

Building Bridges

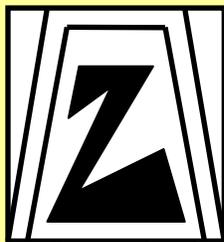


Zonta Foundation for Women and
Children in Need EIN 26-4772060

And Beacons

Zonta International is a worldwide organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women

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International

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Bill Would Make Tech Firms Accountable For Child Sex Abuse Imagery

By Michael H. Keller-
Reprinted From The March 6, 2020 NY Times

Legislation announced on Thursday aimed at curbing the spread of online child sexual abuse imagery would take the extraordinary step of removing legal protections for tech companies that fail to police the illegal content. A separate, international initiative that was also announced takes a softer approach, getting the industry to voluntarily embrace standards for combating the material.

The two measures come as tech companies continue to detect [an explosion of abusive content](#) on their platforms, and amid complaints that neither Congress nor the companies have been aggressive enough in stopping its spread. [An investigation last year by The New York Times](#) found that many companies knew about the problem but failed to quash it, despite having the tools to do so, and that the federal government had not been adequately

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enforcing a previous law meant to stem the abuse.

Multiple U.S. agencies, together with the governments of Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, released [a set of voluntary guidelines](#) on how platforms can stop the spread of online child sexual abuse material, commonly referred to as child pornography. Those recommendations were developed in conjunction with a half-dozen tech companies: Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Roblox, Snap and Twitter.

The bipartisan legislation likewise calls for industry standards, and creates a strong incentive for companies to adopt them. The bill's sponsors, Senators Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, said it was spurred on by The Times investigation.

Despite some strong support, the bill faces opposition not only from the tech industry, which considers the reforms too broad, and a threat to its offering

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Meet The Female Squad Who Clear Out Vietnam's Unexploded Bombs

Reprinted From March 5, 202 Reuters-By Minh Nguyen



Members of all-female landmines clearance team listen to their captain before their morning work at a bombs and landmines exhibition in Quang Tri province

QUANG TRI, Vietnam (Reuters) - Two petite women in protective gear walk slowly down an empty field in Vietnam, carrying a large metal detector that clicks and whirrs, searching for unexploded ordnance.

Medic and safety officer Nguyen Thi Ha Lan supervises her teammates, the "landmine girls" as they are known, preparing to detonate a cluster bomb left behind from the war with the United States that ended in 1975.

It is one of many underneath the soil in Quang Tri province, north-central Vietnam.

Once the team is ready to detonate, Lan warns people to clear the area. A siren goes off and then an earthshattering boom.

Lan is part of an all-woman explosive disposal team working under project NPA-RENEW (Norwegian People's Aid-Restoring the Environment and Neutralising the Effect of War) -- to help rehabilitate more than 60,000 hectares (150,000 acres) of agricultural land.

The area was one of the most heavily bombed of the war and the U.S. Department of Defence estimates that 10 percent of the 80 million tons of munitions used by the U.S army in Vietnam failed to detonate on impact.

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For Lan, being part of the 16-member team has a special meaning.

At the age of 12, her mother Hoa lost both legs and an arm due to unexploded ordnance (UXO), while playing in her front yard.

She has spent most of her life in a wheelchair, but still raised two children. Lan's younger brother works as a deminer in another NPA-RENEW team.

"When I look at the kids playing in my front yard, it reminds me of my mother and I used to cry silently inside," Lan says.

"My job now enables me to have a stable life and the kids are able to play around me on Quang Tri soil and all over Vietnam too."

In Quang Tri alone, there have been over 8,500 casualties from accidents involving UXO.

Nearly a third of the victims are children who mistake the round, tennis-ball sized cluster bombs for something to play with.

EOD teams such as Lan's have helped clear over 5,600 hectares (14,000 acres).

Demining work is grueling and dangerous. Working under the scorching sun and temperatures that can reach 42 degrees Celsius (108 Fahrenheit) means that skins tan no matter how much sunscreen they use.

"It is an honour to wear the uniform of the project everyday, so even if we aren't able to wear make up or a beautiful dress like everyone else, we all feel proud from the bottom of our hearts," says Lan. Lan also appreciates the camaraderie that the landmine girls share, working in such dangerous conditions.

There are still many explosives to be cleared. In August 2018, more than 1,400 items were found in an underground cache. But Quang Tri had no accidents last year. The plan is to clear the province of unexploded ordnance by 2025.

(Editing by Kim Coghill)

**Meet The First Black Woman Commander
Of An NYPD Elite Highway Unit**
Reprinted From The March 8, 2020 NY
Daily News-By Rocco Parascandola



Newly appointed NYPD highway unit boss, Deputy Inspector Lashonda Dyce, inside Highway 1 headquarters in the Bronx. (Gregg Vigliotti/for New York Daily News)

The NYPD's new leader of the pack may not be a biker, but the 17-year police veteran is blazing trails.

