

ZONTA DISTRICT 15 CLUB GUIDE FOR UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMS

For many years the United Nations Committee was one of the Standing (Mandatory) Committees that Zonta International required all clubs establish. Although it is no longer mandatory, Zonta's association with the United Nations defines Zonta's identity and mandate, and it is highly recommended that each club appoint a UN Chair. It has not always been clear what is expected of your club's UN Committee Chair. This information has been gleaned from ZI website, UN Women, and various other sources to help clubs with this issue.

If you have additional questions District United Nations Chair Sandra Vosper can be reached at sandra.vosper@shaw.ca

The following is a calendar/guide for club use to assist in observing advocacy days and planning United Nations activities.

ZONTA/UNITED NATIONS ADVOCACY DAYS:

MARCH 8:	INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY/ZONTA ROSE DAY/ UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE
SEPTEMBER 21:	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
OCTOBER15:	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN (www.unwomen.org)
OCTOBER 17:	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ERADICATION OF POVERTY (www.unwomen.org)
OCTOBER24:	UNITED NATIONS DAY
NOVEMBER25:	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
NOV25-DEC 10	16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
DECEMBER 1	WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 2	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY/SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN PERSONS
DECEMBER 10	INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

ITEMIZED ACTIVITIES:

- 1) All members should be aware and part of the UN's Say NO to Violence Against Women Campaign. Go to www.zonta.org and follow the links to register.

Zonta International Says NO to Violence against Women



Preventing and ending violence against women and girls is a top priority for Zonta International and its more than 31,000 members in more than 1,200 Zonta clubs around the globe.

Through the Zonta International Strategies to End Violence Against Women (ZISVAW) program, Zonta International has assisted victims of violence and human trafficking around the globe by: raising awareness of, and improving education about, violence against women; promoting and enforcing local laws and policies that protect women and victims of violence; and providing medical, legal, rehabilitation and reintegration services for survivors of violence. Locally, Zonta clubs dedicate time and resources to supporting projects that prevent violence against women and support victims of violence in their communities.

Zonta International joins UNIFEM in asking members and friends of Zonta around the world to join the global call to make ending violence against women worldwide a top priority.

2) Familiarize your members with UN WOMEN www.unwomen.org

ABOUT UN WOMEN:

- Created: July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly implemented UN Women, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
- UN Member States took a historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- UN Women is part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact

3) All members should be aware of Zonta's International Service Programs in partnership with the United Nations. Go to www.zonta.org for details

*** NB* EACH PROJECT IS ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXCELLENT VIDEO/POWERPOINTS AND SCRIPTS THAT CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND SHOWN AT A CLUB MEETING**

During the 2010-2012 Biennium, three projects are being supported by the International Service Program Fund:

- **Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Gender-Based Violence in Rwanda**

Funding: US\$500,000 to UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)

Women and children in Rwanda are still vulnerable to the repercussions of the genocide and war that took place 16 years ago. Treating HIV-positive women, preventing transmission of the virus to their offspring, and ensuring access to health care and reproductive services, as well as preventing and responding to the violence awoken by the brutalization of the society during the genocide, are critical issues for the development of Rwanda and the safety of its women and children. Building on the success of the project during the 2008-2010 Biennium, the project will continue focus on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by providing the full range of family package services at 20 UNICEF-supported PMTCT sites throughout Rwanda during the 2010-2012 Biennium. In addition, the project will seek to expand holistic care and services at support centers for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence to ensure access to proper medical, legal, psychosocial and police support.

[PROJECT DESCRIPTION](#) | [PMTCT VIDEO](#)

- **Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador**

Funding: US\$500,000 to UN Women (The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women)

In Guatemala and El Salvador, rates of urban violence and violent homicides are above the already high regional average and women are at an even greater risk of violence due to the traditionally subordinate position of women in society. During the first phase of the project, significant results were achieved in both Guatemala and El Salvador. In Guatemala, women's organizations submitted proposals to local authorities to improve public spaces and identified insecure spaces which led to the transformation of an abandoned house to a day shelter for people living with HIV/AIDS. In El Salvador, a map of unsafe places determined by the perceptions of local women was presented to the local authorities who are committed to implementing recommendations to make these areas safer for women. For the next phase of the project, efforts will be focused on increasing visibility and impact by disseminating information on violence against women in the most violence districts of both cities and replicating the experience in all districts of the capital cities. The project will also expand to incorporate the issue of violence against women in the context of HIV/AIDS. Go to ZI Member Resources/Tools t to access Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City, Guatemala and San Salvador, El Salvador | [ppt](#) | [script](#)

