

Welcome to the Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville Newsletter!

In this newsletter you will find information on past events, projects currently underway and upcoming events:

- Club Charter Ceremony
- International Day of the Girl – 11 October
- Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action
- 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women
- 6 December: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
- Website Update
- Club Twinning Programme
- 13 December Meeting

Club Charter Ceremony

Pictures say a thousand words so suffice to say, our Charter Ceremony was fabulous! We were joined by many community members and Ottawa Council of Women. District 2 Governor, Lorraine Abess, spoke to us about Zonta's work in District 2 and inducted the new members.

Immediate Past Governor, Liz Tesiero, installed the officers and presented the club gavel to President Judith. As usual, Lt Governor, Iraina Gerchman, was our tech support!



City Councillors Cathy Curry (Kanata North Ward) and Glen Gower (Stittsville Ward) welcomed us with wishes to build a strong community locally and to stand up for women's human rights.



Zonta International Representative, Souella Cumming, joined us from New Zealand, and Past D2 Governors, Valerie Hume and Theresa Harris, celebrated, too! Thanks to Theresa for creating the virtual collage of Zontians and Zonta friends!



Thanks to Camelia, everyone enjoyed delicious cake to celebrate our charter!

The Charter Ceremony was reported in the Stittsville Community Voice newspaper and included the picture with Elspeth, Camelia and me standing with our new club banner. Councillor Gower also posted a picture on Instagram.



International Day of the Girl – 11 October

Kathleen posted the ZI graphics to the ZKS Facebook and Instagram. I posted them on my LinkedIn. Below is an example. The posts focus on child marriage which is one of Zonta International's major causes this biennium and the past two bienniums – **Global Programme to End Child Marriage**. Zonta partners with UNICEF USA and UNFPA in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Yemen and Zambia. Read more about the project. [PDF](#)

□

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

11 OCTOBER



Child marriage is driven by gender inequality, poverty and harmful social norms, and it disproportionately affects girls' health, education and future opportunities.

Source: Girls Not Brides



Child marriage violates the rights of girls and often leads to early pregnancy, limited education and an increased risk of domestic violence. It is a major obstacle to achieving gender equality and sustainable development.

Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024



Child marriage robs girls of their childhood, limits education, increases the risk of domestic violence and leads to poorer health and economic outcomes, perpetuating cycles of poverty.

Source: Girls Not Brides



Girl-led movements are stopping child marriage and female genital mutilation, demanding action on climate change and trailblazing in STEM fields.

Source: UNICEF



Child marriage increases the risk of early pregnancies, which are dangerous for both mother and child.

Source: UNICEF



Child brides are more vulnerable to abuse and violence within marriage, as they lack power and often face significant social isolation.

Source: Girls Not Brides



#DayOfTheGirl #IDG #EndChildMarriage

Zonta Says NOW to Gender-Equal Climate Action


I try to attend the Zonta Says NOW Intercontinental Think Tanks and catch-up meetings alternating every month. You can watch this [Think Tank](#) with speakers from Sweden and Uganda. Remember to check out the [fact sheets](#) and other information on the ZI website.

Intercontinental Think Tank

Sunday 10 November
10 am UTC


Europe/Africa

Karin, Pia, Joan



WELCOME TO THE ONLINE AFRICAN EUROPEAN INTER-CONTINENTAL THINK TANK NOVEMBER 10 10 AM UTC


HOW INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE IMPACTS GENDER-EQUAL CLIMATE JUSTICE




© iStockphoto.com, paco_bir

GLOBAL NORTH MEETS GLOBAL SOUTH.

Our keynote speakers:



Jennie Sinclair
Entrepreneur, investor and board member of the Swedish Ownership Foundation.



Saadat Nakyejwe Kimuli, PhD
With a PhD in Business Administration and Sustainability, she is passionate about fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in Uganda.



News from McGill University - Sustainability Leaders

Read the [full story](#).

For the youngest '30 Under 30' sustainability leader, change is 'never impossible'

Cameron Toy Kluger is among five young McGill students and grads honoured for making the world a better, more sustainable place, in fields ranging from health care and construction to banking and education. [Full story](#).

16 Days of Activism

• Campaign Launch with Mayor Sutcliffe

Elspeth Nickle attended the gathering on Tuesday 26 November organised by Ottawa GRANs (Grandmothers Advocacy Network). There was one speaker from OCTEVAW who was excellent. Mayor Sutcliffe read the proclamation as you can see in the photos.



Elspeth told the GRAN group that she was from the Kanata-Stittsville Zonta Club. We will follow up with the GRANs and OCTEVAW to ask them to sign our petition to end child marriage in Canada.

