



ZONTA
INTERNATIONAL

THE ANTI-TRAFFICKING CONVENTION

The Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

How to use the Anti-Trafficking Convention as a concrete tool to put advocacy into action.



EDUCATE OURSELVES

Raise awareness of the Convention and of trafficking in human beings as a human right's violation. Club boards and advocacy committees are advised to organize education/discussion at club meetings. Make Zonta members familiar with the specifics of the Anti-Trafficking Convention. District boards are encouraged to take the lead and include training on the Anti-Trafficking Convention at area meetings and district Conferences.

Excellent materials and ready-to-use documents are available on the ZI Website/CoE tools and Advocacy tools. Print out CoE information leaflets in applicable language.

Get informed on the situation in your own country – then decide what advocacy activities your club wants to become engaged in. Note that trafficking is not only transnational – it is also a national phenomenon.



SIGNING AND RATIFYING

EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICTS/AREAS

Check if your country has signed and ratified the Anti-Trafficking Convention. If not, advocate to make this happen. See list of countries on the CoE website: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty>

NON-EUROPEAN ZONTA DISTRICTS/AREAS

Discuss how your country can accede to the Convention. Advocate to make your country request accession.

Utilize the expertise of district advocacy committees, and of other Zontians with legal knowledge, in planning your advocacy actions. Note that national procedures before ratification differ depending on legal systems. Letters/petitions must be sent to people who are in the right positions to handle the matter; otherwise they are likely to be ignored.



HOW TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION

Organize advocacy activities like seminars, panel discussions, etc. with experts and speakers to involve the public.

Publish statements in important media to inform the public.

Cooperate and join forces with like-minded organizations for a broader audience when effective.



ADVOCATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Making the Anti-Trafficking Convention a reality requires a sustained effort to implement its provisions. Governments need not only to change laws and to strengthen law enforcement agencies. They also need to design and implement the policies required by the Convention and tackle social and cultural patterns of behavior that tolerate trafficking in human beings.

Be informed on the three P's in your own country: How your government is **preventing** trafficking, is **protecting** victims and is **prosecuting** perpetrators.

Note that important parts of implementation take place at community level – a good way for clubs to become engaged.



FOLLOW THE MONITORING PROCESS

The Monitoring Mechanism is one of the main strengths of the Convention. It evaluates how well the provisions are put into practice by states parties to the Convention. The monitoring process consists of two pillars: GRETA (The Group of Experts) and the Committee of the Parties (the political body). Their findings and recommendations will help to ensure states' compliance with the Convention and guarantee its long-term effectiveness.



DISTRICTS AND AREAS ACT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

To enhance impact-oriented advocacy action, unite with Zontians across district borders and act at national level. Use communication channels to governments and point out the national problems and needs they must address. Use the power of civil society by sending letters to government or setting up petitions to urge your government to make your voice heard about trafficking in human beings as one of the most pervasive human rights violations.

For more detailed information on the Anti-Trafficking Convention please see the PPT "Zonta International and the Anti-Trafficking Convention" at: <https://membership.zonta.org/Tools/Council-of-Europe-Tools>.

Follow the reports of your government and of GRETA and note the successes, failures and shortcomings. The Group of Experts may also receive information from NGOs as a complement. A country visit by GRETA will be known in advance and is a good time for Zontians to be active. Ask the ZI CoE Committee for information and advice needed.

To find out about the monitoring process go to: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/news>