

Proclamation

City of Oneida - Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, the crime of violence against women and girls continues to be the most pervasive human rights violation and a global epidemic; is due to systemic use of physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, psychological and economic control and/or abuse; does not know any national nor cultural barriers and affects millions of women and girls of all races and socioeconomic backgrounds, in peacetime and conflict; violates an individual's privacy, dignity, security, and humanity, **and**

WHEREAS, according to UN Women, "As COVID-19 cases continue to strain health services, essential services, such as domestic violence shelters and helplines, have reached capacity [and] more needs to be done to prioritize addressing violence against women in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts", **and**

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates that one in three (35% of) women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, **and**

WHEREAS, more than 650 million women alive today were married as children and 12 million girls are married before the age of 18 each year, **and**

WHEREAS, Zonta International is a leading global organization of professionals with more than 28,000 members in 62 countries working together to make gender equality a worldwide reality for women and girls and has contributed to help achieve a world free of violence against women and girls for more than 100 years, **and now therefore**

I, **Helen B. Acker, Mayor** do hereby proclaim November 25, 2021 as;

Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women Day

in the City of Oneida and encourage all residents to prevent gender-based violence by educating the community on its harm, to advocate for survivors of gender-based violence and to act in service on their behalf.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the official seal of the City of Oneida on this 16th day of November, 2021.

Mayor Helen B. Acker