



November 14, 2017

Members of the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally applaud introduction of the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA)

As organizations and groups who work to end violence against women and girls globally, the below signed organizations welcome the introduction of the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA) by Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), and Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA). This hallmark bill addresses the violence that women and girls face daily – sometimes even hourly – around the world and makes ending it a central U.S. foreign policy priority.

The statistics are staggering: an estimated 1 in 3 women will face physical, mental, or sexual abuse in their lifetimes. Nearly 39,000 girls under the age 18 are married each day. Female genital cutting has impacted more than 200 million women and girls alive today. Violent extremism is on the rise and it places the subordination of women at the center of the ideology and war tactics, where captured women and girls become tools for recruitment and commodities or a source of income for war chests.

Each of these practices and other forms of violence against women has an immeasurable impact on women and girls, their families, and their communities. IVAWA makes ending violence against women and girls a top diplomatic, development, and foreign assistance priority by ensuring the U.S. government has a strategy to efficiently and effectively coordinate *existing* cross-governmental efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence globally. The bill empowers the United States to work with other countries toward preventing violence against women and girls and responding to the effects of these practices on societies and economies. It holds governments accountable for acting to end rampant violence while empowering women and girls to lift their voices against it.

IVAWA recognizes that violence against women and girls is embedded in cultural and societal norms of unequal status and power, requiring a long-term approach that fosters personal, community, and societal changes. The solutions to preventing and responding to such violence require all of us - advocates, elected officials, and international leaders – to stand in solidarity across the globe to end gender inequality and address the injustice of violence.

We applaud the introduction of this urgent bill since, now more than ever, women and girls deserve a chance to live a life free from violence. We urge Congress to swiftly consider and pass the International Violence Against Women Act to empower women and girls, along with their communities and nations, to end the violence.

Urge your elected representatives to cosponsor this legislation! Search at <http://www.senate.gov/> to find the name and contact information for your Senator.

For more information please contact any of the Coalition Co-Chairs

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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS GLOBALLY**

Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST)
American Jewish World Service (AJWS)
Amnesty International USA
Baha'is of the United States
Black Women's Blueprint
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
CARE USA
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
ChildFund International
Church World Service
Coalition of Immokalee Workers
Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Equality Now
Free the Slaves
Futures Without Violence
Global Rights for Women
Human Rights Watch
IMA World Health
International Action Network for Gender Equity and Law
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Jewish Women International
League of Women Voters of the United States
Legal Momentum, the Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund
Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association Social Workers
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Democratic Institute (NDI)
National Domestic Violence Hotline
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women

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National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Peace X Peace
Peaceful Families Project
Promundo-US
School Girls Unite
Sierra Club
Smash Strategies
Solidarity Center
The Feminist Press
The United Methodist Church - Church and Society
U.S. National Committee for UN Women
UNICEF USA
Union for Reform Judaism
United Nations Association of the USA
Vital Voices Global Partnership
Women Graduates-USA
Women of Reform Judaism
Women Thrive Alliance
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.
Women's Refugee Commission
World Vision
YWCA USA
Zonta International

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