Please click [here](#) or [here](#) or scan the QR code to sign the petition: **End Child Marriage in Canada: Raise the Legal Age to 18, no exceptions.**



16 Days of Activism

- 6 December Vigil: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women



December 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

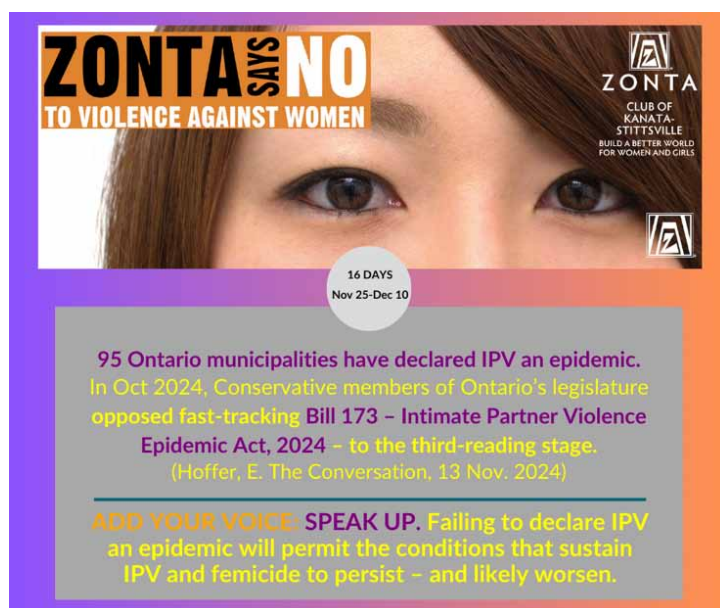
On the 35th anniversary of the Polytechnique tragedy, and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (White Ribbon Day), we invite you to join us in a commemoration of the 14 young women.

When: Friday, Dec. 6, 11 to 11:45 a.m., followed by a community gathering to express solace and support
Where: Commemorative site located in front of University Centre, 3480 McTavish Street. [Learn more.](#)

16 Days of Activism

- Zonta Club of Kanata-Stittsville 16 Posts for Social Media and LinkedIn

Every day during the 16 Days, Kathleen is posting a graphic to Facebook and Instagram and I am posting to my LinkedIn. The graphics are accompanied by posts such as this one. Please like and repost on your Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn.



Dec. 8: On Tuesday, June 28, 2022, the jury recommendations from the Renfrew Ontario Inquest into the deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam were presented. In total, 86 recommendations for change were made, speaking to oversight and accountability, funding, education and training, measures addressing perpetrators of intimate partner violence, intervention and safety. The first recommendation was to declare intimate partner and gender-based violence an epidemic. #ZontaSaysNO #16DaysOfActivism #OrangeTheWorld #AWorldWithoutViolence #ZontaCanada #WrappedInCourage #PurpleTheWorld #ZontaKanataStittsville

16 Days of Activism

• Zonta Says NO Summit Tuesday 10 December

Please [register](#) to attend the summit. There are three speakers so you can attend one, two or all depending on your availability.

SUSANNE STRAND

A Psychological View of Violence Against Women

8:00 AM CST | [Find your time](#)

Susanne is a professor of criminology. Her research focuses on risk assessment and management of intimate partner violence. Much of her work involves collaboration with the police and social services.

In her current research in Sweden, Susanne leads the research program RISKSAM (Risk Management and Collaboration). The aim is to develop an effective evidence-based working method together with practitioners for the police, social services, and other actors for intimate partner violence, stalking, and honor-related violence and oppression.



TONY PORTER

A Call to Men - Ending Violence Against Women

12:00 PM CST | [Find your time](#)

Tony is an author, educator, and activist working to advance gender and racial justice and create a more equitable society. He is internationally recognized for his efforts to prevent violence against women while promoting healthy, respectful manhood.



ELIZABETH FLOCK

A Conversation with Elizabeth Flock about Gender-Based Violence

4:00 PM CST | [Find your time](#)

Elizabeth is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and author with a focus on stories about gender and justice. Her work has been featured in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, on *PBS News Hour* and *Netflix*, among other outlets. Her reporting is supported by the Pulitzer Center, PEN America, and the International Women's Media Foundation.



Participants will be given a short excerpt from her recent book, *The Furies*, prior to the Summit, to read and discuss in an interactive discussion with Elizabeth in the second half of her session.

16 Days of Activism

• Brockville Mayor

Jane sent this post that the Mayor of Brockville posted on his instagram. The more cities, organisations, associations, governments, etc. that join us, the better to get the word out and raise awareness!



brockvillemayor



brockvillemayor I was honoured to join staff and supporters of Leeds & Grenville Interval House for a flag raising ceremony yesterday, International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, and to mark the beginning of 16 days of action against gender based violence.

As a community it's important to stand together against all forms of violence and abuse. I want to thank all those who work in the sector who come to the aid of women and children during times of crisis and distress.

Website Update

Michelle is working on updating the website. I hope we can finish most of the changes in December. We want our twinning club, the Zonta Club of Taranto, Italy (see below) to see what ZKS is doing. We would love to have feedback!

