

Women of Peace Award Nomination

Contact information of woman who is being nominated for the Women of Peace Award:

Name: Jeanne Sarson MEd, BScN, RN and Linda MacDonald MEd, BN, RN
Organization: Persons Against Non-State Torture

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Person completing nomination application: Relationship to the person being nominate, whether business and/or personal:

The relationship is both a personal and work related focussed on the promotion of human right equality for women and girls not to be subjected to torture perpetrated by individuals or groups which in human rights language are referred to as non-State actors.

Name: Jeanette Westbrook, MSSW, Women Graduates – USA
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Briefly describe your candidate's projects/initiatives/life's work for which you are nominating them. It is with great honor that I nominate on behalf of myself and Women Graduate's - USA, Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, two pioneering Human Rights Defenders, International Human Rights Educators, Researchers, Writers, and Activists from Nova Scotia, Canada, for their life time work in having non-state torture recognized as a human rights violation in accordance with Article 5 of The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Jeanne and Linda, working together since 1993, have produced the definitive qualitative and quantitative research and data on non-state torture in the private sphere recognized around the world. Their work has produced a much needed paradigm shift through their many published articles, research, international presentations, documentaries, and most importantly their compassionate and healing work with survivors around the world that has resulted in real time protections for survivors of non-state torture, legislative actions to promote changes in law, both domestic and international when they appeared at the UN Committee against Torture, and has produced a segue for the need for countries to undertake justice reform for those who have survived. In short, Jeanne and Linda have not only shone a light on this most violent form of gender based violence and human rights violation, but have given countless years of direct support without compensation, to women and children around the world who have experienced non-state torture.

In 2004, I was fortunate to have met these two courageous and inspiring women while on a bus taken to attend the same conference in Connecticut. This began a 13 year and on-going relationship of advocacy and testimony between myself and Jeanne and Linda in support of their work. It has been my great honor to have presented on five panel presentations at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women with Jeanne and Linda in support of their work on non-state torture. This has been a life changing relationship for me as a survivor of Non-State Torture, who struggled to find meaning, explanation, and wording to impart to others the realities of my own experiences and that of my fellow survivors. My interactions with Jeanne and Linda in advocacy and friendship have made me a better advocate, a stronger voice for those who, in their trauma, or in death, are speechless, and a lasting determination to assist those who yet survive. As a result of their work, there has also been a great growth in knowledge concerning the interfacing and relationships between Family Based Violence, Human Trafficking, Prostitution, and Ritualized Torture - the realities of far too many women and children worldwide.

Jeanne and Linda's work has been supported by many international NGO's including: Women Graduates - USA, the Canadian Federation of University Women, SPACE International, National Alliance of Women's Organizations (NAWO), European Women Lawyers Association, Wales Assembly of Women, Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE), the Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN), the International Federation for Peace & Sustainable Development, Zonta, and the Human Lactation Center, Westport Connecticut. I can think of no other women that are more deserving of this most prestigious award than Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald who have bravely and strategically coursed a brave new world in addressing violence against women and children worldwide.

1. Does the nominee take any personal risks to perform her life's work or complete her initiatives? Explain and give specifics. The more examples the better chance nominee will be recognized for an award.

Jeanne and Linda describe that in 1993, when they were asked by a woman in their community for help, this was their first experience of learning about torture that occurred in family relationships. The woman described that the torture and human trafficking she suffered began when she was an infant and that as a young adult woman she was still captive. When Jeanne and Linda describe their experience they speak about the serious risks that confronted them. Not only because they could find no other support for themselves but also none for the woman. Deciding they could not abandon the woman the pro-bono work of supporting her soon became seriously risky to themselves, their professional licensing, to their financial security and that of their families. It also presented life-threatening risks to the woman. This experience, they describe, shaped their future professional decisions; it also changed their lives and that of their families forever.

Jeanne and Linda are very open about talking about how the women, the following year, ran into Linda's home in fear saying that her alleged perpetrators said they would harm both her and Jeanne. From this threat followed two professional complaints submitted to their professional nursing body by the woman's alleged perpetrators. Jeanne and Linda explain how this placed them at risk of losing their professional license and would have meant that the woman would also lose her support from them. Although the complaints were dismissed they caused various other risks. Jeanne and Linda say, as a consequence of the complaints, the woman became more suicidal because she blamed her-Self for the complaint processes saying that if she had not sought their help the complaints would not have occurred. Assisting the woman manage her survival became more demanding with helping her to find ways not to commit suicide which she had explained she had been 'trained' to do as a child. This reality that a girl child has been conditioned to kill her-Self if she told on such non-State torture human trafficking family-based

systems remains a present day risk and a challenge when supporting the in-depth recovery of a woman so victimized.

