



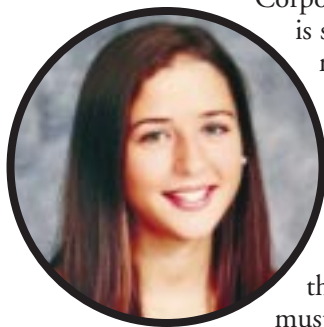
YWPA Recipients Share Global Perspectives

In 2006, Zonta gave five international and 28 district Young Women in Public Affairs awards to young women representing 15 countries. On this page the international recipients share their perspectives on gender equality.

Alma Aldrich (USA)

District 3

Career Aspirations: International Law
My Perspective: Looking at the United States government, we can appreciate how few women are in positions of power. Of the nine Supreme Court Justices there is only one woman, and there has yet to be a female President.



Corporate America

is still very much male-dominated. The image of women as objects, which is enforced by the media must be eliminated. Also, the image

of a successful woman having 'manly' characteristics is an enormous problem that must be changed. It is time that a feminine successful woman can be appreciated and accepted.

Fiona Campbell (Australia)

District 24

Career Aspirations: International aid worker in Africa

My Perspective: The way in which a culture perceives women is what often prevents global equality. We must strive towards universal respect of women in relation to the constructs of culture. We, as individual women in a society which enjoys freedom



of speech, can help bring about increased international awareness of the diverse perspectives which different cultures have of women and the ways in which we can stake a step closer to achieving raised status for women across the world.

Nameera Saleem (India)

District 25 (no photo available)

Career Aspirations: Medicine and Journalism

My Perspective: The most important problems limiting women in India are illiteracy and economic dependency. Although UNDP and Andhra Pradesh Government had taken up massive efforts making elementary school education free and compulsory, with free books and mid-day meals, many families were happier with children earning – elementary school certificate would neither help them find a job nor leave the child willing to do menial work. Earn and learn schools must be set up, where vocational training as well as education is provided to ensure that the basic necessities of life are met.

Lyndsay Crump (Canada)

District 4

Career Aspirations: Medical humanitarian relief worker

My Perspective: Canada is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world; however, immigrants habitually settle here and continue to live as they did in their native countries. Life for some women is only further complicated by the challenge of living in a foreign state. They rarely



learn to speak either of Canada's languages or pursue ventures outside of the home. Due to this isolation, these women are among the most abused, neglected and defenseless in the

country. Giving women the ability to communicate with others outside of their cultural niche could empower them to seek help, guidance and a degree of independence.

Anne Soisson (Luxembourg)

District 27

Career Aspirations: Human Rights Law

My Perspective: Despite legislation on gender equality and the progress made in the last 50 years, women in Luxembourg still have to face many obstacles to equal opportunities and treatment in the world of work. Luxembourg presents one of the biggest gender gaps in the European Union. As long as the government doesn't adopt a policy that allows working women with family to get fully engaged, women will keep facing discrimination. Flexible working hours as well as affordable child-care facilities could help fulfill women's needs and integration into the business world.



Visit www.zonta.org/ywpa2006 to read more about these outstanding young women.

"Encouraging all young women to be thinkers and leaders WILL bring about equality between men and women and the voices of women WILL be heard."
 Jane Wilson O'Brien, YWPA Subcommittee Coordinator