

Day 1 - November 25

International Day - for the Elimination of Violence against Women



Action = Empowerment

“Unity is strength ...when there is teamwork and collaboration wonderful things can be achieved.” Mattie Stepanek

Zonta International launches its **Say No to Violence Against Women - 16 Days of Activism** from **November 25 - December 10**. The first day kickoffs with the **United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**.

Starting on November 25 and for the next two years, the UN Secretary-General’s **UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign**, a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, will focus on the issue of rape as a specific form of harm committed against women and girls in times of peace or war. Zonta International partners with the UN on a variety of programs and provides financial support. **(more)**

<https://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/unite>

Day 2 - November 26

Men/Boys Role in Violence Against Women



Action = Empowerment

UN Ambassador Antonio Banderas Talks About Violence Against Women and Men's Role

Men and boys play a critical role in helping to prevent sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Men can choose not to perpetrate acts of violence and challenge those men who do. They can also challenge ideals and attitudes which support violence against women. **(more)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI5OMf2HMIw>

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services, Madison, Wisconsin

DAIS is the only domestic abuse shelter in Dane County. It Empowers those affected by domestic violence and advocate for social change through support, education, and outreach.

MEN'S Club

This is one of DAIS' main prevention initiatives. MEN'S Club, which stands for Men Encouraging Nonviolent Strength, works with high school-aged male youth and provides a minimum of 10 sessions that focus on gender roles and expectations, communication, conflict resolution, and healthy and less-healthy relationships. Each session is discussion and activity-based and is about 50 minutes long. Sessions are co-facilitated by DAIS and school/organization staff, and encourage peer leadership.

MENS Club participants have presented to fellow students and faculty, middle school students and state-wide audiences at conferences about what they've learned during their MEN'S Club experience. The current MENS Club partner sites include:

- **Goodman Community Center**
- **LaFollette High School (2 groups)**
- **Kennedy Heights Community Center with Vera Court**
- **Lussier Community Education Center**
- **West High School**

Day 3 - November 27

Ending Early Marriage - Survivor Recovery Stories - US



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Child marriage remains legal in 46 US States and is happening in the U.S. at an alarming rate: Some 248,000 children some as young as age 12 were married in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010.

The U.S. State Department has called marriage before 18 a “[human rights abuse](#)” that “produces devastating repercussions for a girl’s life, effectively ending her childhood.” This leaves a young girl vulnerable to poverty, early pregnancy, abuse and lack of education. Many states have been working to enact laws that make it illegal to marry before the age of 18 even with parental consent.

Survivors’ Corner Mobilizes Change in Kentucky

“With the support of many advocates and victims’ rights centric partners, we successfully spearheaded Kentucky Senate Bill 48, which put an end to children marrying through parental consent in the state of Kentucky. Now we are mobilizing other states to take action in the fight against child marriage in the United States.” – Donna Pollard, Survivors’ Corner **(more)** <https://survivorscorner.org/stop-child-marriage>

U.S. Reps. Moore, Taylor: Introduce the Status of Child Marriages in the United States Act

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2020/u-s-reps-moore-taylor-introduce-the-status-of-child-marriages-in-the-united-states-act/>

Personal Story

”Even though I know now as a middle-aged woman that I couldn’t have done more than I did, it doesn’t do much to relieve the nightmares. This didn’t happen in a far-off country. I was raised in an upper-middle-class suburban home in the Midwestern U.S. My family looked a lot like yours probably does. And what happened to me is still legal. Children in these marriages are trapped. If there had been laws against marriage before the age of 18, I couldn’t have been coerced to marry.” **(more)** <https://www.unchainedatlast.org/terrys-story/>

Day 4 - November 28

Ending Human Trafficking - Global



Action = Empowerment

Luiza Karimova Personal Story

When she was 22 years old, Luiza Karimova left her home in Uzbekistan and travelled to Osh, Kyrgyzstan with the hopes of finding work. However, without a Kyrgyz ID or university degree, Karimova struggled to find employment. When a woman offered her a waitressing job in Bishkek, the capital city in the north of Kyrgyzstan, she welcomed the opportunity. But things took a turn for the worse after arriving in Bishkek. Karimova recalls that, “They held us in an apartment and took away our passports.

For 18 months, her life was consumed by the nightclub work. Upon leaving the club one evening, Karimova saw a police car approaching, and instead of running away, she stayed to let the police arrest her. “I was deported back to Osh, and since my ID was fake, I spent a year in jail. I filed a police report, and three of the traffickers were captured”.