Additionally, Jeanne and Linda encountered paying a \$10,000.00 lawyer fee. In 2017, with inflation rates, this would mean \$17,00.00.00. These complaints placed great stresses on their families, with their partners and as mothers they both had responsibilities towards their children's well-being. This experience, Jeanne and Linda share because making vexatious complaints is seldom openly explained as a method perpetrators use, even as ligation delay tactics within domestic violence legal cases, as a way to fatigue the women harmed and the workers who support them. Jeanne and Linda explained that this legal bill took years to pay but also it remained, for a lengthy time, a trigger of blame for the woman they supported.

The only way, Jeanne and Linda say, to eliminate such risks as just explained is to expose such perpetrator tactics so that in time these tactics will be quickly recognized and become ineffective. Until this happens safe support in North America for women so harmed can be quickly compromised. Linda and Jeanne speak about being contacted by, for example, an American lawyer who wanted to understand the non-State torture consequences of a Canadian woman who fled Canada to the US to escape her perpetrators. It is only by being open to these discussions that women and girls will gain safe support and that safe helpers will thrive.

Going back to the woman they first supported, Jeanne and Linda say that several years later the woman explained that the alleged perpetrators had forced her to write a suicide note blaming Jeanne and Linda for her death. The woman, Jeanne and Linda explained, said that one of the alleged perpetrators took her to a bank and placed the letter in a safety deposit box which could then be used when she died by suicide. This, the woman explained to Jeanne and Linda, was meant to protect the perpetrators and destroy Jeanne and Linda's credibility. Jeanne and Linda say that in telling their story it exposes the risks of human right defending work in North America. Such experiences for Jeanne and Linda meant learning that the best practice is to do the opposite of the perpetrators. Perpetrators seek silencing of those they torture thus the opposite is to keep breaking the silence in whatever truth-telling way possible so that the risks for women and girls and for their supporters dissolves. There still is a long way to go, Jeanne and Linda say, but over their almost 24 years they do see transformative changes taking place.

Additionally, Jeanne and Linda speak about the social shunning they experienced as a result of speaking out about non-State torture victimization at a time when globally little consideration was given to such victimization being inflicted against women and girls. They recount how people openly avoided them; how some women told Jeanne and Linda they were basically 'crazy' for doing the work. They say these responses continue—albeit less frequently. Linda also speaks about the years of shunning she experienced from her family and how isolating and painful this was as her family's opinion was she should not do this work and by doing so she was labelled as a "bad" mother. Such damage has lingering consequences today.

As much as they understood that they were breaking the global social conditioning that perceived that only men—warring men—were seen as needing the right to be protected from torture—the personal and professional shunning meant many years of social exclusion, meant years without support while pursuing the only ethical path they knew to be correct. Because of their past professional experiences, they say, that the risks they faced continue to be in their consciousness today and influence their ongoing efforts about exposing organized family-based non-State torture and human trafficking victimization.

2. Does the nominee use any personal finances and time to perform her life's work or complete her initiatives? Explain and give specifics. In other words,

does nominee receive any compensation for the work for which they are being nominated and/or does the nominee donate any time or monies to perform their work.

Jeanne and Linda explain that generally all their work on advocating for the local to global recognition that women and girls around the world have a human right not to be subjected to non-State torture is Self-funded. On rare occasions they receive honorariums to cover their expenses or occasional payments. However, almost since meeting and supporting the first woman spoken about in the previous paragraph, they have Self-funded. Initially, they both were employed as public or community health nurses and were working outside of their paid work to develop a non-pathologizing relational practice specifically for persons who Self-identified as having or had suffered violence within relationships. This is how the woman spoken about in the previous chapter came to them. With the demand and the risks placed on them as described in question one they stopped this outside practice. Instead, they decided to focus their professional efforts on exposing and visibilizing the reality of non-State torture victimization. Linda still works as a Home Care co-ordinator to fund her non-State torture work which is now global. Jeanne says back in 2000 she took a leave of absence from her paid position, thinking she might be able to catch-up and address the global demand that faced them with the creation of their website (www.nonstatetorture.org). Catching-up did not and has never happened. Consequently Jeanne says she decided to take an early retirement and has dedicated her-Self to financing her global activism. Jeanne and Linda now dedicate all their full time and part time energies on visibilizing non-State torture as a human right violation of women and girls that has been discriminatorily denied as a specific form of gender-based violence. The Self-funding has and continues to include all the travel and accommodations involved in their global grass roots activism which has amounted to many thousands of dollars over the years. It also means maintaining volunteer office spaces in their homes and covering all expenses related to making themselves available to others.

