



**ZONTA**

**CLUB OF  
CEBU II**

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**MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL**

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**EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY**

**BIENNIUM 2020-2022**

**EMPOWERED, ENABLED, EMBOLDENED**

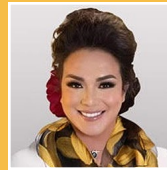
**BIENNIUM 2020-2022**

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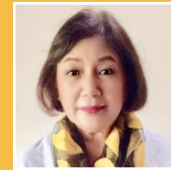
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# Zonta Cebu II and Mandaue City Community Pantry

“Give What you Can and Take only  
What you Need”



Zonta Club of Cebu II joined forces with the Mandaue City government, women NGOs and 52 club members as they each pooled resources to conduct one of the biggest community pantries in Mandaue City.



This Zonta community pantry was a service that provided food and other resources directly to locals and the disenfranchised members of the LGBTQ sector, who suffered from food insecurity and the lack of essential supplies due to restricted mobility imposed by the pandemic. The community pantry operated on a trust system and encouraged donors to give what they could,

and recipients to take only as much as they needed. Tables were filled with canned goods, staples, fruits, vegetables, and sanitation essentials. The pantry was able to provide food and basic necessities for 300 households with at least 6 persons per family, hygiene kits for 800 people who were selected from the least privileged families in different villages of Mandaue City.



## Wheelchair Donation to Women with Disabilities in Remote Mountain Barangay

In a bid to help out impoverished residents who were mobility-impaired and those who could not afford medical attention, Zonta Club of Cebu II donated 15 wheelchairs to disabled women in the remote barangay of Pulang Bato, Talamban. Recipients of the wheelchairs enjoyed increased mobility, and will be able to live more meaningful lives, participate in income generating activities and gain self-esteem.

# Christmas Care Packs Distributed to Female Persons Deprived of Liberty at the Mandaue City Jail

The female detainees of the Mandaue City Jail did not have visitation privileges during the peak of COVID-19, with little or no contact with family and friends. Their inventory of hygiene products, clothes and other basic needs was sorely inadequate. The challenges of having the holidays during the pandemic reflect the wider challenges that institutions face this year. But the silver lining, these beneficiaries say, is the reliable generosity of donors and volunteers.

On 15 December, 12 members from the Zonta Club of Cebu II, visited the Female

Dormitory of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) of Mandaue City to distribute 200 Christmas care packages to the female wards, officers and staff who manage the institution. The care packages consisted of dignity kits, disinfectants, clothing, snacks, towels, slippers and other essential items. The care packages provided them with the things they needed and showed them that people think about them and care for their welfare as the project aimed to support female detainees facing extreme challenges related to the pandemic during the festive season.



## All-Purpose Notecards to Celebrate Women



In honor of National Women's Month in the Philippines, the Zonta Club of Cebu II curated all-purpose boxed notecards featuring 12 winning photographs from their "Celebrating Women's Resilience and Strength" photo competition.

The notecards celebrate the many unique perspectives and experiences that women contribute as key participants of

community-building and change-makers. The cards also applaud the varied and often under-recognized accomplishments of women as they influence, inspire and empower the lives of others.

The subjects of the photographs are simple, ordinary women who continue to be resilient, nurturing, and life-giving despite the challenges, barriers, and pressures they encounter.

# Hygiene and Dignity Kits for 200 Women Deprived of Liberty

In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and rights of all women – in particular those deprived of liberty – must be protected to assuage the limitations of their confinement. Women in prisons in Cebu are at high risk for COVID-19 infections. The pandemic, compounded by living in tight quarters, has exposed women in prison to various risks and vulnerabilities. Difficult enough, as it is in prison, life takes on a whole different dimension when one has no access to essential hygiene items to attend to basic needs.

Zonta Club of Cebu II delivered hygiene and dignity kits to 200 women deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the Mandaue City Jail-Female Dormitory to assist the government in supporting vulnerable women and girls affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Hygiene supplies are urgently needed among women in prisons, as inherent living conditions make managing personal hygiene difficult. Preserving dignity is essential to maintaining self-esteem and confidence,



Hygiene supplies are urgently needed among women in prisons, as inherent living conditions make managing personal hygiene difficult.

which is important to cope in stressful and potentially overwhelming humanitarian situations.

The dignity kits contained essential hygiene supplies, such as bath and laundry soap,

shampoo, towels, slippers and face masks, all packed inside Safe Spaces Advocacy Bags with visually appealing infographics designed to raise awareness against violence and the importance of maintaining safe spaces for everyone.

# Virtual Gathering of Z-Clubs “Caring for Your Well-Being”

On 16 October 2021, Zonta Club of Cebu II, teamed up with the USPF Golden Z Club and the Z Club Childlink High School Cebu to organize a virtual “Caring for Your Wellbeing” gathering of Z and Golden Z clubs in Area 3, District 17. The Caring for Your Wellbeing is a webinar to address the psychosocial and mental health difficulties among the local adolescents brought on by COVID-19 and lockdowns.

The club invited Karen Espiritu, a lifestyle coach and training facilitator, as a guest speaker. Karen enumerated areas in one’s life that need to be nurtured to achieve a sense of wellbeing, such as positive emotions, engagement, relationships, meaning, achievement and vitality. She also talked about intervention techniques to alleviate stress brought on by the pandemic and its lockdowns.