After being released from prison, Karimova was approached by Podruga, an organization that assists women subjected to sex and drug trafficking. “They offered me work. Slowly I began to trust them,” she says. Now, Karimova works to prevent the exact situation in which she found herself. As an outreach worker with Podruga, she visits saunas and other places where sex workers may be. “I often meet girls who dream of going to Turkey and Dubai, to earn more. I tell them, ‘please don’t go...There is nothing good for you there.’” **(more)**

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/7/compilation-trafficking-survivors-share-stories>

Day 5 - November 29
Advocacy - Wisconsin



Action = Empowerment

"There's no such thing as a child prostitute," says LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee). "These children are not capable of giving consent." Children facing charges of prostitution have been used by prosecutors to testify against pimps. Authorities sometimes send child victims of trafficking to juvenile detention facilities, to keep them off the streets because so few shelters are available.

"The Safe Harbor law basically now says you can no longer do that. You have to treat these child victims as victims, which means you have to provide them with services, with food, with shelter, with foster care, a safe place to live that these children are now going to be under the guardianship of the state," she says. Wisconsin needs to pass the legislation. **The public needs to speak up in support. (more)** <https://www.wuwm.com/post/whats-happening-human-trafficking-legislation-wisconsin>

advocacy
to change "what is"
into "what should be"

Day 6 - November 30
Ending Sexual Assault - US



Action = Empowerment

YOUR VOICE HAS POWER!

Believe Survivors. End Victim Blaming. Respect Boundaries

Domestic Violence in the News

News 3 Now (CBS, Madison, WI) investigates

Thousands of victims of sexual assault face hurdles in system designed to bring justice

Detectives have heavy caseloads. Prosecutors don't move forward with all cases, and DNA can only take the investigation so far. The impact on victims is real. [\(more\)](#)

<https://www.channel3000.com/news-3-now-investigates-thousands-of-victims-of-sexual-assault-face-hurdles-in-system-designed-to-bring-justice/>

There is help for sexual assault survivors in Wisconsin:

- Rape Crisis Center of Dane County
<https://thercc.org>
- Sexual Assault Victim Rights Project: Legal Action's Victim Rights Project lawyers protect the privacy and other rights of sexual assault survivors. This project is a partnership with Wisconsin Judicare
<https://www.legalaction.org/services/sexual-assault-victim-rights-project>
- By Your Side: Support for Sexual Assault Survivors in Wisconsin
<https://byyoursidewi.org>

Day 7 - December 1

Education - Let Us Learn Madagascar



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Let Us Learn Madagascar: Empowering Girls Through Education

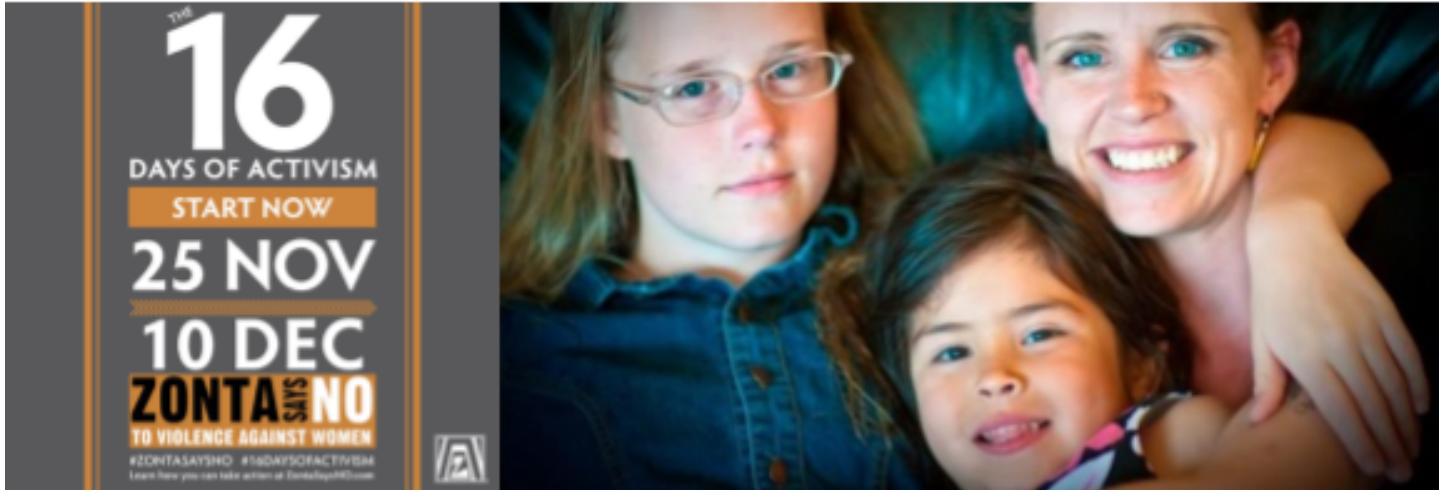
UNICEF's **Let Us Learn** is an integrated education program that is creating opportunities for vulnerable and excluded children, particularly girls, in Madagascar. The project is focused on reaching out-of-school children, expanding girls' education and improving quality outcomes for learners. **(more)**