**3. Does the nominee receive any financial compensation for the project/initiative for which she is being nominated for? Yes _____
No X_____**

If yes to Question no. 3 please answer the next two questions a and b.

a. Is the nominee volunteering any additional time beyond the hours for which she is financially compensated? Yes _____ No _____

**b. How many hours a month does the nominee volunteer? _____
hours**

4. Does the nominee take a health risk to do her work? Explain. In other words, how does performing their work risk their lives or health, again providing specific examples of the risks the nominee has undertaken.

Jeanne and Linda's response to this question is that because of the dangers that confronted them as described in question 1, they realized that they were up against family-based organized crime that was and is still largely invisible globally. They were of the opinion that to establish and stay in a private practice which had been their goal would be too dangerous given they were so alone in exposing non-

State torture and the like-minded groups such families were connected to. Their work back then was relentless and demanding 24/7.

Today, Jeanne and Linda say it is equally a 24/7 work demand but different since focusing more on global activism. They do, however, continue to listen to a limited number of women's descriptive horror atrocities of non-State torture victimizations. Their knowledge, they say, echoes that of the experts who address torture perpetrated by State actors. Individuals, whether tortured by State actors or non-State actors, need to tell their torture and horror stories. Their stories need to be spoken, listened to, acknowledged, believed, and respected for healing to begin. There needs to be public denunciation which today remains rare or impossible based on whether the law in a country or a state in a country defines torture in a manner that includes torture perpetrated by non-State actors. Jeanne and Linda say that seldom do countries have law that socially and legally addresses non-State torture crimes and the woman or girls that suffer such destructive and brutal violence. This is why, in order to stay healthy, they say they are constantly processing their emotional responses to the horror they listen to. And since they have encountered a great deal of willful blindness by social structures and individuals, processing the emotional shock of this reality is vital to their well-being. This is an essential responsibility so they can stay and be totally present with the women who contact them and entrust their disclosures to them. They also share speaking engagements together, just as they agreed to share this nomination with each other. They say this is a Self-care responsibility. Speaking out about injustices is known to promote wellness—they say it works wonders for them! It means they are never alone in holding the non-State torture realities; it means that the women who share their stories with them are also no longer isolated and alone. Jeanne and Linda describe that women so often say, to them, “you understand” or quoting one woman who wrote them, *“It is not that kindness is so unusual, but kindness when I talk or write of these things, that is unusual.”*

Linda and Jeanne have encountered relentless resistance to believing, supporting, and opening up society to the reality that non-State torture victimization happens in North American households. This has meant many hours of social isolation, hours of very hard work of staying with an issue when others choose to walk away. Without excellent Self-care and resilience they express that they would not have had the stamina to sustain their work—now approaching 24 years. For them it is always a fine line between Self-health and the knowing that innocent children are still trapped in such destructive groups; yet they persevere with courage, belief, and hope for the future of these children and for women who are tortured within various forms of relationships including by a spouse.

5. Is the nominee working actively to bring peace to women and children's lives or to work to end violence? Explain. Specific examples are helpful and more demonstrative of why the nominee deserves a Women's Peacepower Award.

Jeanne and Linda's work is totally focussed on ending violence against women and girls, specifically non-State torture, knowing that their efforts will also benefit all children who are so harmed. Since 2004, they have participated almost yearly in educational panels at various United Nation sessions in New York, Geneva, Switzerland, and in Vienna, Austria. Always speaking out to break the patriarchal discrimination that has existed even at the United Nations level, that has denied that it is a universal human right of women and girls not to be subjected to torture regardless of who the torturer(s) are—whether parents, other family members, like-minded perpetrators such as traffickers, pimps, 'johns' or buyers of exploited persons, pornographers who supply and create the demand for torture and 'snuff films'.

In relation to Women Graduate – USA they have involved, as member Jeanette Westbrook mentioned, helped to create safe human right space for Jeanette and for other women to speak on United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) panels. Another example of creating a supportive space at the CSW for a woman to speak of non-State torture victimization suffered occurred in March, 2015, when Elizabeth Gordon from the UK flew to New York to share her story. This panel also involved working with other women who were members of their non-governmental organizations (NGOs). See this flyer titled, [Non-State Torture & Violence Against Women & Girls](#). At the same CSW session, Jeanne and Linda also broke the silence about non-State torture and how such torturers are responsible for femicide. This opportunity occurred when they were invited to participate in the panel sponsored by NGO Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)—see this panel flyer titled, [Stop Femicide! States’ obligations and the role of women’s NGOs](#). This year, 2017, they and Jeanette Westbrook, spoke on this CSW panel, as addressed in Jeanne and Linda’s report, [Using Law to Empower Women & Girls to Live Free from Violence in Work and Family](#).