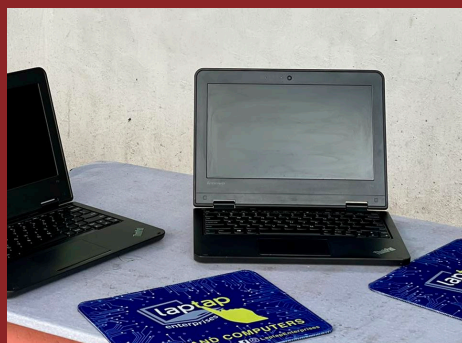
“All of us here, whatever age you’re at, have the ability to inspire. And at the end of the day, we want not just to languish but continue to flourish,” said Karen.

Karen stressed the importance of being mindful, keeping yourself busy, learning something new, building positive relationships and giving.





# Enhanced Prisoners' Support and Engagement Program



The pandemic has limited our social contact with one another, and this is especially true in prisons. The long periods of restriction and suspension of in-person visits have severely impacted prisoners' physical, emotional, and mental well-being. To help female detainees gain easier access to friends, family and legal representatives, Zonta Club of Cebu II, Philippines, expanded their Prisoner's Support and Engagement program by donating laptops, computers and data packages.

These donations will help the prisoners have "face-to-face" interactions with their legal representations and friends and families. The prison staff has reported to the club that the new technolog will alleviate the prisoners' homesickness and depression and help them reintegrate into society after they're released. Most importantly, the consistent online consultation with their legal representatives will ensure the prisoners' right to a speedy administration of justice.

# Advocacy Banners Celebrating Women

The club wanted to honor all women working to make a difference by creating advocacy banners. The banners featured the winning photographs from their "Celebrating Women's Resilience and Strength" Photo competition with uplifting and affirming messages in Cebuano. The photos showcased strong, intelligent, talented, and simply extraordinary women breaking the glass ceiling and rewriting the rules in the family, agriculture, business, academe, governance, finance and the community.

The club displayed the banners in government buildings, schools, police stations, city hospitals and social welfare offices across the 27 Barangays in Mandaue City.

To mark 8 March as International Women's Day, the Zonta Club of Cebu II, the Philippines, celebrated the achievements and contributions of women in different spheres who work towards building a society free of all gender biases, stereotypes, gender parity and discrimination.



## United Nations Day 2021 Highlights End to Child Marriage with Z-Club of Childlink

No Time to Lose: End Child Marriage Now! This was the theme of Zonta Club of Cebu II as it joined the world in the observance of United Nations Day 2021 on October 23, 2021.

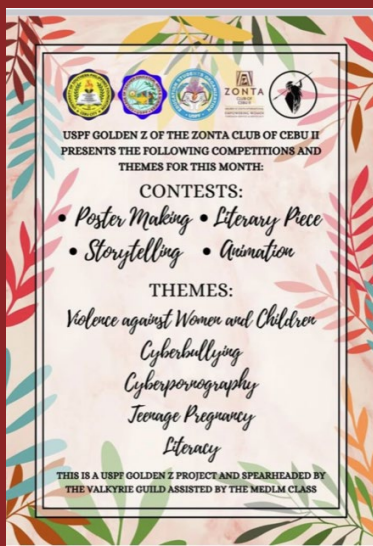
The online UN Day program was attended by members of Zonta Club of Cebu II, Z Club of Childlink, Golden Z Club of University of Southern Philippines Foundation, Zonta International District 17 Governor Chavali Pamela Osathanugrah, United Nations Committee Chairperson Georgitta Puyat and Vice-Chairperson for Area 3 Esperanza Dacudao.

Students from the Z-Club of Childlink High School read 3 child bride stories that poignantly and heartbreakingly illustrated the devastating consequences of child, early and forced marriages.

Coupled with the data on child marriage, reported by Zonta Club of Cebu II members after each story, the tragedy wrought by child marriage impacts millions of girls driving deep the urgency of ending child marriage and there is No Time to Lose.

ZI District 17 UN Committee Chairperson, Georgitta Puyat, elaborated on Zonta's Voice in the UN based on a mutually beneficial partnership built over decades of shared roles and history. District 17 Governor Chavali Pamela Osathanugrah spoke about the global effort and the progress achieved in the past decade to end child marriage.

## Golden Z of USPF Organizes Digital Advocacy Video Competition



The Golden Z Club of the University of Southern Philippines (USPF) organized a Digital advocacy competition in four (4) categories: Poster-Making, Animation Videos, Storytelling and Literary Pieces on any of the following topics of their choice: Violence Against Women, Cyberbullying, Cyber Pornography, Teenage Pregnancy and the Importance of Literacy.

The judging panel was composed of members of Zonta Club of Cebu II. Cash prizes for the winners were donated by the mother club

The main benefit of digital media in education is that it can increase student engagement. In addition, it helps students work through difficult concepts with multiple resources. Digital instruction helps show difficult topics that are often hard to understand. When students use digital technology in a course, all the students in the classroom have the opportunity to hone those digital skills. The main implications of digital media in education is that, it gives teachers and

instructors the opportunity to engage in dialogue based on mutual respect and reciprocity.

Students and contest participants were engaged in research on the issues of Violence Against Women, Cyberbullying, Cyber Pornography, and Literacy.



## WALK FOR A CAUSE!

**3K** Say NO to Teenage Pregnancy  
**5K** End Child Marriage  
**10K** Break the Chain of Inequality and Abuse  
**15K** Stand Up Against Trafficking of Women and Children  
**21K** Say NO to Violence Against Women



## ZONTA VIRTUAL WALK FOR WOMEN

Zonta Club of Cebu II held its 1st VIRTUAL WALK FOR WOMEN, an outdoor activity that celebrated women and promoted gender equality, dignity and increase awareness that women's rights are human rights.

