

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Ms Jane Duke

Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking  
Attorney-General's Department  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ambassador Duke,

On behalf of Zonta Australia, I write to extend our congratulations on your appointment as Australia's Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery. We commend the Government's ongoing commitment to combatting human trafficking, forced labour, and all forms of exploitation that disproportionately impact women and girls.

Zonta International, founded in 1919, is a global organisation of professionals empowering women through service and advocacy. With clubs across 60 countries, including more than 100 clubs here in Australia, Zonta enjoys long-standing consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and works in partnership with several UN agencies, including UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women.

Through these relationships, Zonta has supported numerous international projects aimed at advancing women's rights, with a particular focus on the Elimination of Child Marriage campaign. Since 2014, Zonta has contributed millions of US dollars to UNFPA–UNICEF programs in countries where child marriage is most prevalent, helping to change laws, provide education opportunities, and engage communities in cultural change.

We also recognise that modern slavery touches all of our lives, as we begin to understand more fully the supply chains of our modern world. From the clothes we wear to the food we eat; hidden exploitation is often present and it continues to disproportionately impact women and girls across the globe. This reality underscores why awareness, advocacy and decisive action remain essential here in Australia and internationally.

Here in Australia, Zonta clubs are deeply committed to advocacy on these issues. We know that early and forced marriage is not only a global problem but also a challenge affecting vulnerable communities domestically, closely tied to broader concerns of modern slavery and human rights abuse.

As Zonta members, we are determined to amplify Australia's voice on the world stage and to support initiatives that protect the rights and futures of women and girls.

We would welcome opportunities to engage with your office and the Attorney-General's Department to explore how civil society organisations like ours can complement government leadership—whether through advocacy, education or community partnership.

Together, we can make progress towards the elimination of child marriage, the empowerment of young women and the eradication of modern slavery in all its forms.

Thank you for your dedication to this crucial work. We look forward to supporting and collaborating with you in this mission.

Kind Regards

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Chair: Zonta Australia Committee

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