic Violence Taskforces in the Hilltowns, Ware and Palmer; Big Brothers/Big Sisters; Habitat for Humanity; Soldier On Women Veterans program; Roots, Turners Fall; Community Action, Greenfield; Care Center, Holyoke; Cancer Center, Northampton; Women's Correctional Facility, Chicopee; Survival Centers, Amherst and Northampton; Center for Human Development (CHD), Ware and Springfield; Valley Human Services, Ware; and Western Mass YWCA.

Dedicated to international service by donating 1/3 of fundraising profits to ZIF and collaborating with the Haitian Health Foundation, the Ghana Health Mission, Ghana Library, the nursing program at Ghana University, Tanzania Nursing Scholarship Program, etc.

Concerned about women at risk within their communities, Clubs have hosted conferences that spread the word about domestic violence in diverse settings and conducted advocacy efforts through various media. Members donate toiletries to area shelters and clubs have sponsored Fill a Bag and Period Project initiatives.

Engaged in raising funds by various means, such as selling poinsettia plants and wreaths, wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble, hosting an annual golf tournament, and holding auctions.

Proud to support local high school, college, and non-traditional students by awarding thousands of dollars in scholarships.

Involved in learning and sharing the objects of Zonta by attending or sending representatives to Area Workshops, District Conferences, North America Inter-District Meetings, Commission on the Status of Women sessions at the United Nations, and International Conventions

## Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015. Zonta International supports all the goals; however, for the next two years, we are focusing our efforts on Goal No. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

### PROGRESS OF GOAL 5 IN 2017

Gender inequality persists worldwide, depriving women and girls of their basic rights and opportunities. Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will require more vigorous efforts, including legal frameworks, to counter deeply rooted gender-based discrimination that often results from patriarchal attitudes and related social norms.

**On the basis of data from 2005 to 2016 for 87 countries**, 19 per cent of women between 15 and 49 years of age said they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey. In the most extreme cases, such violence can lead to death. In 2012, almost half of all women who were victims of intentional homicide worldwide were killed by an intimate partner or family member, compared to 6 per cent of male victims.

**Child marriage is declining, but not fast enough.** Around 2000, nearly 1 in 3 women between 20 and 24 years of age reported that they were married before 18 years of age. Around 2015, the ratio was just over 1 in 4. The decline is driven by an even steeper reduction in the marriage rate among girls under 15 years of age during that period.

**The harmful practice of female genital mutilation/cutting has declined** by 24 per cent since around 2000. Nevertheless, prevalence remains high in some of the 30 countries with representative data. In those countries, survey data from around 2015 indicate that more than 1 in 3 girls between 15 and 19 years of age have undergone the procedure compared to nearly 1 in 2 girls around 2000.

**The average amount of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work is more than threefold higher for women than men**, according to survey data from 83 countries and areas. Available data indicate that time spent on domestic chores accounts for a large proportion of the gender gap in unpaid work.

**Globally, women's participation in single or lower houses of national parliaments reached 23.4 per cent in 2017**, just 10 percentage points higher than in 2000. Such slow progress suggests that stronger political commitment and more ambitious measures and quotas are needed to boost women's political participation and empowerment.

**Women are still underrepresented in managerial positions.** In the majority of the 67 countries with data from 2009 to 2015, fewer than a third of senior- and middle-management positions were held by women.

**Just over half (52 per cent) of women between 15 and 49 years of age who are married or in union make their own decisions about consensual sexual relations and use of contraceptives and health services.** That statistic is based on available data from around 2012 for 45 countries, 43 of which are in developing regions.

Source: Report of the Secretary-General, "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals", E/2017/66