



LAA/UN COMMITTEE

Legislative Awareness & Advocacy/
United Nations Committees

September 2008

Zonta Club
Of
Northern Valley, NJ

LAA/UN COMMITTEES PLAN GET OUT THE VOTE!

Pictured here is Alice Paul, famous New Jersey suffragette. Her story is featured in the HBO movie, "Iron Jawed Angels."



The LAA/UN Committee has decided to donate copies of the film to local libraries and to have a showing at the Englewood Library on October 14th at 7 pm.

The purpose of the program

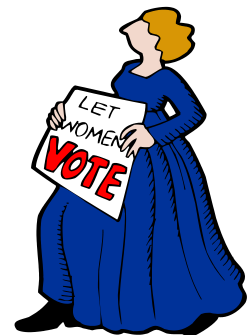
is to get women out to vote. Many women are unaware of the hardships involved in winning women the right to vote.

The movie depicts the degradation, incarceration and torture these women endured for a cause they believed in. Aside from urging women to vote in this year's very important Presidential election, the movie brings home an important point, that we, as Zontians, can identify with. That is, we, also, have a cause we believe in—improving the status of women through service and advocacy. The committee believes that we are improving the status of women and advocating for

an issue that is close to our hearts.

At the viewing of the movie, we will hope to attract women who are interested in joining a service organization, ours. We will have a display board and literature describing Zonta International as well as our club.

We hope that many of our



Interesting Facts About Voter IDs from The League of Women Voters

According to The League of Women Voters, Voter ID Restrictions are a problem.

For example, in Indiana, photo IDs are provided free of charge, but you have to present an original source document, like a birth certificate or passport. Married women are some of the most common citizens affected, since their birth certificates are in their maiden names, and often mort-

gage bills and utility bills are in their husbands' names.

The US has seen low voter turnout in every election. Voter fraud is practically non-existent. So why the push for voter IDs? Obviously there are some who wish to keep eligible voters out of the election process.

Can You Name 16 forms of Gender-Based Violence?

According to UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, they are: Sexual violence as a weapon of war; pre-natal sex selection; female genital mutilation/cutting; date rape; bride burning or other forms of dowry-related violence; child marriage; trafficking of girls and women; domestic violence; crimes committed in the name of passion or honor; abductions of adolescent girls during combat; bride kidnapping; sexual harassment at work; physical or emotional violence by an intimate partner; exploitation of domestic

workers; femicide; forced sterilization or other coercive reproductive practices.

To learn how UNFPA is fighting gender-based violence go to www.unfpa.org.

Also, you can read about five under-reported forms of gender-based violence. Domestic violence in the Russian Federation, sex slavery in India, self-immolation in Central Asian republics, gender-based violence and HIV and “compensation” marriages are the five under-reported

stories compiled by UNFPA for 2007.

According to the UNFPA website, “Without exception, these stories—and the fact sheets that accompany them—highlight the scourge of violence against women and offer concrete recommendations about how to combat this global epidemic.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

From November 25th to December 10th many activist groups from all over the world speak up for support services for survivors, call for greater prevention efforts, press for legal and judicial reform, and use international human rights instruments to address the issue of gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence manifests itself in different ways in different cultures and societies. It ranges from psycho-

logical abuse to physical harm. Some of these are practiced within families. The Secretary General of the United Nations says, “all forms of violence against women represent unacceptable violations of human rights and they form a major impediment to gender equality.”

Training of police officers to assist and protect abused women is of utmost importance. They must take these cases seriously.

JOIN WITH OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WORLDWIDE TO BRING GREATER ATTENTION TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, A PERVASIVE AND DEEPLY ENTRENCHED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR S807 & A1264

Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assemblyman Gordon Johnson and Assemblywoman Valerie Huttle have sponsored legislation which would give New Jersey citizens vital patient safety data.

Nearly 100,000 patients die annually in the United States due to preventable medical errors. According to sources, these errors cause more deaths than do diabetes, pneumonia and Alzheimer's.

The New Jersey Dept. of Health collects data from hospitals about how many errors occur and publishes the total number in a report, but the information stops there.. In New Jersey, we have no way of knowing how many errors occur in the hospitals in the state.

S807 and A1264 are the two pieces of sponsored legislation which would give us this important information.

You can show your support by calling or

emailing Senator Weinberg, Assemblyman Johnson and/or Assemblywoman Huttle . Let them know you support the legislation and that you appreciate what they are doing to give the citizens of New Jersey information that is important when making health care decisions.

Senator Weinberg can be reached at senweinberg@njleg.org or 201-928-0100. To contact the others go to the NJ Legislature site.



UN SECURITY COUNCIL DEMANDS IMMEDIATE & COMPLETE HALT TO ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS IN CONFLICT ZONES

June 19, 2008—The Security Council, on this date, demanded the “immediate and complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians.” It expressed its deep concern that “...despite repeated condemnation, violence and sexual abuse of women and children trapped in war zones was not only continuing, but, in some cases, had become so widespread and

systematic as to reach appalling levels of brutality.”

The demand came at the end of a day-long meeting on “women, peace and security.” The 15 member Council unanimously adopted resolution 1820 (2008), which noted that “...rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide.” The Council also

affirmed its intention to consider imposing “targeted and graduated measures against warring factions who committed rape and other forms of violence against women and girls.”

The resolution also noted that women and girls are particularly targeted, in some cases as “a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instill fear and to forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group.”

The Female Face of HIV in South Africa

There are 5.5 million South Africans who are HIV-infected and 55% of them are women. South African women under age 25 are 4 times more likely to be HIV-infected than men in the same age group.

Power and control disparities are to blame because women’s relationships with sexual partners allow men to have multiple partners (at the same time). This also fuels their reluctance to use condoms.

Women report that they risk violence and/or desertion when they try to insist upon condom use. According to AIUSA Women’s Action Council, one 48 year old woman who is HIV positive said, “I got them and took them home, but he said no. He hit me...He overpowered me...He was infecting me.”

Poverty also acts as an impediment to health services, especially for rural women. While treatments may be

free, the cost of transportation to get to the treatment center are too high. In some cases, the drugs must be taken with food and many of these women cannot afford adequate food.

Formal education has been shown to help women and girls protect themselves against infection. Of course, many girls in rural areas leave school to work in the fields or to care for siblings after their parents have died from HIV/AIDS.

ZI 2008-2010 BIENNIUM SERVICE PROGRAMS

The ZI Service Program seeks to improve the status of women in developing countries or countries in transition.

The total biennium 2008-2010 ISP funding will be \$1,650,000 and is appropriated among the following:

\$600,000 to Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Rwanda. A project with UNICEF.

\$600,000 to Safe Cities for Women Project in Guatemala City, Guatemala

and San Salvador, El Salvador. A project with UNIFEM.

\$450,000 to Reduction of Obstetric fistula in Liberia. A project with UNFPA.

The ZISVAW Program, totaling \$600,000, includes:

Ending Violence Against Women through Community Action in Cambodia. Funding will be \$300,000 and will be with UNIFEM.

Also with UNIFEM is a program in Egypt designed to combat physical violence against women with a grant of \$200,000.

A grant of \$100,000 will go to UNIFEM’s project in Syria for a community-based center for housing and rehabilitation of women victims of violence.

More information can be found at www.zonta.org or in the July 2008 issue of The Zontian.