- **Towards Elimination of Obstetric Fistula and the Reduction of Maternal and Newborn Mortality and Morbidity in Liberia**

Funding: US\$500,000 to UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

With properly trained surgeons, well-equipped facilities and the necessary aftercare, the treatment of uncomplicated obstetric fistula has a 90% success rate. The cost is a mere US\$300, a small sum to many but well beyond the means of the average woman in Liberia. Building upon the experiences and progress achieved thus far, UNFPA, with Zonta's support, will continue to provide fistula treatment through the proper equipment of health care facilities and the training and capacity strengthening of health care providers to treat fistula. The project will also continue to focus on the reintegration of survivors while raising awareness and conducting outreach among communities and health care providers about the definition, causes and treatment of obstetric fistula.

[PROJECT DESCRIPTION](#) | [FREEDOM FROM FISTULA VIDEO](#) | [BACK TO LIFE: PROMOTING THE REINTEGRATION OF FISTULA SURVIVORS IN LIBERIA \(VIDEO\)](#)

4) Each Club should develop a policy regarding CEDAW:

THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, CEDAW is an international human rights treaty that focuses on women's rights and women's issues worldwide. It is also referred to as the Treaty for the Rights of Women and the International Bill of Rights for Women. Developed by the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Convention addresses the advancement of women, describes the meaning of equality and sets forth guidelines on how to achieve it.

It is not only an international bill of rights for women but also an agenda of action. Countries that ratify CEDAW agree to take concrete steps to improve the status of women and end discrimination and violence against women. By the Convention's 10th anniversary in 1989, nearly 100 nations had ratified it. That number currently stands at 186 as the 20th anniversary draws near.

Interestingly enough, the United States is the only industrialized nation that refuses to ratify CEDAW. Neither will such countries as Sudan, Somalia, and Iran -- three nations known for their human rights violations.

CLUB'S CALL TO ACTION COULD INCLUDE:

- Join www.cedaw2010.org
- Support the effort to get CEDAW ratified by the U.S. Senate by:
 - ❖ Contacting your Senators and urge them to support CEDAW.
 - ❖ Supporting CEDAW grassroots activities in the United States
 - ❖ Have your Zonta Club sponsor awareness campaigns in your local community on IWD

IN MICHIGAN CONTACT YOUR SENATOR IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

You may phone the U.S. Capitol at (202)224-3121.

Email: Debbie Stabenow stabenow.senate.gov/email.cfm & Carl Levin levin.senate.gov/

5) All Clubs should consider developing activities to observe:

MARCH 8 2011 ZONTA ROSE DAY/ INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY/UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Zontians around the world have a very special reason to celebrate. Our efforts have made and continue to make a difference in the lives of women everywhere. 8 March is a day to reflect on the achievements of the past year and prepare for the challenges ahead of us to advance the status of women worldwide.

The United Nations established International Women's Day in 1977 to celebrate the rights of women and international peace. However, its history stretches back to the early 1900s, when women's organizations used the day to rally support for their causes: from the universal suffrage movement to the protest of poor working conditions.

International Women's Day is celebrated internationally on 8 March every year. Learn more about this year's celebration at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/iwd/index.html>.

Today, Zonta clubs create annual events that:

- Celebrate progress made and outline future steps to improve women's equality;
- Unite women's organizations to encourage collaboration;
- Generate contributions for the Zonta International Foundation Rose Fund;
- Create visibility for the organization.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize a work team and donate service hours to a local women's shelter, crisis center, housing organization, etc.
- Distribute yellow rose bookmarks. Create bookmarks with women's rights statistics on one side and information about your Zonta club on the other. Pass them out in front of your public library on 8 March.
- Plant a yellow rose bush in a public garden; wear a rose pin; or buy single yellow roses and hand them out to other women.
- Serve as a mentor to underprivileged women and girls.
- Encourage teachers to incorporate International Women's Day into their curriculum this month. Review lesson plans and ideas from the UN.
- Design a window display for a public library or building in your community. Raise awareness of women's rights and of the work of your Zonta club.
- Create yellow rose sales items to raise money for the Rose Fund.
- Recognize local women for achievements in service and philanthropy: Nominate women in your community (outside of Zonta) who have made extraordinary contributions of time and/or money. As part of your criteria for nomination, focus on women who have helped advance the status of women. Create an event for the community to honour and celebrate these women. Invite other service clubs and prospective members to attend. Make a donation to the Rose Fund in the recipient's honour
- Write a personal note or letter to a woman who has inspired or mentored you. Thank her for being a role model. Make a donation to the Rose Fund in her honour.
- Luncheon and Rose Auction: Past Foundation Director Amy Lai hosted a benefit luncheon for women leaders. Amy presented information about Zonta's programs and club membership and auctioned stunning rose bouquets with the money raised benefiting the Rose Fund.
- Host a Conference for Zontians and Other Women's Organizations: By bringing various groups together, you will create a larger potential membership and donor pool, as well as increased visibility, credibility and media attention for your club.
- Host an Educational Event or Tour: Inform your community and other women about the ongoing struggles for women's rights, education, health and equality.
- Participate in Events in Your Area: Lead or join existing rallies, marches, fairs, receptions, shows, films and debates in celebration of women's achievements in women's equality.
- Send out a news release about any activities your club has planned.
- Get inspired: Explore events being planned around the world at the International Women's Day Web site.