Their educational efforts mean they put forth a new paradigm of understanding about the global reality on forms of gender-based non-State torture. This has never been done before. They have condensed this knowledge into this brief [Fact Sheet: Torture in the Private Sphere](#) which they distribute freely. Also to promote understanding about relationships including non-State torture within a relationship they created this educational tool: [Fact Sheet: Torture in the Home](#). Having attended the CSW this year and listening to the many presentations making reference to the global Sustainable Development Goals, Jeanne and Linda created this [Fact Sheet: Non-State Torture & Sustainable Development Goals](#) to illustrate how some of these goals are directly related to the need to identify non-State torture as a form of violence suffered by women and girls. Having such ‘simple’ fact sheets are effective in helping victimized women understand what they suffered and why they suffer. Jeanne and Linda share this quote that Elizabeth wrote in March of this year:

“A feminist human rights framework is crucial to my feeling I am a woman, a person with human rights. It enables me to tell the story of my childhood reality, knowing the responsibility and accountability for the non-State torture crimes is placed clearly with the torturers. It is an antidote to the evilness and brutality of the torturers.”

Jeanne and Linda are members of the NGO Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) which together with us, Women Graduate – USA, have worked together to support global awareness of non-State torture as a violation of the human rights of women and girls. Both organizations being members of the NGO Graduate Women International (GWI) supported the adoption of this [Policy Position on Gender-based Non-State Actor Torture](#). GWI has a global reach in [many countries](#). GWI also conducts webinars. Jeanne and Linda presented, “Graduate Women International: Introduction to Advocacy 13 October 2015. They report that a woman on the webinar emailed them to say that her NGO included non-State torture when they submitted a brief to their Scottish government. Prior to this, in 2011, CFUW members adopted their policy on [Non-State Actor Torture](#). This has meant members of various CFUW Clubs across Canada being open and politically active as illustrated in Jeanne and Linda’s, [Update: Bill C-242, An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(inflicting torture\)](#), report.

Other examples of Jeanne and Linda’s global relentless work include:

1. [Genderizing the UN Convention Against Torture \(CAT\) & Non-State Torture Victimization](#), was another example of Jeanne and Linda’s relentless persistence to bring recognition to the human rights equality of all women and girls not to be subjected to torture by non-State actors. Jeanne and Linda explain how panelist Felice Gaer recounted her expertise and explained how oppressive and silenced even State torture of women has been. This illustrated the struggle there

is to eliminate the misogynistic discrimination that is globally present that works to deny and invisibilize having non-State torture acknowledged. This presentation can be read in Jeanne and Linda's, [Our Journal Report~NGO CSW Forum 2013 At CSW%&: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#).

2. When attending the 25th anniversary of the formation of the UN Committee against Torture, Jeanne explains she was able to ask panelists, "Why governments are so reluctant to address torture by non-State actors?" This provided the opportunity to speak about non-State torture and its political-legal invisibility. See page 5 in their report, [25th Anniversary of the Committee against Torture ~ Special Journal Report: Opening the Door on Non-State Torture](#).
3. Also, Jeanne and Linda say they both have volunteered time, when the opportunity presents, to share human rights education in schools, as shown in this report, [Human Rights Education and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).

6. Does the nominee's work impact society: Choose one.

locally state national world

Explain how the nominee's work is impacting society:

2016: This was the year Jeanne and Linda describe that a Member of Parliament introduced a Private Members Bill, C-242, into the Canadian House of Commons. This, they explain, was the first time the reality of non-State torture was addressed in the House of Commons. The Bill went to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights where it was defeated when the Standing Committee decided non-State torture could be considered aggravated assault. Jeanne and Linda strongly disagree. However, this public debate made visible the reality of non-State torture and garnished support from many groups including CFUW, the Canadian Nurses Association, and the Native Women's Association of Canada for example, all wrote letters of support. Plus, various media reports from across Canada were published creating a national awareness that had never occurred before. Example given by Jeanne and Linda include the following:

1. 2016: [Truro human rights advocates thrilled to see torture bill tabled in Ottawa](#), by CBC reporter Angela MacIvor, discussed the endless work of Jeanne and Linda.
2. 2016: "[The fight against non-state torture](#)" was an article about Linda and Jeanne's work, by Cathryn Atkinson, in the award winning magazine *Pique*.
3. 2016: [New Bill Takes Aim at Domestic Torture](#) was an article by Debra Huron, published in *Herizons* about Jeanne and Linda's work in connection to Bill C-242. *Herizons* has national readership.
4. 2016: Jeanne and Linda were featured as "[Champions for the cause](#)," as nurses to know in the *Canadian Nurse* journal. There are close to 139,000 Registered Nurses in the Canadian Nurses Association, many may have been impacted by the article.