The Walk for Women (W4W) united over 600 people through a common goal - not just for health and wellness but more importantly, to "Create Safe Spaces for Everyone".

Held from November 25 to December 12, 2021 as a component activity of the annual Observance of 18-days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, the virtual walk-a-thon welcomed anyone who supports the causes of ending gender inequality, abuse and discrimination.

WALK FOR WOMEN participants were provided access to podcasts and Tedtalks that discussed women's issues such as: Say NO to Teenage Pregnancy, End Child Marriage, Break the Chain of Inequality and Abuse, Stand Up Against Trafficking of Women and Children, Say NO to Violence Against Women.



# “Tabang Olango”

Zonta Club of Cebu II responds to the immediate survival needs and shelter rehabilitation of residents on Olango Island after Typhoon Odette, with assistance and support from Sister Clubs



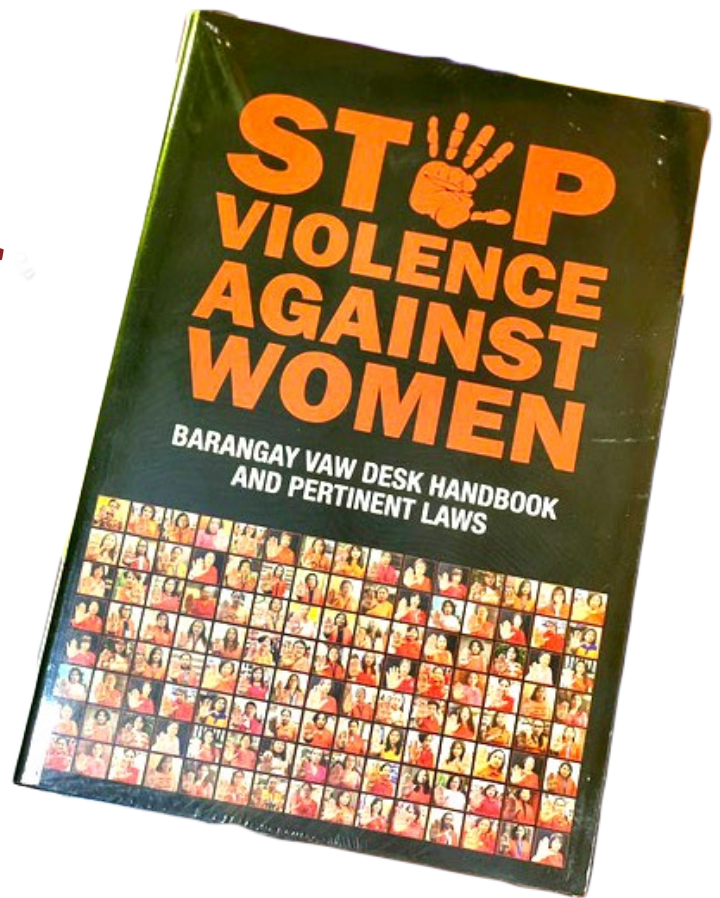
On 16 December, the typhoon raged through the central region of the Philippines, causing decimation to the majority of Cebu City, especially to Mactan and Olango Island. Olango Island is a small coral reef island with a population of 30,000 whose primary source of livelihood is fishing and tourism. With the typhoon's destruction in the area, there was massive infrastructure damage to homes, government buildings, power lines and the port. The saltwater intrusion and shortage of freshwater caused the displacement of people and the loss of livelihood options. The island is a 30-minute boat ride from Mactan, and it has been a beneficiary of

the club's Alimbukad Family Early Literacy reading program for more than eight years now. Club members would cross the channel quarterly to mentor and capacitate the local parents to engage in literacy activities with their children.

Sadly, the club received dire reports from Olango Island's mayor, where the recent typhoon destroyed almost all the homes and establishments. More than 150 of the Alimbukad families and the 24 teachers lost their homes and possessions. Along with 20,000 other residents, they are now in an evacuation center.

To aid the community and bolstered by the overwhelming support from sister clubs and sister Zontians, the club brought over essential supplies such as 2,200 liters of distilled water, 1,100 kilos of rice, 880 canned goods and 2,650 packs of coffee. On a second visit, they also provided 2,000 pieces of galvanized iron corrugated sheets, nails, screws and other roofing materials to enable the residents to begin rebuilding their homes. During the final visit to the island club members distributed 750 pieces of marine plywood to complete the rehabilitation of damaged houses.

# 800 VAW DESK HANDBOOKS for 27 Barangays in Mandaue City



On 8 March, the club reprinted 800 copies of this handbook and distributed these to all the 27 barangays, 45 elementary and high schools, as well as to the social workers, Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Persons, Women's Desk Officers in every police precinct, staff and lawyers of the Cebu Prosecutor's Office and City Legislators of Mandaue City, Cebu Province.

On 14 August 2009, Philippines Republic Act No. 9710, also known as the Magna Carta of Women (MCW), was signed into law to recognize, protect and uphold the rights of women and address issues of discrimination against them.

To achieve its purpose, one of its provisions is the creation of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk in every barangay, the smallest level of administrative division of villages and towns in the country. This is where women who experience physical, psychological and sexual abuse can go to seek assistance and flee from the violence inflicted on them. A VAW Desk is a physical facility that addresses VAW cases in a manner that is gender sensitive. Managed by a person assigned by the Barangay Captain, it is where the victim-survivor can immediately go to seek help.