Deputy Inspector LaShonda Dyce is the new commanding officer of one of the department's four highway units - the first African-American woman to hold the post in the agency's 175 year history.

"Somebody has to do the job," Dyce said. "If a man can do it why can't an African-American woman do it, the same job, if not even better?"

Dyce, 38, was admittedly a little apprehensive when she was offered the gig.

"I knew that this was a male-dominated unit, to say the very least," Dyce explained. "But I thought about it and I said, 'Why not?' Other women need to see we can have a voice in a male-dominated unit."

Of the 36,380 cops on the force, only 6,719, or 18% are women. In Highway 1, which spans Manhattan and the Bronx, only three of the 80 officers assigned are women.

Dyce turned heads in her highway uniform at her first TrafficStat meeting at One Police Plaza, to discuss accidents and injuries.

"A lot of people were just stunned to see me," she said.

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"For the mere fact I'm an African-American woman, I'm a deputy inspector and I have on the highway uniform. And I'm talking about people who work for the NYPD."

No one may be more stunned than Dyce, who was not a fan of police when she was a kid.

After seeing her mother get mugged at gunpoint in the subway when she was 5, it took what felt like forever for cops to respond.

"That left a bad taste in my mouth," she said. "It wasn't until I became a police cadet and, working with them, I saw a different side."

Once on the job, Dyce decided early on that she wanted to be a supervisor and passed promotional tests for sergeant, lieutenant and captain, the last of which led her to run the 88th Precinct in Brooklyn. It was the first time a woman headed up that command.

The rank of deputy inspector, Dyce noted, is her first discretionary promotion, not based on any test score.

Now that she's at Highway 1 with motorcycle cops, Dyce, who does not ride, looks forward to going through what officers call "wheel school" and hopes to lead a presidential or dignitary escort

Dates To Remember

Birthdays

April

None

May

None

Dates To Remember

April

April 5th: Palm Sunday

April 10th: Good Friday

April 12th: Easter

April 19th: Orthodox Easter

April 21st: Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 22nd: Earth Day

April 23nd: First day of Ramadan

May

May 1st: May Day

May 7h: National Day of Prayer

May 16th: Armed Forces Day

May 23rd: (EID)al Fitr begins at sundown

May25th: Memorial Day

Bill Would Make Tech Firms Accountable

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Confiscated materials in an online child sexual abuse case. New measures would make companies more accountable for content posted by their users. Credit...Kholood Eid for The New York Times

services like encryption, but also from some victim advocates who view it as too narrow an approach to combating harms online.

Last year, tech companies reported nearly 70 million images and videos related to online child exploitation.

They are obligated to report the material when they become aware of it on their platforms, but they are not required to go looking for it. Companies are generally not responsible for content uploaded by their users, because of a 1990s-era provision in the law known as Section 230.

The new bill, called the EARN IT Act, would carve out an exception to that rule. Companies that don't follow the recommended standards would lose civil liability protections for that type of content. The legislation would also lower the bar for suing those tech firms.

The bill would create a 19-member commission — including members representing law enforcement, the tech industry and child advocates — to recommend a set of strategies: for instance, how to spot illegal material, categorize it in standardized ways and verify users' ages. These practices would be subject to approval by the Justice Department and other agencies, as well as Congress and the president.

In an interview, Mr. Blumenthal said the bill reflected the ideas that tech was no longer the fragile sector it was in the 1990s, and that the public would benefit from reasonable rules of the road.

Men Are Not The Only Ones Biased Against Women, UN Study Finds

Published March 6, 2020-By Karen Gilchrist



Student protesters take part in a demonstration marking International Women's Day in Barcelona on March 8, 2019.

Even amid the push for global gender equality, sexist attitudes continue to undermine progress. What's more, almost all of us are guilty of them.

A [new report from the United Nations](#) found that close to 90% of people — both men and women — display prejudiced sentiments toward women.

The findings, published Friday in the UN's [Gender Social Norms Index](#), surveyed respondents from 75 countries representing 80% of the global population to determine their stance on seven key measures of gender equality.

Those measures included whether or not men make better political leaders; whether women and men have the same rights to university and jobs; whether men make better business executives; and whether physical violence by a partner is ever acceptable.

As many as 91% of men and 86% of women showed at least one clear bias against women, based on the seven key metrics.

Half of the people surveyed said they thought men made better political leaders than women, while 40% felt men would be better business executives. Almost 30% said they thought it was acceptable for a man to beat his partner, according to the report.