<https://zonta.org/images/docs/OurPrograms/InternationalServiceProjects/LetUsLearn/MadagascarProjectUpdateApril2020.pdf>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdZaYLzeucE>

Day 8 - December 2

Ending Domestic Violence - Survivor Recovery Stories



Action = Empowerment

These women survived domestic violence. Now they're taking a stand to help others

A Survivor Becomes an Advocate

“What keeps me motivated in my career is the whole power of advocacy and being able to be a voice for people who haven't discovered their voice yet... for a long time, I was that person. I can get up and go to work every day and know that I'm going in with a completely open mind and an open heart and I'm going to hear everything that they have to say.”

Dawn Johnson, *Live Your Dream Awards* Recipient

Personal Story <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/10/gun-violence-report/>

Day 9 - December 3

Human Trafficking In the Heartland



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The Midwest Remains Stubbornly Fertile Ground For Sex Trafficking

Human trafficking is a major industry in the U.S. In the Midwest, trafficking is dominant because of the intersection of federal interstates that easily transport victims through a circuit that can span all the major cities in just a week, spurred by online advertising that authorities say is difficult to stop.

Zonta Club of Kankakee Wrap a Truck Human Trafficking/Zonta Says No

Raising awareness of human trafficking requires creative ways. The Zonta Club of Kankakee, Illinois has been continuing their successful Human Trafficking Campaign. This new campaign was made possible through support of Hoekstra Transportation of St. Anne Illinois. Hoekstra donated three of its trucks to be wrapped, each spreading the word while traveling thousands of miles over seven Midwest states. “The purpose of these trucks is to get peoples’ attention to how prolific the problem [of sex trafficking] is,” said Jake Lee, of Hoekstra Transportation.

The Reality of Trafficking at Truck Stops - Truckers Against Trafficking

The trucking industry has joined together to combat and identify human trafficking on the countries highways. **(more)** <https://truckersagainstrafficking.org/#>

Truckers Fighting Human Trafficking Are Trained To Be Alert To Late Night knocks

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/truckers-fighting-human-trafficking-are-trained-be-alert-late-night-n1120661>

Michelle’s Story - Hiding In Plain Sight: The Story Of A Milwaukee Sex Trafficking Survivor

“What I’ve learned, and what’s been absolutely beautiful for me, is understanding that I can either live in conflict with my past or I can reconcile my past to my present,” Michelle says. One way she’s reconciling her past with her present is by working with organizations that help other survivors of trafficking. **(more)** <https://www.wuwm.com/post/hiding-plain-sight-story-milwaukee-sex-trafficking-survivor#stream/0>

Day 10 - December 4

Ending Early Marriage - Global



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Ending Child Marriage Global

Child marriage is any formal or informal union where one or both of the parties are under 18 years old, [according to Girls Not Brides](#). Early and forced marriage happens across countries, cultures and religions. Each year, 12 million girls are married before they turn 18. Child marriage is any formal or informal union where one or both of the parties are under 18 years old, [according to Girls Not Brides](#). Early and forced marriage happens across countries, cultures and religions. Each year, 12 million girls are married before they turn 18.