Jeanne and Linda gave testimony before the [Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights](#) studying the private Member of Parliament Bill, C-242, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (inflicting torture)*. The recorded testimony begins at 1225 of the Committee meeting. The whole session was also [videod](#). They also supported Lane and Holodak in submitting a [brief](#) to the Standing Committee. This was also the first time a Governmental Standing Committee had addressed non-State torture. Jeanne and Linda say that although the Standing Committee remained with the Government's status quo opinion that non-State torture could be named aggravated assault, attention had never before been put forth to the Canadian public that torture by non-State actors occurs in Canada. Such patriarchal oppression and discrimination,

Jeanne and Linda say, will not discourage them but they would appreciate more “visible luck” in breaking the silence!

2015: When Jeanne and Linda presented their [Side Event](#) during the 24th session of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ); (part of their presentation can be read on pages 11-15 of their side event report), it created space for Elizabeth Gordon to speak out about the family-based non-State torture victimization she suffered. All attended the [Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Civil Society Forum](#). They share that they were successful in opening the discussion on non-State torture and this became recorded in the minutes as, “the issue of survivors of non-State torture to the attention of the Crime Commission” (see page 3 under victim assistance). This was a first discussion on non-State torture for the Forum.

2015: Linda and Jeanne were asked to present a two day workshop on non-State torture victimization during a conference, [Choices](#). This was supported by the London Abused Women’s Centre. The Centre, as a consequence, initiated adding and addressing non-State torture as a form of violence women and girls can experience. If women report non-State torture they are given this [questionnaire](#) to Self-identify the acts of torture they suffered. This is the first time such a service has been offered by the Centre and thus the first time women who go to the Centre can have their truth acknowledged. Evaluations of the two day workshop were completed. Without question comments reflected attendee impacts; Jeanne and Linda shared some examples, giving a cross-section of the evaluative responses of those in attendance:

1. “*I am a different person now.*” This was from a Detective Constable.
2. One thing learned from a Child in Care Worker: “*The distinction between abuse and NST. With each case/child I will turn my mind to questioning abuse/neglect and torture, I have an appreciation of the differences/language/words/terms were helpful in understanding “truths.”*”
3. From a Mental Health Worker came this awareness that it “*was the fact that women who have experienced violence are not “disordered” but are responding from their experiences. . . . I plan to continue reframing their experiences.*”
4. A Youth – Community and Justice facilitator wrote, “*Impactful, eye opening. NST information I would like to implement some of the information within my program with female youth who have lived experience with trafficking.*”
5. “*I will use the term non-state trauma in my practice and share the information with colleagues. Similarly, the discussion around PTSR and not PTSD,*” was the statement written by a nurse.
6. “*Outstanding! One of the best ever! NST – having a name and a framework to work within,*” were the comments by a person who identified as unemployed.
7. And from a financial officer (business unit) came, “*Educational and inspirational. Language of non-State torture. Understand how torture is integrated into society/social acceptance. . . . Change my perception on what I will (no longer) “tolerate”.*”

2014: Jeanne and Linda say that when providing support to women, the women ‘disappear’ in that they may not hear from them again. This was so for a young American teenager. About seven years passed when suddenly, on November 9, 2014, Jeanne and Linda shared receiving this email from the young woman’s support persons. It said:

[S] will be graduating from Nursing School with a Masters Degree and above a 3.9 GPA. She is a happy, enthusiastic participant in life, now. She told me, the other day, that she hasn’t considered killing herself in a long time. Your kindness and support to her surely helped.

For Linda and Jeanne, they say this is a priceless award for the work they have been doing to break the discriminatory and misogynistic silence that has failed to promote the human rights of women and girls not to be subjected to non-State torture.

2014: In this article, [From Truro to the United Nations, Geneva](#), Jeanne and Linda describe the support and success achieved when attending the Geneva NGO Forum – Beijing+20. With the support of NGOs present at the forum they succeeded in having the following statement included in the outcome document:

All States must ensure national laws criminalize non-State torture perpetrated by non-State actors and that laws prohibit and hold perpetrators accountable for gender-based non-State torture crimes.”

They say that they were also able to circulate their brief, [Non-State Torture Happens to Women & Girls Unnamed = Invisibility Named = Visibility](#), during the forum to help others understand what they were working towards. Some of their work and that of the Forum is captured in Jeanne and Linda’s report, “[A Her-storical Photo Journal](#).”

