

**ZONTA CLUB**

## Zonta working to end violence against women, in Auburn and abroad

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When writing my column about Zonta on Sunday, I realized that it was Orange Day, the 25th of the month! Last year, the United Nations Secretary General's UNiTE to End Violence Against Women campaign proclaimed Orange Day for organizations and individuals to advocate to end violence against women! The theme for this month is sexual violence against women and girls in conflict.

Zonta International President Lynn McKenzie, of New Zealand, wrote: "We can't and mustn't ignore the fact: Violence against women and girls is still pervasive in all kinds of countries and societies. It's in our backyard. Zonta International has been committed to its prevention and eradication for many years. In 2013, as the UN's Commission on the Status of Women focuses on fighting violence against women, we support the initiative with Zonta Says No, a worldwide campaign saying no to violence against women. Do not look away. Join us!"

Some examples of what Zonta clubs are doing around the world are:

The Zonta Clubs in Ibadan, Nigeria joined forces in organizing a rally on preventing and ending violence against women. They invited women's professional organizations to join with them and they walked a route through the streets carrying signs in the local languages, saying:

Zonta says "no" to degrading traditional practices

Zonta says "no" to female child labour

Zonta says "no" to sexual harassment

Zonta says "no" to discrimination in employment

Zonta says "no" to violence from law enforcement agencies

Zonta says "no" to childhood marriage

Zonta says "no" to wife beating

Zonta says "no" to rape

Zonta says "no" to denial of female education

Zonta says "no" to negative cultural attitude

Zonta says “no” to female circumcision

Zonta club of Kitchner-Waterloo in Ontario, Canada spread a similar message.

The Zonta Club of Auburn is refurbishing rooms at the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency's new Supervised Visitation/Safe Exchange Center to make life more comfortable for women and children escaping from domestic violence in our own community. We gave a grant to the supportive housing program to assist young female participants in a transitional living program for homeless young adults, providing a safe, stable environment to work on goals, including educational achievement and employment preparedness. We are helping to furnish the infant visitation room at the center. This program will be the only one of its kind in the county, and will provide a safe, monitored place for supervised visits and safe exchange of children, by and between parents, where there has been a history of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking.

In addition, we donate to the Zonta International Strategies to Eradicate Violence Against Women Fund, where many hands can help to make a difference for women suffering from domestic violence. Zonta International Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization to which contributions are deductible, should you qualify. Please visit [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org) to find out more about our charitable programs.

To read more about what Zonta is doing around the country and the world to eradicate violence against women, visit [zontasaysno.com](http://zontasaysno.com). Think about how you could work to prevent violence against women. Women, men and children: Remember to wear orange on the 25th of each month to keep this important issue in the forefront of our actions. Orange should be an easy color to find in your closet, with so many Syracuse University fans in our community.

Our Auburn Zonta Club is very pleased to announce that our club's Young Women in Public Affairs winner, Milyana Doleshka, a 2013 graduate of Auburn High School, has won the Zonta District 2 Award after competing with 18 other winners in our district. She then went on to compete with the 30 district award winners from 19 countries for 10 international awards. Having moved to the United States from Bulgaria, Milyana has a broad understanding of international issues, and would like to work abroad building sustainable housing in poverty-stricken areas of the world. To this end, Milyana has been accepted into the School of Architecture at Syracuse University. Our club, her family and our community is proud of this wonderful young woman, who will certainly make a difference in advancing the status of women.

For information about our club or membership, contact us at [auburn@zontadistrict2.org](mailto:auburn@zontadistrict2.org), visit our websites, [www.zontadistrict2.org](http://www.zontadistrict2.org) and [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org), or write us at Zonta Club of Auburn, 144 Genesee St., Suite 102-270, Auburn, NY.