



Hello Friends 2018: June 4 – 7 Ottawa
Reflect-Renew-Rejoice
Recognizing the Rights of Older Women as Human Rights



Monday, June 4

Evening

Opening Banquet: Our keynote speaker Monday evening is **Dr. Samantha Nutt**. One of the most original and influential voices in the humanitarian arena, Dr. Nutt is a medical doctor and founder of the internationally renowned non-profit, War Child. For over 15 years she has been at the frontlines of many of the world's major crises. Her book, ***Damned Nations: Greed, Guns Armies and Aid***, details her experiences and will be available for signing. We know she will inspire us!

Tuesday, June 5

Morning

Voices from Africa: What we learned in Uganda: GRAN participants in the Uganda trip will share with us in pictures and words their amazing experiences in meeting with Ugandan grandmothers and the agencies that serve them.

Afternoon

Older Women Count! Our own Peggy Edwards will lead us in an interactive discussion on how we can use GRAN's research on understanding and promoting the rights of older women in Africa to guide our work.

This will be followed by the workshop **Nourishing the Grassroots** where we ask the questions “What inspires us? What moves us to action?”

GRAN Annual General Meeting: Looking Back - Looking Forward

Wednesday, June 6

Morning

Bigger than our Borders: Marie-Eve Marchand of the Canadian Council on International Cooperation (CCIC) will outline the CCIC led campaign to encourage Canada to increase its Official Development Assistance.

Aging Activism: May Chazan, Research Chair in Gender and Women’s Studies, Trent University. Many of you will remember May as an engaging speaker and great friend of GRAN. Her most recent research includes studying ***Activism Across Women’s Lives: Rethinking the Politics of Grandmothering.***

Climate Change: A Gender-based Perspective: Jane Rabinowicz, Executive Director of USC Canada will speak about building resilience among small scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa through ecological agriculture, education and gender equality. Jane is co-founder of the Silver Dollar Foundation and was formerly Director of Development at Equiterre and Executive Director of Santropol Roulant.

Afternoon

We will walk or taxi to Parliament Hill to attend Question Period followed by a conversation with parliamentarians about our issues. An impressive number of MPs and senators have already signalled their interest. Make sure you contact your own MP to obtain an invitation to Question Period (you need to be on the list to get in) and encourage your MP to attend the dialogue with GRAN.

Thursday, June 7

Morning

Thursday morning is devoted to learning opportunities through a number of workshops and presentations. You can choose to attend one of the following three workshops:

Measuring our Advocacy: Heather Fraser and Hilary Elliott will share strategies on how we can better measure the effectiveness of our advocacy.

Mining Justice: Victoria GRANs have been studying the negative impacts of large-scale mining operations, many of which are headquartered in Canada, on the human rights of women in Africa. Come join their workshop to learn more about efforts in Canada to advocate for more meaningful accountability on the part of mining companies to live up to their social, environmental and human rights obligations.

From Catcalling to Sex Trafficking in Canada /Africa: A series of 6 mini videos presented by Golden Horseshoe GRANs with discussion questions on how videos can be used to build awareness, recruit new members and advocate on many GRAN issues.

Plenary

Successfully Engaging with Government: Everyone is invited to join us in plenary for a presentation and Q&A by Velma McColl, Managing Principal at Earncliffe Strategy Group. Velma has advised Federal Cabinet Ministers on political strategy, policy and communications. Her career includes success as an entrepreneur and experience working collaboratively with business, academia, think tanks, not-for-profit organizations and the public sector.

Afternoon

Charting GRAN's Future Directions

After an overview by the Working Groups, we will devote the afternoon to working in small groups to chart the future directions of GRAN. We will ask you to consider the following questions.

Given our Vision, Mission and Mandate,

1. What should GRAN's focus be going forward, taking into consideration the needs of older women in sub-Saharan Africa and our current political environment, including the new Feminist International Assistance Policy?
2. How should we organize ourselves so that we have the most impact and make a difference with our advocacy?

Evening

Closing Banquet

Our closing banquet is dedicated to celebrating our wonderful partnerships and awarding the Order of GRAN. Our keynote speaker is **Ketty Nivyabandi**. An activist and poet, Ketty's leadership in mobilizing women in protest against her country's government led her to flee from persecution in Burundi to Canada. Ketty regularly speaks on human rights, refugee issues and the global effect of conflict on women's lives. Ketty has recently joined the staff of Nobel Women's Initiative as a Media Associate.