Jeanne and Linda’s development of resources are placed on their website. These are free for any person to download. Sometimes women in other countries ask permission to translate a resource. Three examples of how far reaching their influence has been include the following:

1. The pamphlet on [Sexualized Torture & Human Trafficking Did you know these happen in the home?](#) was voluntarily translated into Spanish [Tortura Sexualizada y Trata de Personas ¿sabías que suceden en la casa?](#)
2. 2013: When the Women’s Resource Centre of the UK were writing their shadow report titled, “[Women’s equality in the UK – A health check](#)” to present to the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in Geneva, Jeanne and Linda were asked to submit information on non-State torture. This information is found in paragraph 19.86, page 193. [NST is Appendix 34](#) which refers to the CEDAW 1992 [General Recommendation 19, violence against women](#), paragraph 7(b) which states the right not to be subjected to torture. In addition, they also submitted [written evidence](#) to the [UK Joint Committee on Human Rights](#).
3. 2012: Following their attended at the UN Committee against Torture as representatives of CFUW addressing the CFUW [shadow report](#) they had participated in writing. There was a positive outcome in that the UN Committee recommended Canada fully incorporate the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment into national law so a person could argue having suffered torture perpetrated by non-State actors in a court of law. We placed this [Sharing Breakthroughs](#) on our website. Jeanne and Linda explain the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) asked to translate this into [Spanish](#). This can help other women realize that they may have suffered non-State torture, that the silence is being broken, as well as the patriarchal misogyny that has denied for decades that such a human rights violation is inflicted against women and girls globally.

Educating young university students has also been an activity that Jeanne and Linda participate in as a way of influencing the future. Students are introduced to the new reality that non-State torture occurs. Some decide to write papers on non-State torture. Example of university presentations include:

1. [Non-State ‘Classic’” Torture of Women & Girls & International Human Rights Mechanisms](#)
2. [International Human Rights Mechanisms and Non-State Torture of Women in Canada](#)
3. [Torture in the Canadian Context: How close to Home is it?](#)

And here is a comment from a student nurse that Jeanne received following their presentation to the student’s class.

From: Kellen; Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 12:01 AM; To: Jeanne Sarson; Subject: Re: Non-State Torture. It reads: “*Hello again Jeanne! Our final paper for our Social & Cultural*

Determinants of Health class was due today! I just thought I'd send along my final paper I wrote on Non-State Torture! I am quite proud of it, but it was all thanks to yours and Linda's fantastic ideas, articles, and thoughts! Feel free to read it and make comments if you wish but I know you are very busy ladies so if you do not have the time, do not worry at all!! I just thought I'd share it with you :)"

In reference to educating younger children about human rights and equality, following a [Grade 7 class](#) (linked is a few moments of introduction YouTube), presentation, Jeanne and Linda share this young female student's evaluation:

Chelsea's words, Date: June-12-14 6:56 PM: What I liked about the presentation was, that it showed us the importance of Human Rights. You taught us about having respect for ourselves and others, and thinking before we act; because we really don't know what the consequences will be. I believe it's vital that people- of all ages- be aware of equality. Because every single person on this earth deserves to be treated fairly- no matter your age, race, gender, or sexuality.

Also, Jeanne and Linda say a teacher shared that a young male student said that he was going to be a human right defender when he grew up. The teacher asked him how he came to his decision. She said he explained it was because of Jeanne and Linda's presentation. Jeanne and Linda repeat how such movement of thought in young and developing minds is priceless.

7. Does the nominee demonstrate selflessness in her commitment to the changes she is working on in her community? Explain.

We believe this is without question given as we have described their almost 24 years of dedication and pro-bono work to creating human right equality and a socially inclusive space for women and girls who have been so victimized by perpetrators of non-State torture. Women and girls, as Jeanne and Linda describe in their writings, who have been marginalized, oppressed, had their lives constantly threatened including by their non-Sate torture-conditioned response to kill them-Self if they ever speak out about the harms they suffered within their childhoods. And the patriarchal misogynistic discrimination that developed even at the UN level was a burden that, at times, Jeanne and Linda said, felt beyond oppressive for even them. Their community which began locally with one woman grew to the global level; a reality they say was not in their framework when they decided not to abandon the first woman who sought their support. That was a time when the term "non-State actors" was not even in use. They tell us that it was basically a term that Amnesty International brought to light in a booklet published in 2000. They also describe how the many crisis women can suffer as flashbacks and re-enactments invade women's ability to cope, often requiring hours of support. When these occasions arise, Jeanne and Linda say they have had to forgo events and time with family. In so sharing, they also need to explain that speaking about these times is not meant in any way to blame the women seeking support—the responsibility, they say, is political-structural oppression. When the politics and its structures decide not to make non-State torture a crime inflicted against children beginning with infants and against women, the political and structural climate nurtures the impunity of the non-State torturers. In so doing, Jeanne and Linda explain that this is where the blame lies. We cannot think of words that would adequately and demonstratively describe their years of "selflessness."