6) All Clubs should consider developing activities to observe:

SEPT EMBER 21 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982.

In 2002 the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

By creating the International Day of Peace, the UN devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of humankind to work in cooperation for this goal. During the discussion of the U.N. Resolution that established the International Day of Peace, it was suggested that:

"Peace Day should be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples...This day will serve as a reminder to all peoples that our organization, with all its limitations, is a living instrument in the service of peace and should serve all of us here within the organization as a constantly pealing bell reminding us that our permanent commitment, above all interests or differences of any kind, is to peace."

Since its inception, Peace Day has marked our personal and planetary progress toward peace. It has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate.

Anyone anywhere can celebrate Peace Day. It can be as simple as lighting a candle at noon, or just sitting in silent meditation. Or it can involve getting your co-workers, organization, community or government engaged in a large event. The impact if millions of people in all parts of the world, coming together for one day of peace, is immense.

International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire – personal or political. Take this opportunity to make peace in your own relationships as well as impact the larger conflicts of our time. Imagine what a whole Day of Ceasefire would mean to humankind.

7) Clubs should use UN Day to raise awareness in your community about Zonta's Relationship with the United Nations **OCT 24 2011 UNITED NATIONS DAY**

Quick Facts

United Nations Day marks the anniversary of the United Nations Charter coming into force in 1945 and celebrates the work of this organization. United Nations Day annually falls on October 24.

On October 24, 1945, the United Nations (UN) came into force when the five permanent members of the Security Council ratified the charter that had been drawn up earlier that year. These members were: France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Since 1948, the event's anniversary has been known as United Nations Day. It is an occasion to highlight, celebrate and reflect on the work of the United Nations and its family of specialized agencies.

What do people do?

On and around October 24, many activities are organized by all parts of the UN, particularly in the main offices in New York, The Hague (Netherlands), Geneva (Switzerland), Vienna (Austria) and Nairobi (Kenya). These include: concerts; flying the UN flag on important buildings; debates on the relevance of the work of the UN in modern times; and proclamations by state heads and other leaders.

Background

The foundations for a “League of Nations” were laid in the Treaty of Versailles, which was one of the treaties to formally end World War I. The treaty was signed in Versailles, France, on June 28, 1919. The league aimed to encourage disarmament, prevent outbreaks of war, encourage negotiations and diplomatic measures to settle international disputes and to improve the quality of life around the world. However, the outbreak of World War II suggested that the League of Nations needed to take on a different form.

The ideas around the United Nations were developed in the last years of World War II, particularly during the UN Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, the United States, and beginning on April 25, 1945. The UN was officially created when a UN charter was ratified on October 24 that year.

United Nations Day was first observed on October 24, 1948. The UN recommended that United Nations Day should be a public holiday in member states since 1971. There were also calls for United Nations Day to be an international public holiday to bring attention to the work, role and achievements of the UN and its family of specialized agencies. These have been spectacular, particularly in the fields of human rights, support in areas of famine, eradication of disease, promotion of health and settlement of refugees.

The UN does not work alone but together with many specialized agencies, including: the World Health Organization (WHO); the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); International Labour Organization (ILO); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

8) ZONTA INTERNATIONAL, DISTRICT AND LOCAL CLUBS SUPPORT 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

NOVEMBER 25 -DECEMBER 10 2011

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign is an international campaign begun in 1991. It originated from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University in New Jersey. The dates chosen for the campaign are November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and December 10th, International Human Rights Day. These particular days were chosen to reinforce that violence against women is a human rights issue and that violence against women is a human rights violation.