Unsurprisingly, the study found women were more inclined toward gender equality than men: 52% of men displayed two to four gender biases. However, the pervasiveness of sexual biases was apparent among

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City's Women Blazed The Trail

Reprinted From The March 8, 2020 NY Daily News-By Chelsia Rose Marcus

They were soldiers, advocates, educators, scientists and women. So much is said about the nation's Founding Fathers, but there is no shortage of ladies responsible for immeasurable contributions to the country.

Margaret Corbin



Margaret Corbin fought alongside Continental Army at the present-day Fort Tyron Park during the 1776 battle against the British, making her the first women to fight in the Revolutionary War.

Corbin's husband, John died during the clash, so she took control of his cannon and fired it against 4,000 Hessian mercenaries hired by England. The Continental Congress recognized her as a member of the army and granted her half a soldier's pension in 1779. In 1926, 126 years after her death-when Corbin's remains were transported to West Point, she became the first women buried at the military cemetery. Fort Tyron Park's drive and entrance are named after her.

Elizabeth Jennings Graham



One hundred and one years before Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger Elizabeth

Jennings Graham refused to get off horse-drawn streetcar that only serviced white commuters. Graham, a 24-year old black school teacher, would not budge in July 1854 when a conductor of a Third Avenue Railway Co. horsecar in lower Manhattan told her to get off.

Graham wound up suing th driver, the conductor and the Third Avenue Railway. Graham-represented by

Chester A. Arthur, the future 21st president of the United States won her suit in 1855. She's credited with

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helping to desegregate New York City's public transit

Emily Warren Roebling



Emily Warren Roebling oversaw the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge and was the first person to cross the New York City's landmark. Roebling's father-in-law and civil engineer, John Roebling had initially spearheaded the project-but his untimely death in 1869 meant that Roebling's husband Washington Roebling had to take over. When her husband contracted a "bad case of the bends," in 1872 someone had to fill the role of engineer-and Roebling became the obvious choice. She served as a key liaison between her husband and the construction team, and was lauded for her work before the bridge officially opened in 1883.

Anna Arnold Hedgeman



Political activist Anna Arnold Hedgeman was the first African-America women in a mayoral cabinet position in the city. Hedgeman served under Mayor Robert Wagner from 1957-1958. Prior to her tenure, the well-respected educator worked on the 1948 Harry Truman presidential campaign and was a columnist and editor for The New Age. She also served as assistant dean of women at Howard University .

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City's Women Blazed The Trail

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Getrude Ederle



Getrude Ederle, the first woman to swim across the English Channel was from Manhattan. The record-holder and gold medal Olympian swam from Cap Gris Nez in France to Kent England, in 14 hours and 39 minutes on Aug. 6, 1926—a feat that earned her the moniker “America’s Best Girl” by President Calvin Coolidge. Ederle—the daughter of German immigrants and raised on the upper West Side—also became the first woman to have a ticker-tape parade in New York City in her honor later performed at the 1939 World’s Fair.

Angela Bambace



Shirtwaist factory worker and Harlem native Angela Bambace founded the first women’s local of the International Ladies Garment workers Union (ILGWU) in 1936, leading the charge on women’s rights. The Italian-American advocate had previously organized the 1932 Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union strike in New Jersey and the 1933 Walkout of about 75,000 dressmakers in New York City. She was later elected to be the ILGWU vice-president—the first woman to hold a leadership position within the union

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Maria Tallchief



When prima ballerina Maria Tallchief joined the New York City Ballet in 1942, it allowed her to become the first American to perform at The Bolshoi Theater in Moscow and the Paris Ballet in France. The dancer refused to drop her Native American last name and was repeatedly denied roles because of her ancestral roots—but she got her big break when a lead ballerina from the New York City Ballet stepped down. Tallchief was given a Kennedy Center Honor lifetime achievement award in 1996 and was later inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame.

Julia de Burgos



Poet, journalist and Latina activist Julia de Burgos was the art and culture editor for the New York-based newspaper Pueblos Hispanos. De Burgos grew up in Puerto Rico, and her poetry collections like “Poemas exactos a mi misma” in 1937, “Cancion de la verdad sencilla” two years later and “El Mart y tu: ortros poemas” in 1954 centered around social injustice and feminism decades before the Nuyorican poetry movement. The Julia de Burgosa Latino Cultural Center and its performing arts center in East Harlem carry on her legacy.

