



Hello Friends 2018

Thank you for registering for Hello Friends. We are really pleased that you will joining us for this exciting event.

Things to do BEFORE you travel to Ottawa!

Billeting

If you have requested a billet, you will be hearing shortly from the Local Planning Committee and they will put you in touch with your billet so that you can make any further arrangements.

Registration Package

You will be sent via email the Conference Program, Background Documents, Documents for the Annual General Meeting as well as local information on the venue, restaurants etc. We would be grateful if you would print off a copy of your registration package and bring it with you. We will have some extra copies on site, but we would like to avoid too much printing.

Hill Event

The Hill Team is organizing an exciting visit to Parliament Hill, not only to attend Question Period, but also to have a dialogue with Parliamentarians about our issues and the challenges facing older women in sub-Saharan Africa.

1. In order to attend Question Period you need an invitation from your MP, so please call his/her constituency office and ask to have your name put on the list for Question Period on Wednesday June 6, 2018. If you are not the list, you can't get in!
2. We also want your MP to attend the dialogue with GRAN after Question period. The Hill Team has prepared a template invitation letter that you can send to your MP to invite him/her to attend the dialogue with GRAN. You can access it here:
<http://grandmothersadvocacy.org/template-invitation-your-mp-hello-friends-hill-event-june-6-2018>

Workshops

We are assigning you some “thinking” homework to prepare for the workshops!

Nourishing the Grassroots, taking place on Tuesday afternoon, is your opportunity to share with your fellow GRANs what has drawn you to advocate on behalf of African grandmothers. We ask you to consider the following questions: **What inspires us? What moves us to action?** Your answers will help us grow GRAN and expand our advocacy!

On Thursday morning you have the choice of one of three workshops. There will be sign-up sheets at the venue. Numbers are limited in some of the workshops, but they are all fabulous so we are sure you will not be disappointed.

1. **Measuring our Advocacy:** Heather Fraser and Hilary Elliott will share strategies on how we can better measure the effectiveness of our advocacy. (15 places)
2. **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. (15 places)
3. **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. (up to 50 places)

Future Directions of GRAN: After an overview by the Working Groups, we will devote Thursday afternoon to working in small groups to chart the future directions of GRAN. You will be able to draw upon what you have heard and experienced earlier in the week. We would like you to consider the following questions.

Given our Vision, Mission and Values:

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 can have the most impact and make a difference with our advocacy?

We will also have a **Vision Board** where you can post your ideas and suggestions.

Ontario Elections

For Ontario GRANs we remind you that your elections are taking place June 7, 2018. Please vote in the advance polls so you can still attend all the wonderful events taking place at Hello Friends.