Each year, since 1991, the Women's Global Leadership Institute chooses a different theme. This year's theme is “Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence against Women” which will be a multi-year project and will address issues such as “the economic consequences of war on women, women's role in peace building and peace negotiations, violence against women committed by members of the military,

sexual violence and sexual slavery in conflict situations, impunity for military personnel in cases of violence against women and women and girls' vulnerability as refugees and internally displaced persons." This theme is especially timely as we have observed, on October 20th, the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 which called for parties in conflict to respect women's rights and to support their participation in peace processes.

The issue of violence against women is at the center of Zonta's mission. The 16 Days Campaign is one that has been taken up by women's groups around the world in order to shed light on the problem and to make people aware that "Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation" (former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan). The question now is what can we as members, clubs and districts of Zonta International do? We can raise awareness, organize an activity, or write a letter to the editor of the newspaper. If you decide on an activity, write a press release about it. Contact local mayors, councils, county officials, etc., and ask them to get on board with the campaign through resolutions to make the campaign official. The 16 Days website has a tool kit that you can use. Go to www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days to see what actions can be taken and to see examples of activities from around the world. Most of all we need to assist our local communities to understand that all women are vulnerable to violence no matter their socio-economic status. We need to be a voice for those who cannot be heard.

11/8/2010 Mary Ann Tarantula marymac215@gmail.com

Zonta International United Nations Chair

9) DECEMBER 1 WORLD AIDS DAY:

SEE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM AND SUPPORT MATERIALS RE: PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN RWANDA (Item #3)

10) DECEMBER 2 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY/SUPPRESSION OF THE TRAFFIC IN PERSONS

What do people do?

Many people use the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery as an opportunity to share their perspective in writings through poetry, opinion pieces, interviews, feature articles, short stories and other published material. Classrooms may review the history of slave trade, its evolution and changes it has undergone through to modern times. Students may also learn about the negative impacts of slavery on society.

Online, print and broadcast media promote the day through news, debates, forums, and talks about modern day slave trade and why it is a serious human rights issue. Political leaders, including senators and those with ministerial responsibilities, also take the time to urge the public to work together in eradicating any form of slavery in modern society. Flyers, posters, leaflets, newsletters about abolishing slavery and slave trade are also distributed throughout universities and in public areas on this day.

Background

The United Nations is committed to fighting against slavery and considers bonded labour, forced labour, the worst forms of child labour and trafficking people as modern forms of slavery. Some sources say that more than one million children are trafficked each year for cheap labour or sexual exploitation. These types of slavery are global problems and go against article four of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms”.

The International Day for the Abolition of Slavery recalls the adoption of the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (resolution 317(IV) of December 2, 1949). To remember the convention, a UN report of the Working Group on Slavery recommended in 1985 that December 2 be proclaimed the World Day for the Abolition of Slavery in all its forms. By 1995, the day was known as the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

On December 18, 2002, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2004 the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition. On November 28, 2006, the assembly designated March 25, 2007, as the International Day for the Commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The UN also annually observes the UN's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on August 23.

Symbols

The UN emblem is often found in online and print material used to promote events such as the United Nations' International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. The emblem consists of a projection of the globe centered on the North Pole. It depicts all continents except Antarctica and four concentric circles representing degrees of latitude. The projection is surrounded by images of olive branches, representing peace. The emblem is often blue, although it is printed in white on a blue background on the UN flag.

11) DECEMBER 10 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

What do people do?

Events focused on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are held worldwide on and around December 10. Many events aim to educate people, especially children and teenagers, on their human rights and the importance of upholding these in their own communities and further afield.

The day may also include protests to alert people of circumstances in parts of the world where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not recognized or respected, or where the importance of these rights are not considered to be important. Cultural events are also organized to celebrate the importance of human rights through music, dance, drama or fine art.

Background

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was drafted between January 1947 and December 1948. It aimed to form a basis for human rights all over the world and represented a significant change of direction from events during World War II and the continuing colonialism that was rife in the world at the time. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is considered as the most translated document in modern history. It is available in more than 360 languages and new translations are still being added.

The UN General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France, on the December 10, 1948. All states and interested organizations were invited to mark December 10 as Human Rights Day at a UN meeting on December 4, 1950. It was first observed on December 10 that year and has been observed each year on the same date. Each year Human Rights Day has a theme. Some of these themes have focused on people knowing their human rights or the importance of human rights education.

Symbols

The UN symbol (an azimuthal equidistant projection of the globe centered on the North Pole surrounded by olive branches) is often associated with Human Rights Day. Copies of the whole Universal Declaration of Human Rights are also regarded as symbolic of Human Rights Day and are often distributed on or around December 10.

Compiled and respectfully submitted by Sandra Vosper District 15 UN Chair 2011-02-03