

1st September 2025

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Wong and Attorney-General Rowland,

Re: Congratulations on the Appointment of Ambassador Jane Duke

On behalf of Zonta Australia, I write to warmly congratulate you on the recent joint appointment of Ms Jane Duke as Australia's Ambassador to Counter Modern Slavery, People Smuggling and Human Trafficking.

This important appointment demonstrates the Australian Government's strong commitment to tackling exploitation in all its forms. By making the announcement together, you have rightly underscored that addressing modern slavery requires both international leadership and domestic legal action.

Minister Wong, we commend your leadership in ensuring that Australia's voice is strong on the world stage, working with the United Nations and international partners to advance human rights and gender equality. Attorney-General Rowland, we equally acknowledge your responsibility in strengthening Australia's domestic legislative and legal frameworks to ensure that our commitments are backed by robust protections at home.

Zonta International, of which we are a proud part, is a global organisation with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We partner with UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women to support projects including the Elimination of Child Marriage campaign, which addresses one of the most pervasive forms of modern slavery.

Here in Australia, our clubs are deeply engaged in advocacy and community education on these issues. We also recognise that modern slavery touches all of our lives, often hidden in the supply chains of everyday goods and services and that it continues to disproportionately impact women and girls.

We commend you both for ensuring Australia's leadership in this area and look forward to opportunities to collaborate with Ms Duke, your offices, and the wider government to advance this vital mission.

Yours sincerely,

Bridget

Bridget Mather PSM

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