

# Women of Peace Award

Women's PeacePower Foundation

[www.womenpeacepower.org](http://www.womenpeacepower.org)



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[www.nonstatetorture.org](http://www.nonstatetorture.org)

# Women's Peacepower Foundation

## A HERSTORICAL GLIMPSE

Angela Meslans had a goal to start an endowment fund as a way to promote honoring women. The Women's Peacepower Foundation Endowment grew from this goal. It was named after Elizabeth Zantker who gave the first donation. Elizabeth eventually moved to Kentucky and raised horses. Angela's idea was that one-hundred dollar donations was a way to start an endowment fund focused on honouring women. This process began in 1994; Women's Peacepower Foundation became official in 1998. The contributions were invested and continue to be financially managed to fund the *Women of Peace Awards*.



Photo Elizabeth Zantker

To all the Peacepower Foundation women who welcomed us and our two guests, we say a most honoured thank you for this privilege of sharing this award with other women on this day and of years past. A special thank you to member Roberta McIntosh, for her generous hosting helping us plan our trip to Tampa and for arranging the additional opportunity to give a presentation on human trafficking and non-State torture exploitation to Dunedin community members.



Photo by Heather Rutledge: Roberta McIntosh, Lisa Esposito, Linda MacDonald and Jeanne Sarson holding their Awards, Diane McCabe Vaughan (President), and Jennifer Osgood, members of the Women's Peacepower Foundation Board, November 4, 2017.

## FROM NOMINATION TO RECEIVING THE AWARD

On April 6, 2017, Women Graduate – USA (WG – USA) contacted us with the request to forward our names to Women’s Peacepower Foundation for consideration for their Women of Peace Award highlighting our advocacy work focused on non-State torture (NST) and human trafficking. WG – USA’s nomination was also supported by the non-governmental organization, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), of which we are members. WG – USA and CFUW are both members of Graduate Women International (GWI). For this process to proceed the following completed [nomination application](#) was submitted.

Four months passed. On September 1, 2017, we received confirmation that we would receive the Women of Peace Award, November 4, 2017. Six other women also shared being nominated to receive such privileged recognition, [joining the many women of past years](#). Women’s Peacepower Foundation, describes the Awards as given to women and girls involved in grassroots projects whose work falls,

Into two broad categories: violence against women and waging peace. . . . Given to . . . ordinary/extraordinary women around the world who work without funding or recognition for the universal goal of peace, fairness and true justice. . . . [that] demonstrate how violence against women and children is at the root of other forms of violence that tear at the fabric of world [and who] hold officials, institutions and governments accountable for their brutality against women and children [and] teach future generations the power of non-violence.

## RECOGNIZING WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

Promoting our Women of Peace Award and the work of Women’s Peacepower Foundation, our Member of the Nova Scotia Provincial Legislature, Lenore Zann, stood in the House and delivered the following Member Statement on September 28, 2017:

### SARSON, JEANNE / MACDONALD, LINDA - WOMEN OF PEACE AWARD

[MS. LENORE ZANN « »](#) : I'm honoured to stand in the House today to celebrate two wonderful, passionate, strong women of my community. Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald of Truro have been awarded the Women of Peace Award by a women's group in Tampa, Florida, for the work that they are doing and have done for many years on violence against women, human trafficking, and trying to shine a light on the fact that non-state torture exists in our world. They will be presented this much-deserved honour on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Tampa. The Women of Peace Awards are designed to recognize individuals who are working on cutting edge programs or have created new ways of thinking about ending domestic violence and waging peace (HANSARD, September 17, 2017. [Debates and Proceedings](#) [1:30 p.m., p. 516]).