The Zonta Club of Cebu II, Philippines, believes that violence against women is an issue that we must face squarely and something that we should prepare our local government units (LGUs) to deal with, both in preventing the occurrence of such cases and in protecting our women from the perpetrators of such acts.

To raise the knowledge and capacity of the barangays and their designated officials and staff on the nuances and processes of the law as well as the detailed steps on the establishment and operationalization of their respective VAW Desk, the Barangay VAW Desk Handbook was developed by the Philippine Commission on Women.

On 8 March, the club reprinted 800 copies of this handbook and distributed these to all

the 27 barangays, 45 elementary and high schools, as well as to the social workers, Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Persons, Women's Desk Officers in every police precinct, staff and lawyers of the Cebu Prosecutor's Office and City Legislators of Mandaue City, Cebu Province.

This handbook will undoubtedly help in raising the knowledge and capacity of the barangays and their designated officials and staff on the nuances and processes of the law as well as the detailed steps on the establishment and operationalization of their respective VAW Desk, thereby enabling them to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties and responsibilities as defenders and protectors of women's rights.



**WOMEN UNITE**  
Advocacy Song on Spotify and YouTube  
(Click the image to play on spotify)

To mark the observance of the 16-day global campaign to end violence against women, the Zonta Club of Cebu II, the Philippines, released an advocacy anthem called Women Unite: The Time is Ours on Spotify and YouTube.

The club commissioned and now owns the anthem. It aims to bring women together and declare that the time is up for the system of violence, for the stigma and silence, for the cycle of apathy and abuse.

The song is composed by multi-awarded, Cebu-based songwriter, Jude Gitamondoc, musically arranged by Cebuano Tony Alfonso with vocals by stage actress Ivy Gallur.

**WOMEN AT THE CORE OF THE PANDEMIC: Celebrating their Resilience and Strength**  
A PHOTO COMPETITION



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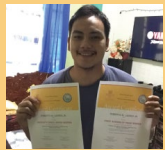


◀ **GRAND CHAMPION**  
**Pag-Aarugang Walang Kapantay**  
Dionisio C. Salvador

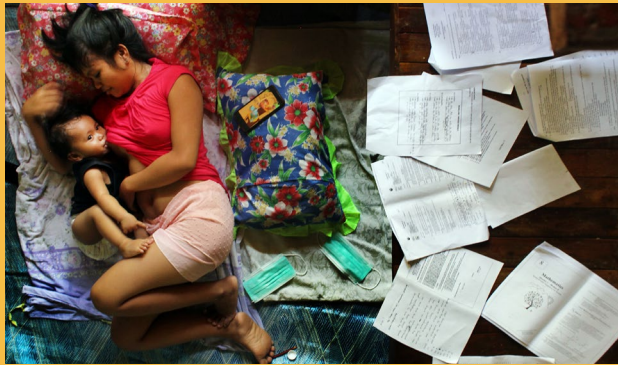


**Pag-Aarugang Walang Kapantay.**

The resilience and will of a mother to survive and provide for her child in the midst of the pandemic. Here is a photo of a buko juice and chichirya vendor teaching her child.



**FIRST RUNNER UP & PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**  
2n1  
Roberto M. Ladres Jr.

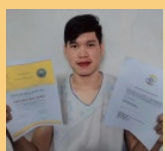


▲ **SECOND RUNNER UP**  
**Mi Amore**  
Klienne M. Eco

◀ **CONSOLATION PRIZES**

- One step backward, two steps forward
- Drawing Therapy

Danilo O. Victoriano Jr.



**EARLY BIRD AWARD**  
**The Smile of Resilient**  
Kevin Lester B. Martinez



**CONTEST WINNERS**

**GRAND CHAMPION**  
**Pag-Aarugang Walang Kapantay**  
Dionisio C. Salvador

**FIRST RUNNER UP**  
2n1  
Roberto M. Ladres Jr.

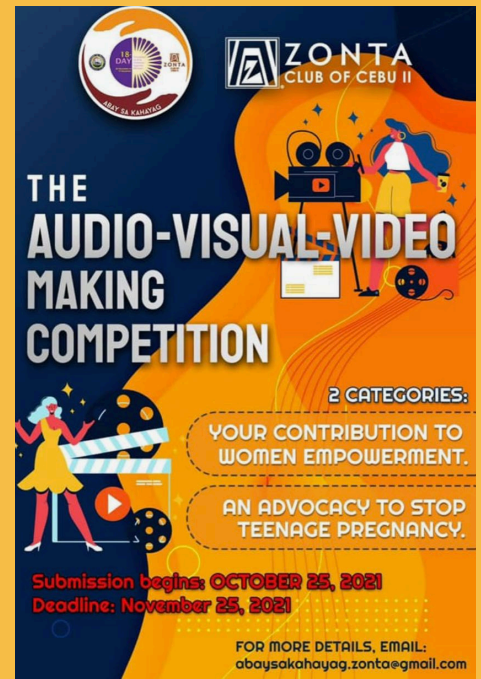
**SECOND RUNNER UP**  
**Mi Amore**  
Klienne M. Eco

**CONSOLATION PRIZE**  
One step backward, two steps forward  
Danilo O. Victoriano Jr.  
**Drawing Therapy**  
Danilo O. Victoriano Jr.

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD**  
2n1  
Roberto M. Ladres Jr.