Virtual Art Gallery

The Zonta Says NOW International Working Group has opened the Virtual Art Gallery for submissions. Julie Trone has asked clubs to promote especially throughout February. The submission deadline is February 28. The Zonta Says NOW Working Group will also distribute an e-flyer and social media posts to all the Zonta committee teams (I guess I am one of the teams). When I receive it, I will share abundantly with you and all Canadian clubs. Please go to the [website](#) to see last year's submissions and for further information about submitting your art work. Note that you do not have to be a great artist! A photo will suffice!

Club Twinning Programme

Two weeks ago, I received the following message from Raisa Valva, Twinning Programme Coordinator and member of the Zonta Club of Lahti, Finland:

It gives us great pleasure, on behalf of President Salla, to announce that your two clubs **Kanata-Stittsville from Canada and Taranto from Italy** have been matched for the initial Zonta International *Twining Program*.

We hope you are as excited as we are. This matching is the first step.... now it's up to you!

As you would expect, the *Twining Program* is all about developing connections, friendships and relationships across the Zonta world. It is about supporting each other and creating opportunities for sharing ideas. We now encourage you to make contact with each other over the coming days to set up an initial meeting. At this meeting, we suggest you provide each other with as much background about your club as possible. You could also agree how you will work (frequency of meetings, best communication methods, etc.), and discuss ideas about how your two clubs can benefit from this experience.

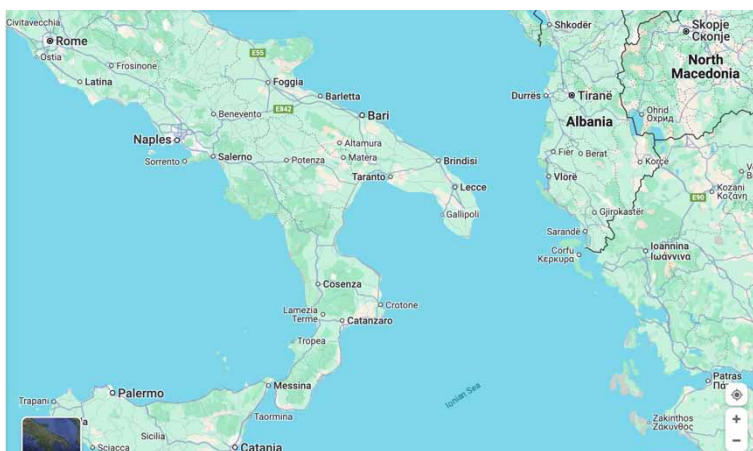
We also wanted to let you know about our Kick-off Celebration which will be held in January via Zoom. All twinned clubs will be invited to attend. More details on this celebration will be provided in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns, we are here to help; and Yvonne Janvrin from ZI Headquarters, is also available to provide you support. We are really looking forward to hearing how you progress.

More information to come once our club has connected with the Taranto Club.

13th December Meeting

I emailed Media Relations at Ottawa Police Services to inquire about asking someone from the Intimate Partner Violence Unit to speak at our next club meeting on Friday 13 December. It would be an excellent way to wrap up the 16 Days of Activism Campaign that ends on 10 December. Melanie Winwood, Senior Advisor-Violence Against Women, Ottawa Police Services, replied and has kindly agreed to attend our meeting on 13 December in person to talk to the club. She also had a few questions to which I replied:



- 20-minute talk followed by Q&A
- meeting to take place in Stittsville from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- facts and statistics for the Ottawa region
- update on the use and definition of the term « femicide »
- recent murders and domestic violence
- statistics on femicides and calls that OPS answers related to domestic violence
- if possible, breakdown of different kinds of abuse such as physical, financial, etc.
- breakdown by demographics, i.e., ethnicity, First Nations, 2SLGBTQI+, urban, rural, etc.

If these statistics are unavailable for Ottawa, is there a reason for either not collecting them or not conducting a fine-grained analysis?

We are asking GRANs, OCW, OCTEVAW and ZCO if members would be interested in attending. The meeting will be in person in Stittsville and virtual.

Biennial Goals



Clubs should support globally aligned and shared moments for activism on **Four Focus Dates**:

8 March: International Women's Day

22 April: Earth Day

11 October: International Day of the Girl Child

25 November – 10 December: Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women

ZKS participated in the 11 October and 16 Days of Activism campaigns with social media posts plus an invited speaker. If you have any ideas for a Zonta event on 8 March and 22 April, please let me know. All ideas and suggestions are most welcome! Note that often several members will work together or the whole club may be involved.

Let's make a difference in the lives of women and children!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events and let's plan to attend!

**NGO CSW/NY 69
10-21 March 2025, United Nations, New York City
Zonta Says NOW presentation Friday 14 March**

**Zonta District 2 Spring Workshop
16-17 May 2025, Upper Hudson Valley, NY**

**Zonta North American Inter-District Meeting (NAIDM)
20-22 June 2025, Midland, Michigan, USA**

**Zonta District 2 Fall Conference
17-19 October 2025**

**Zonta International Convention 2026
11-14 July, Vancouver, BC, Canada**

**These events are fabulous ways to learn, be inspired, connect and
reconnect to build a better world for women and girls!**

We can't help everyone. But everyone can help someone.