

2026 Zonta International Young Women in Leadership Awardee

Introducing Mackenzie Li, nominated by the Zonta Club of Melbourne on Yarra.

Mackenzie Li is an exceptional young leader, advocate and changemaker dedicated to advancing health, education and equity for women and girls. A student leader, researcher and community activist, Mackenzie combines academic excellence with a deep commitment to service, driven by her vision of creating more inclusive and equitable opportunities for young women from diverse and historically marginalised communities.

Inspired by her Rohingya heritage and personal experiences witnessing barriers faced by women in healthcare and education, Mackenzie founded **The Aletheia Project**, an international initiative

promoting health literacy and advocacy that has reached more than 23,000 young people across six countries. She also established **Brighter Minds**, providing free tutoring and mentoring to girls from migrant and low-income backgrounds. Her leadership extends across public service, youth advocacy and international engagement, including roles with the Red Cross, Youth Parliament, UNESCO and various health and research organisations.

Mackenzie aspires to study public health, international relations and science, with the long-term goal of working with the World Health Organization to improve health outcomes for women and girls worldwide. Through research, advocacy and community action, she is already demonstrating the power of youth leadership to create meaningful and lasting change.