**EARLY BIRD AWARD**  
**The Smile of Resilient**  
Klienne M. Eco

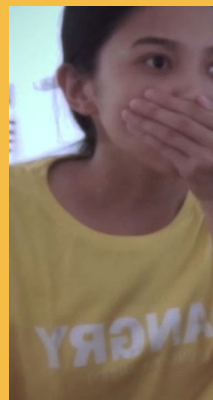
# Zonta Club of Cebu II sponsors Audio-Visual/Short Film Competition



## To Spread Awareness of the Perils of Teenage Pregnancy



The Zonta Club of Cebu II, Philippines, launched an Audio-Visual Competition to raise awareness on the dangers of teenage pregnancy, which is a consequence of early, child and forced marriages. Globally, millions of women and girls are affected by this issue and today, one in five girls are married off before the age of 18. The competition was organized to combat this problem and focus the attention of young adolescents on the dangers of teenage pregnancy. They were inspired by short videos found on social media platforms



such as TikTok, Instagram stories and YouTube shorts. The competition was open to all amateur or professional film makers and was judged by a panel of Cebuano filmmakers and women and children advocates on the basis of theme integration, creativity and content, production value and viewer impact. The submitted entries presented a variety of factual, science-based film documentaries that spoke about the perils of adolescent early pregnancy designed to change the audience's mindset.

## Z-Club of Childlink produces Digital Video to Advocate Against Adolescent Pregnancy



The highlight of this year's UN Day Observance was the presentation of the digital video production of the song "Childhood, not Motherhood". This composition, by Grade 9 Z Club members, was the winner of the storyboard competition on early child marriage launched among the high school classes of Childlink High School during the school year 2020-2021. The song expresses the struggle girls go through to fight early marriage, their freedom to choose and be treated equally and their plea for help fight and end this bad dream.

As the high school students worked on the digital video it was necessary for them to read and research on the extent, causes, perils and disadvantages of adolescent pregnancy. The animated video is a useful tool to disseminate information using a social media platform that young people can relate to and are familiar with.

# 2021 18 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

With a Webinar on the History, Significance, Objectives Of The Awareness Campaign with DR. RHODORA BUCOY, former PCW Chairperson



The world needs to find its passion when 1 in 5 women say they have experienced violence in their life. (Source: United Nations and UNICEF)

It is with this passion that the Zonta Club of Cebu II launched 18 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women. Last November 25, 2021, hundreds of women raised their hands to call attention to the plight of women and girls around the world. Supported by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Cebu City Chapter and the City of Mandaue through the advocacy, “Abay sa Kahayag (Guiding Light)”, the event aims to extend a helping hand to victims of abuse and raise awareness about discrimination, gender inequality and women empowerment.

“We are all here to celebrate every woman on this planet especially now, during the

pandemic when millions of women and girls are facing heightened insecurity and violence”, Zontian Atty. Regal Oliva enthusiastically said in her opening statement.

A staunch supporter of women and President of Zonta Club of Cebu II, Petite Garcia adds, “The 18 days campaign to end violence against women and children marks its 30th year and is a call to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and to galvanize women from all backgrounds, women, and girls who are tired of being demeaned, diminished, and dominated. Let us not ask any woman or child to settle for less or to wait any longer. For THIS is our time and the time is NOW.”

In the launching, Congresswoman Emmarie Ouano-Dizon, Mayor Jonas C. Cortes and Councilor Cynthia Cinco-Remedio, gave their respective messages of support, while Senator Risa Hontiveros, Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, District 17’s Governor Chavali Pamela Osathanugrah from Zonta Club of Bangkok II Thailand, and Dr. Rhodora M. Bucoy were also present to impart their

A VAW FREE COMMUNITY STARTS WITH ME

knowledge on various women causes. Present as well in support of the event were District Lieutenant Governor Ofelia Bautista, Area 3 Director Terry Apistar, and Vice Area 3 Director Tess Chan.

Resource speaker Attorney Mylen Gonzales-Esquivel from the Children’s Legal Bureau, led a very engaging discussion on “Dissecting the Girls Not Brides Bill” and expounded on the need to PUSH for its enactment. The Philippines has a number of child protection laws, and yet, according to UNICEF, the country has the 12th highest absolute number of child brides in the world. The 1987 constitution highlights the vital role of the youth in nation-building and despite this provision, and other statutory laws enacted, none specifically address the issue of early marriage.

The Philippines is a signatory to a number of international instruments that promote and protect the rights of children. “For us to push for gender equality and empower all women and girls, there is a need to push for the enactment of the Girls not Brides Act”, Atty. Esquivel said.



# What Does Misogyny Look Like, and Why Should We Care?



DR. MARBY VILLACERAN



11.30.2020 | 4PM | via ZOOM



Last November 30, 2021, the Zonta Club of Cebu II celebrated the 5th Day of its 18 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women with a webinar that tackled “What Does Misogyny Look Like and Why Should We Care?”.

The audience was welcomed by Zontian Marietta Malinao with an empowering statement on the dangers of normalizing misogyny. “The normalization and pervasiveness of sexism are apparent daily that people fail to notice”, Ms. Malinao added.

## ZONTA CLUB OF CEBU II TACKLES

# What Does Misogyny Look Like, and Why Should We Care?

The topic of misogyny is obscured by a haze of misconceptions. Some define it as a deep hatred harbored by men towards women and girls while others look at it as sexism caused by our society’s history of patriarchy.

Resource speaker, Deputy Director for Research and Publication Center for Women and Gender Studies of the University of the Philippines (UP), Dr. Marby Villaceran, started her discussion through an interactive activity where participants were asked to input three impressions on being a man and woman.