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City's Women Blazed The Trail
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Chien-Shiung Wu



Chinese-American physicist Chien-Shiung Wu joined the Manhattan Project in 1944 at Columbia University and was the only person from China to be part of the enterprise. Wu grew up outside Shanghai, earned her Ph.d from The University of California, Berkeley, and helped develop the process for separating uranium metal into U 235 and U238 isotopes by gaseous diffusion. She also became the first women president of the American Physical Society, and was awarded the National Medal of Science, the Comstock Prize and the Wolf Prize in Physics

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Penny Marshall



Actress, writer and director Penny Marshall played the beloved character Laverne DeFazio in the hit sitcom “Laverne and Shirley”—paving the way for other women in television. Marsha, who grew up in the Bronx, starred in the show with Cindy Williams from 1976 until its final episode in 1983. Marshall had continued success behind the camera directing a number of films including the 90’s classic “A League of Their Own” as well as “Big” “Awakenings” and “Riding in Cars with Boys.”

Men Are Not The Only Ones Biased Against

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both men and women.

More concerning still, according to the report, was that the problem appears to be worsening. The proportion of men with some bias against women grew from 89.4% between 2004 to 2009 to 89.9% between 2010 and 2014. That figure also rose among women over the same period — from 83.4% to 84.6%.

The UN said the findings show that while improvements have been made in some countries, others appear to have worsened, and “progress cannot be taken for granted.”

The report was released ahead of International Women’s Day, which will see people gather globally on Sunday (Mar. 7) to march for women’s rights. The theme for this year, #EachforEqual, centers on global gender equality and the concept of collective individualism.

Unpacking Human Trafficking

Packing Human Trafficking Vol 2

The first of periodic updates to our Unpacking Human Trafficking report on laws concerning anti-trafficking training and signage in each state. Vol. 2 also contains information about criminal and civil liability laws and includes other jurisdictions in the U.S. that have passed relevant laws.

About The Reports

In recent years an increasing number of states have passed laws requiring lodging facilities to combat human trafficking. These laws take various forms and present a sometimes-confusing array of requirements that present a challenge to owners and operators of lodging facilities seeking to satisfy them.

To help clarify the situation and facilitate legal compliance, ECPAT-USA, unpacked these laws by preparing a survey of all the applicable legislation currently in effect concerning anti-trafficking training and signage required by each state as well as five other U.S. jurisdictions. This report will continue to be updated on a semi-annual basis.

KEY FINDINGS

- **14** states mandate human trafficking awareness signage in lodging facilities: California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, West Virginia and 1 major metropolitan area surveyed: Anchorage, Alaska
- **8** mandate human trafficking awareness signage in lodging facilities that have been cited as a public nuisance: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island
- **12** states recommend human trafficking awareness signage in lodging facilities: Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin
- **16** jurisdictions surveyed have penalties for failing to meet the human trafficking awareness signage mandates: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, West Virginia, Anchorage
- **6** states mandate human trafficking awareness

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- for individuals working in the lodging industry: California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey
- **17** jurisdictions surveyed recommend human trafficking awareness training for individuals working in the lodging industry: Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Puerto Rico, San Antonio
- **11** jurisdictions surveyed have civil liability laws concerning incidents of human trafficking that occur on a lodging facility's property: Delaware; Illinois; Maine; Minnesota; Pennsylvania; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; Vermont; Wisconsin; Washington, D.C.
- **19** jurisdictions surveyed have criminal liability laws concerning incidents of human trafficking that occur on a lodging facility's property: Alabama; Arkansas; California; Delaware; Georgia; Nebraska; Oregon; Pennsylvania; Rhode Island; South Carolina; South Dakota; Tennessee; Texas; Utah; Vermont; West Virginia; Washington; Lancaster, Calif.; Washington, D.C.

Posters that comply with the various signage laws as well as additional resources for hospitality brands, management companies, and properties are available on [our website](#). For states that do not have a human trafficking awareness signage requirement [ECPAT-USA's Standard Hotel Poster](#) can be utilized.



Dear Zonta members and friends,

Many thanks for registering for our Centennial Anniversary Convention.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in Chicago. The booking list shows that we are more than 2,000 Zontians and guests. Our preparations continue and more details are getting fixed every day.

We know that, with the amount of information on the corona virus disease rapidly coming in you may have questions related to traveling to the U.S. in early July. We are working on the challenges created by this extraordinary situation. We are listening to experts like the World Health Organization and other authorities and will follow their recommendations. I have also appointed a contingency team that supports the Zonta International Board and the Convention team in monitoring, evaluating and mitigating the risks.

I wish I already had answers to all your questions. For the time being, we have compiled some information on our [Convention website](#) that will be updated should there be new facts and developments.

If you have other questions, please email Zonta@Conferencedirect.com.

In the meantime, Convention Chairman Sally Bean and her team are working hard to make the celebrations a great Zonta experience for you.

With best wishes and kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne von Bassewitz".

Susanne von Bassewitz
President, Zonta International and the Zonta International Foundation



convention.zonta.org