8. Has the nominee created a new approach to the problems she is addressing? Explain.

Jeanne and Linda have indeed created an absolutely new approach and the need to place non-State torture victimization on the continuum of the many forms of violence that are inflicted globally against women and girls ‘simply’ because they are women and girls. To respond to this question we must reemphasize some of our previous statements. These include:

1. [Fact Sheet: Torture in the Private Sphere](#) is the easiest way to explain how they have created a new approach by visualizing three categories on non-State torture. This has not been done before. This Fact Sheet also illustrates how different forms of physical non-State torture turns into sexualized torture and then presents some of the consequential harms.
2. In this 2015 brief, [No One Shall be Subjected to Torture by Non-State Actors: The Missing Human & Legal Right of All Canadians—Of Women & Girls](#), in section Point 7, Jeanne and Linda expressed the models they developed. Page 21 includes the “Categories Model”; on page 22 is their “Patriarchal Divide” model; on pages 23-24 is an example of the filled in questionnaire that they developed for women to use to identify what they suffered. Their participatory research questionnaire asks people for their thoughts; it is on pages 26-28. All these models are a new approach for validating the non-State torture women and girls can suffer globally as well as illustrating the gender-based social-legal discrimination that exists.
3. Jeanne and Linda explain that when the first woman needed help there was absolutely no literature that they could find that even acknowledged that non-State torture was perpetrated against women and girls by intimate family members, let alone how to provide non-State torture victimization-traumatization care. As mentioned, the term non-State torture had not even evolved. They explain that one of their goals was to create as much written knowledge as possible so that women and girls who suffer such destruction will not be disbelieved, labelled “crazy”, stigmatized, and abandoned. And so that others who care will have educational materials that can be of help. They tell us that there is another article and two chapters for two different books waiting to be published. Their focus has been on women and girls because it is women who have consistently contacted them. They have not worked with children, neither girls nor boys. The knowledge they have about the girl child, they explain, comes from women describing what it was like for them to be born into such non-State torture family systems. Jeanne and Linda say this is how they can share information about the girl child who suffered non-State torture and human trafficking. When asking for examples of articles, publications, and other documentations it became very evident they have succeeded in creating a new human rights approach towards addressing non-State torture as a form of violence inflicted against women and girls.

9. Has the nominee won any other awards/accolades? Please list being specific such that said awards can be confirmed/corroborated:

Jeanne (1991) and [Linda](#) (2013) have both received Excellent in Nursing Awards by their professional Association, the [College of Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia](#). In 2015, as members of the NGO CFUW they were awarded the first ever International Relations Award. [Truro women receive International Relations Award](#) was an article published in their local newspaper, *Truro Daily News*, writing about their advocacy award as members of CFUW.

In 2003, Linda and Jeanne were nominated for the College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia *Client/Public Health Advocacy Award* in recognition for their education and activism advocating for recognizing the human rights violation of ritual abuse-torture, a form of non-State torture. In 1998, Linda and Jeanne were nominated for the Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia *Client/Public Health Advocacy Award* for their work with the Anaphylaxis Support Group and in creating safe environments in schools.

10. Include photographs, articles, documentation or supporting material, which will assist the committee in determining whether the nominee is deserving of the award.

2017: Locally, on March 14, 2017, Jeanne and Linda's work has been featured in their local newspaper. Recently, the *Truro Daily News* published this article, "[Truro women working to end non-state torture.](#)"

2017: Jeanne and Linda submitted this [Brief](#) to the Canadian Governmental Standing Committee on Health examining the public health effects of the ease of access and viewing of online violent and degrading sexually explicit material on children, women and men.

2017: Jeanne was asked to be the reviewer for the edited book by Joan A. Reid. The title, [Human Trafficking Contexts and connections to conventional crime](#), examines human trafficking in some US states. The review is in the *Journal of Human Trafficking*.

2016: Their recent chapter, *Seeking Equality—Justice and Women's and Girls' Human Right Not to Be Subjected to Non-State Torture*, is in, [Women, Law and Culture Conformity, Contradiction and Conflict](#), edited by Jocelynne A. Scutt, published by Palgrave MacMillan.

2016: To the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women for its Study on Violence against Young Women and Girls in Canada, Linda and Jeanne sent their brief titled, [Truth-telling Best Practices for Engaging Men and Boys in Addressing and Preventing Violence Against Young Women and Girls](#). Their brief, along with that of others, is referenced in the [Report of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women](#).