Today, women continuously experience Discrimination, Exploitation, Marginalization, Oppression, and Subordination or DEMOS and that gender relations are hierarchical - when accepted as natural, it preserves the asymmetrical power structure. Efforts of various groups and clubs advocating for women’s rights and empowerment such as the Zonta Club of Cebu II have made progress towards reducing DEMOS.

As her talk came to an end, Dr. Villaceran presented the Gender and Development Program or Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710). The program seeks

to achieve gender equality and transform society’s social, economic, and political structures, where both men and women benefit from a perspective that does not limit them to be who they want to be.

The Misogyny webinar concluded with the sharing of personal experiences by Celine German Lagundi, one of the founders of Gabriella Youth of the University of San Carlos (USC), and Charlene Virlouvet, a performer from Vagina Monologues.

The Webinar organized by Zonta Club of Cebu II was attended by women supporters and activists among whom were Zonta International District 17 Governor Chavali Pamela “Pam” Osathanugrah from Zonta Club of Bangkok II Thailand, Zontians in Area 3, Rotarians, Mandaue LGUs, GAD representatives, teachers, and students from various colleges and universities.

## BEYOND THE GLASS CEILING

# A Conversation on Women and Leadership

As Zonta clubs worldwide start the changeover to a new set of officers and board of directors for the next biennium, Zonta Club of Cebu II, Philippines deemed it critical and expedient to organize a Leadership Development webinar for their members, partners, beneficiaries and other community organizations to achieve a successful and seamless leadership transition. The webinar, “Beyond the Glass Ceiling: A Conversation on Women and Leadership” took place on 23 April 2022 via the Zoom platform.

It was a privilege to have Atty. Myrish Cadapan Antonio, Senior Director for Fellowships and Global Initiatives at the Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship at MIT as the resource speaker. Atty. Antonio,

a graduate of Silliman University in the Philippines, George Washington University Law School and Harvard Kennedy School, has extensive experience in Leadership Development Programs centered on principled, effective public leadership, and women in leadership positions.

The webinar focused on contextual barriers that still exist among Filipino women limiting our ability to lead, why our leadership matters and how we, individually and collectively, can claim our rightful seat at the table. The discussion highlighted how inequality between men and women influences attitudes and assumptions regarding women’s career paths and advancement opportunities.



Atty. Antonio presented practical tips and techniques that the participants could use to change the patriarchal gender norms that are held by political leaders, business executives, corporate boards, academic institutions and civil society/community groups that will, in the long run, create space for women and girls to actively participate in leadership positions.



# Tubô

## Supporting local female artists in virtual art fair



Women artists have been marginalized for centuries. Gender bias is less overt today, but contemporary women artists still face many obstacles and disparities, as well as persistent underrepresentation in museum collections and exhibitions worldwide. The truth is that women have never been treated equally in the art world, and today they remain dramatically underrepresented and undervalued in museums, galleries, and auction houses. Galleries and collectors find greater value in work produced by men than that made by women. Male artists are still the default go-to for collecting by museums and the market.

Realizing that this gender disparity persists in the local art scene Zonta Club of Cebu II subsidized the registration fees of 15 female artists in TUBÔ, an affordable art fair organized by the Arts Council of Cebu that's 4 years in the running but this time taken virtually. This support provided these

emerging and professional artists an online exhibition space that enhanced public awareness and helped correct women's limited access to commercial galleries. The opportunity to display their works of art online allowed them to showcase their work, market their pieces, expand their network and future exhibition opportunities and develop a following of collectors thus making their foray into the creative art viable and sustainable in the long run.

The mutually beneficial partnership with the Arts Council of Cebu paved the path for the coming generation of female artists and lead them into free-flowing exchange --through conversation, through art. This virtual gathering of female creatives promoted a culture of learning from colleagues in the art world, luminaries, collectors and leaders – that theirs and our passions are fruitful; that the female vision, imagination, and principles can be monuments of great change.

## A Youth Forum on Environmental Stewardship

Members of Cebu-based Z-Club of Childlink High School organized a youth forum on environmental stewardship with a clear call for action to stop climate change with the theme "Climate Action Now: Together Let's BePartoftheSolution." The virtual gathering brought together young environmental warriors from other Z-Clubs from Area 3 as well as students from Yokkaichi Maryknoll School of Japan, Fu Jen University of Taiwan and the Singapore Institute of Management. They declared that as the youth of today they need to exchange ideas and take action as a community on the global level. They need to do mitigation and education and engage more people to take action together.

During the forum, the participants shared best practices to mitigate climate change and pledged unanimous support to stop climate change through awareness of the issue and making use of education as a platform

for change. They called to include climate literacy in schools and for the promotion of STEM studies to allow the youth to better understand and make valuable contributions to climate change mitigation.

A Reader's Theater featured literary pieces written by the students themselves revolving around the theme, "Love for the Environment". The members of Z-Club of Childlink premiered a video expressing their sentiments on the importance of sustaining Mother Nature for future generations that they conceptualized, wrote and produced with assistance and guidance from Zonta Club of Cebu II.



The Climate Change Call to Action was a platform for these young climate activists, leaders, youth organizations, and stakeholders to speak on and discuss issues and the way forward for climate change action as well an opportunity to empower the youth to implement actions and innovative solutions.

## A CALL TO LEGISLATORS

# PASS THE SOGIE Anti-Discriminatory Bill

In celebration of Women's Month, the Zonta Club of Cebu II, the Philippines, hosted the SOGIE 101: Understanding Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression webinar to call an end to gender-based discrimination and uphold the basic human rights of people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identity and expression.