It is estimated that 650 million women alive today were married as girls. Child brides are often pulled out of school and are at a greater risk of violence, being trapped in poverty and serious health complications or even death due to early pregnancy. **(more)**

<https://youtu.be/QJFJAa4AWnY>

http://www.zonta.org/Web/Our_Causes/Ending_Child_Marriage/Web/Causes/Ending_Child_Marriage.aspx?hkey=bda8d92c-578a-4497-bf77-695ec0376e5a

<https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/empowering-girls-can-help-end-child-marriage/>

Day 11 - December 5

Gender Equity



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“We all have the responsibility to create and cultivate gender equality, whether at home or in the workplace.” *Lynnette Cooke* Lynnette Cooke is the Global CEO for the Health Division of Kantar.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/6/take-five-lynnette-cooke>

UN Sustainable Development

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

There has been progress over the last decades: More girls are going to school, fewer girls are forced into early marriage, more women are serving in parliament and positions of leadership, and laws are being reformed to advance gender equality.

Despite these gains, many challenges remain: discriminatory laws and social norms remain pervasive, women continue to be underrepresented at all levels of political leadership, and 1 in 5 women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 report experiencing physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner within a 12-month period.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could reverse the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women’s rights. The coronavirus outbreak exacerbates existing inequalities for women and girls across every sphere – from health and the economy, to security and social protection.

Day 12 - December 6

Ending Sexual Assault - Global



Action = Empowerment

Rape – a single word with devastating impact that spans decades, even generations. It destroys bodies and minds and puts peace in jeopardy. When left unpunished or trivialized, it creates a pervasive culture where sexual violence is normalized, women and girls are undervalued, and entire communities and nations are left fractured.

You know the stories – “*Boys will be boys.*” – or – “*She was drunk.*” – or – “*Women say “no” when they mean “yes.”*” Rape culture is the social environment that allows sexual violence to be normalized and justified, fueled by the persistent gender inequalities and attitudes about gender and sexuality. Naming it is the first step to dismantling rape culture.

Click (here) for 16 suggestions for what YOU can do right now.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/11/compilation-ways-you-can-stand-against-rape-culture>

Need some numbers?

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

Day 13 - December 7

Health - Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection in Peru



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In the 2020-2022 biennium, Zonta International will also be supporting the **Adolescent Girls' Health and Protection** project in Peru. The project will contribute to guarantee the rights of indigenous and rural adolescents, especially girls, and respond to needs such as preventing pregnancy, addressing mental health concerns and providing a protective environment from violence.

Zonta International has committed US\$1,000,000 to UNICEF USA to improve the capacity of services to respond to the health needs of adolescents—especially girls—in a timely manner and prevent violence in schools in the regions of Huancavelica and Ucayali. **(more)**

<https://www.zonta.org/Web/Programs/ISP/Peru>

Day 14 - December 8

Domestic Violence in the Pandemic



Action = Empowerment

“Domestic violence rose during lockdown — and injuries are dramatically more severe, study finds.” Los Angeles Times (more)

<https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-08-18/intimate-partner-violence-spiked-80-after-pandemic-lockdown-began>

Day 15 - December 9

Leadership



Action = Empowerment

Around the world, women are shining through as outstanding leaders as the COVID-19 pandemic escalates. From Germany to New Zealand and Denmark to Iceland, women leaders have shown clarity in their decisions and policies, they are compassionate, empathetic, strong communicators and they show solidarity. Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani, the first woman assembly president in Kosovo, has been praised for her professionalism in leading the assembly during the crisis. She is a Doctor of Legal Sciences, former professor and mother of two girls.

Leadership During the Pandemic

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/take-five-vjosa-osmani>

Leadership Women, Inc. graduates are corporate and community leaders, representing women of all ages, ethnicity and professional backgrounds. **(more)**

<https://leadership-women.org>

Women in leadership—networking, mentoring and the Zonta connection

https://www.zonta.org/Web/News_Events/Articles/Women_in_leadership_networking_mentoring_and_the_Zonta_connection.aspx

Day 16 - December 10
World Human Rights Day



Action = Empowerment

UN Declaration of Human Rights • Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights

The **2020 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY** theme relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and focuses on the need to build back better by ensuring Human Rights are central to recovery efforts. We will reach our common global goals only if we are able to create equal opportunities for all, address the failures exposed and exploited by COVID-19, and apply human rights standards to tackle entrenched, systematic, and intergenerational inequalities, exclusion and discrimination.

December 10 is an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of human rights in re-building the world we want, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity.

Under UN Human Rights' generic call to action "Stand Up for Human rights", we aim to engage the general public, our partners and the UN family to bolster transformative action and showcase practical and inspirational examples that can contribute to recovering better and fostering more resilient and just societies. **(more)**

<https://graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/advocacy-news/un-declaration-on-human-rights-education-and-training/>