2016: [There is no Public Safety for Children when their Torture by Non-State Actors is Legally Unnamed, Invisibilizing Them as Persons in Specific Need for such Protection](#) addresses the need for the Canadian Government to acknowledge the evidence that, beginning with infants, children suffer sexualized non-State torture. Jeanne and Linda persist in stating non-State torture must be criminalized to develop civil society awareness.

2016: Jeanne and Linda responded to the call by UN Women for a [Consultation on Human Rights and Sex Work, The Sex Trade and Prostitution: A Canadian Perspective](#).

2016: Joining Jackie Jones, Linda and Jeanne submitted this, [A Response to Five Questions posed by Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences](#).

2015: [No One Shall be Subjected to Torture by Non-State Actors: The Missing Human & Legal Right of All Canadians—Of Women & Girls](#) was a brief sent by Jeanne and Linda to various newly elected Cabinet Ministers, against persisting to say there is a need to amend the *Criminal Code of Canada* to include non-State torture as a distinct crime.

2015: A live interview of Linda and Jeanne was with Robin Morgan, [WMC Live #138](#).

2015: Jeanne and Linda were invited to present at the Feminism in London Conference, UK. They organized a panel inviting other women to participate, creating a safe space for Elizabeth Gordon from London, to share her story of non-State torture. See their report, [Notes of Connection](#). A verbal recording of a statement given to all attendees can be listened to [here](#).

2015: Responding to the request by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Civil Society Space, this was Jeanne and Linda [submission](#) that was included in the [OHCHR report](#).

2015: Jeanne responded to the US Department of State [Request for Information for the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report](#).

2014: Jeanne and Linda presented at the 4th International Conference on the Survivors of Rape which is included in the [E-Book](#).

2014: Provincially, various articles have also been published such as, “[Nova Scotia woman ‘tortured’ for years by family speaks out](#)” by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported Angela MacIvor.

2014: [Hidden Horrors](#) is a CBC Radio program *Atlantic Voice* podcast on Jeanne and Linda’s work.

2014: [Two NS Advocates Pushing for Domestic Torture Recognized as Crime](#) is another CBC news video speaking with Jeanne and Linda and their work.

2014: Jeanne and Linda submitted this, [Brief pimps & johns: In-house sexualized torture of prostituted women and girls is always potentially life-threatening](#), to the Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.

2014: Torture victimization—Child to adult: Flashbacks and connection with first responders (Part I of the article in the 2012 *Sexual Assault Report*) was reprinted and published in, *Family & Intimate Partner Violence Quarterly*, 6(3), 47-56.

2013: [Torture definition needs to expand, urge N.S. women](#) is an article that speaks about the first woman who asked Jeanne and Linda for help and the ethical issues that arise when non-State torture is misnamed an assault.

2013: An NGO [YouTube video](#) of Jeanne giving the Triennial Plenary Session in Istanbul, Turkey. The NGO GWI was once called the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

2012: Torture victimization—child to adult: flashbacks and connection with first responders, part 1 was an article by Jeanne and Linda published in the *Sexual Assault Report*, 15(5), 65, 66, 68, 72-74. This was followed with publication of Part II, Torture victimization—child to adult: Flashbacks and connection with first responders, *Sexual Assault Report* 15(6), 83-84, 86, 94.

2011: Internationally, Jeanne and Linda submitted this paper, [Non-State Torture—Specifically Sexualized Non-State Torture—Inflicted in the Private/Domestic Sphere against Girls/Women: An Emerging “Harmful Practice”](#) to the United Nations Joint CEDAW and CRC Committee in response to the Committee’s proposed action to develop a Joint Recommendation/Comment on harmful practices.

2011: Jeanne and Linda presented, Sexualized torture in the domestic/private sphere and ‘body talk’: A human rights and relational feminist paradigm at the *Sexual Violence Conference 8 Sept 2011 Forensic Psychological Services, Middlesex University*. London, UK.

2009: Jeanne and Linda had this article titled, [Torturing by non-state actors invisibilized, a patriarchal divide and spillover violence from the military sphere into the domestic sphere](#), published in the *Peace Studies Journal*, 2(2), 16-38.

2009: [Defining Torture by Non-State Actors in the Canadian Private Sphere](#) was another article by Jeanne and Linda published in the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT) journal, *First Light*, 29-33.

2008: [Ritual Abuse-Torture Within Families/Groups](#) was published in the *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 16(4), 419–438.

2007: Ritual abuse-torture in families was published in N. Ali Jackson, editor of the [Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence](#) (pp. 603-610) published by Routledge.

2005: [Ritual abuse/torture: Identifying a crime of horror](#) was published in the RCMP *Gazette*, 67(1), 32-33. In French, [La violence et la torture rituelles](#).

***** Nomination deadline is May 31.**

Mail to:

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