The webinar took place on 12 March and aimed to increase awareness on the dimensions of human sexuality to prevent acts of discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, reinforcing the message of inclusivity in their communities.

In the first part of the webinar, the club invited a former national youth commission and LGBTQ advocate Percival Cendaña to speak about the constructs of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Percival also introduced basic terminology related to each construct and discussed the implications for establishing affirming, safe-space environments for people of all identities.

In the next part of the webinar, attorney Jazz Tamayo led a discussion centered on the salient points of Senate Bill 1934 or the Anti-Discrimination Based on SOGIE Law. The bill is the



**ZONTA CLUB OF CEBU II**

In celebration of the International Women's Month

**SI JUAN,  
SI JUANA,  
UG KITANG  
TANAN**

**SOGIE 101 FOR ALL**

**MARCH 12, 2022 @ 2PM**

Meeting ID: 878 2465 9983  
Passcode: 424762



Senator Risa Hontiveros



Congresswoman Geraldine Roman



Commissioner Percival Cendaña



Atty. Jazz Tamayo

longest-running bill under the Senate interpellation period in the Philippines' history, mired in the Legislative body for more than 20 years. Senator Risa Hontiveros and Representative Geraldine Roman, principal authors of the bill, expressed messages of support. They declared that the proposed law would ensure that all people, regardless of their SOGIE, can exercise their rights to life, education, employment and expression without fear of reprisal or discrimination.

More than 600 people attended the webinar. Many of the participants were students, lawyers, Zontians, mental health and community service-focused organizations, LGBTQ advocate groups, the police and social welfare government units and other equal rights duty bearers.

## A WEBINAR ON THE PERILS OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY



**The Perils of Teenage Pregnancy**

Resource Speakers

DR. RENNA CRISTINA BUMATAY DE LEON  
Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologist

DR. PUREZA TRINIDAD OÑATE  
The First National Pediatric Adolescent Gynecology Society President, 2017-2018  
Child Psychiatrist, 2017-2018  
National Health and Demographic Institute, Philippines

**04 DECEMBER 2021 | 4PM | ZOOM**  
Meeting ID: 835 9649 8222 Passcode: 204769

**ZONTA CLUB OF CEBU II**

On December 4, 2021, Zonta Club of Cebu II organized a webinar on "The Perils of Teenage Pregnancy". The sensitive but vital issue was presented from both a gynecologist's point of view and a psychiatrist's perspective. Over 480 participants listened to the presentations of Dr. Renna De Leon, a Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecologist and Dr. Pureza Oñate, a well-known Child and Teen Psychiatrist.

**"Teenage Pregnancy is a global problem that knows no boundaries. It is one of the most pressing issues that the Filipino youth face today and is considered a national emergency."**

Declared Dr. De Leon in her opening statement

Recent statistics show that at least ten million (10M) unintended pregnancies occur each year among adolescent girls 15-19 years old, and the Philippines has the second-highest rate in Southeast Asia. As the global adolescent population grows, reducing early childbearing is crucial to achieving the country's goal related to poverty, health, nutrition, equity, as well as education. Dr. de Leon left a powerful message for the audience as she ended her talk, "The key to success really in working with teen patients is to educate them, empower them, as well as respect them."

Dr. Oñate discussed the aggravating circumstances that lead to adolescent pregnancies. She expounded on the mental and emotional issues that teen mothers encounter like increased postpartum depression, difficulty in initiating breastfeeding, inadequacy as caregivers and are more likely to abuse children. Unfortunately, the number of adolescent mothers is expected to rise considerably due to the limitations imposed by Covid-19 with many young girls living in chaotic and low-income communities.



# A CRY FOR HELP

## EXAMINING THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

in cooperation with

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION**



# A CRY FOR HELP

## EXAMINING THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Zonta Club of Cebu II closed this year's observance of the 18-days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence on December 12, 2021, the International Day Against Trafficking with a Webinar with the theme "A Cry for Help: Examining the Length and Breadth of Human Trafficking" designed to help everyone identify child trafficking, understand how it affects families and local communities, and learn how to help prevent its proliferation.

The webinar commenced with a presentation from Zonta Club of Cebu II member, Atty. Elaine Bathan who discussed Human Trafficking: Stories and Statistics of Modern-Day Slavery that aimed to engage and raise awareness among young people, helping them learn about the issues, root causes, extent, and forms of human trafficking. She also discussed the challenges that agencies face in the apprehension and eventual prosecution of the perpetrator.

This was followed by an engaging talk on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

(OSEC), by Atty. Therese Mina-Salomon from the International Justice Mission (IJM), the most prevalent form of human trafficking today when so much time and transactions occur online.

The webinar ended with the Country Director of Paglaum Training International (PTI), Ms. Jonna Eleccion, who shared their best practices in the rehabilitation, restoration and healing of trafficked persons.

Over 450 participants, the officers, and members of the Sangguniang Kabataan of Cebu and Mandaue cities, the local offices of DSWD, PNP and Women and Children's Desk officers, members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), School Heads, Guidance Counselors and faculty members, PTA Presidents, and parents from 3 public schools from both cities benefited from the discussions. Only by joining forces, pooling knowledge, expanding the scope and number of stakeholders and cooperating across borders can we hope to eradicate human trafficking.

### OUR CAUSES

Zonta International and our members work at the international, national and local levels to realize our vision of a world in which women's rights are recognized as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential, where women have access to all resources and are represented in decision-making positions on an equal basis with men, and where no woman lives in fear of violence.

### ADVOCATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY

We advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all aspects of life.

### ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

We work with partners to prevent child marriage in some of the highest prevalence countries while our Zonta clubs and members advocate for an end to this human rights violation in their own countries.

### ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

We raise awareness of the global pandemic of women's rights violations and unite our members worldwide to fight violence against women and girls.

### EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION

We support women's education through our own scholarships, fellowships and awards and through our international service projects, which very often include education of women and girls as key strategies.

 **SOURCE: ZONTA INTERNATIONAL**  
<https://www.zonta.org/>

ZONTA CLUB OF CEBU II  
organizes a webinar on the

# “Two Pandemics that Crushed the World”

To Commemorate World AIDS Day

Zonta Club of Cebu II organized a webinar on December 1, 2021, in observance of World AIDS Day, which re-ignited the audience’s interest in a disease, about which everyone in the virtual audience was reminded to stay vigilant, so as not to allow the disease to become an overwhelming public threat. Medical students, barangay health workers, medical practitioners, social workers and members of the LGBTQ sector were part of the more than 100 participants in the webinar.

The call to vigilance was reinforced by the talk, entitled “Behave Please, And Stay Safe”, of Commissioner Percival Cendaña, formerly of the National Youth Commission. Commissioner Cendaña used “road signs” with catchy words, like FEAR, CAPACITATE, EMPOWER, PROVIDE SERVICES, ENABLING, ENVIRONMENT, that said much about the problem, and the possible solutions.

The second lecture topic, that of “The 2 Pandemics That Refuse to Go Away”, was

assigned to Dr. Bryan Albert Lim, who brilliantly explained a complex topic, as he unraveled the mysteries surrounding HIV, how it replicates itself, and weakens the body’s protective capability, allowing opportunistic infections to cause a collection of diseases that ravage all organ systems.

Putting HIV side-by-side with the Covid-19 virus, he explained viral mutation characteristics, that are unique to HIV, which made HIV vaccine development evasive for decades. On a positive note, the scientific method used in making a certain type of Covid-19 vaccine is the one bright guiding principle that seems promising for HIV/AIDS, that will finally “beat the unbeatable”.

“To tell, or not to tell, that someone in the family has HIV” is a dilemma, which Dr. Helen V. Madamba has skillfully guided the audience through, with the process of disclosure. The awesome realization came about that the attending physician, of the PLHIV, is faced with the responsibilities of

**AIDS & COVID-19**  
PANDEMICS THAT CRUSHED THE WORLD  
WORLD AIDS DAY  
1 DECEMBER  
2021  
6PM | ZOOM  
Meeting ID:  
830 7903 6980  
Passcode:  
017493

PERCIVAL CENDAÑA  
Resource Speaker

DR. BRYAN ALBERT LIM  
Resource Speaker

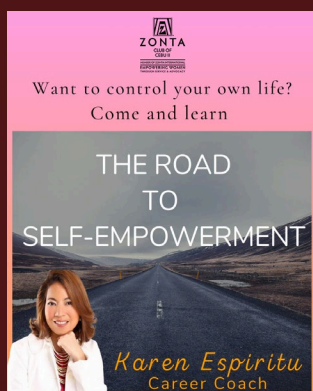
DR. HELEN MADAMBA  
Moderator

diagnosis, treatment, compliance to long-term care, family relationships, counseling, and protection of the patient from domestic abuse.

The officers and members of Zonta Club of Cebu II will continue to help in the crusade to contain and eliminate HIV/AIDS in our cities, together with our partners, the city government of Mandaue, and the resource speakers, who are specialists in their fields of expertise, and are passionate about their mission.

## THE ROAD TO SELF-EMPOWERMENT

Empowering ourselves before we can empower others with life coach MS. KAREN ESPIRITU.



The ability to empower others can be a great leadership quality and no matter what techniques potential leaders use to encourage others, one of the best and most simple things you can do as a leader is to empower yourself. When we show that we are confident and are willing to hold ourselves accountable for our own values and actions, others will feel inspired to do the same. Zonta Club of Cebu II organized a webinar entitled “The Road to Self-

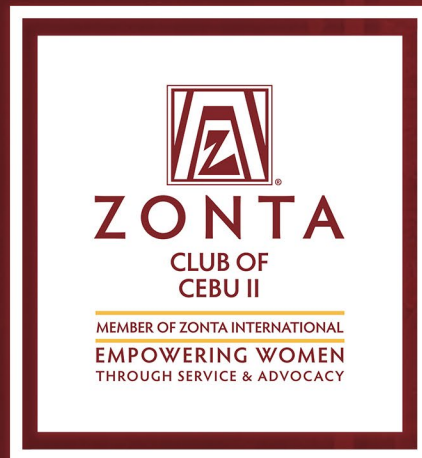
Empowerment” with career coach, Karen Espiritu as resource speaker. She expounded on the 3Rs Model of Empowerment, Responsibility, Respect and Resources.

## WEBINAR ON COGNITIVE HEALTH FOR WOMEN

Zonta Club of Cebu II held a webinar entitled “Plaques & Tangles, Is Dementia Far Behind?” (Cognitive Health for Women) by Dr. Noel H. Ponce, renowned geriatric physician. This webinar is a part of a series of educational and skills-building activities organized by the Membership Development Committee.

Club members were given information on the nature and incidence of Alzheimer’s, the difference between Alzheimer’s and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms as well as behavior and lifestyle best practices to mitigate the impact of aging and its related consequences.





## **ZONTA CLUB OF CEBU II**

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