



The International Violence Against Women Act We Can't Afford Not to Pass IVAWA

Violence against women is a horrific and widespread human rights crisis that demands a response. Far too many women and girls around the world fall prey to traffickers, are attacked as they attend school, endure violence in the home or rape as a weapon of war. Violence robs countries of the talent of half their populations.

Violence against women is also an early warning sign of volatility and emerging security concerns. When women and girls thrive, societies are more likely to prosper economically, reduce rates of HIV and AIDS, decrease child and maternal mortality, and have more participatory and democratic governments. Americans support efficient and effective approaches to end these morally repugnant abuses.

During these challenging economic times, the **International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA, H.R. 4594/S.2982)** is a smart and critically important bill. IVAWA will improve U.S. diplomacy and make foreign assistance programs more effective and efficient, increase transparency and accountability, and set clear methods to measure outcomes and better track U.S. funds. IVAWA will:

- Direct the State Department, in coordination with U.S. AID, to develop a strategy for stopping violence against women and girls. This strategy will be informed by research and best practices, coordinate programs across relevant sectors, and include data collection to assess outcomes and account for any U.S. funding. The strategy will leverage existing U.S. investments and identify potential pilot programs in a few select countries where violence is high and strong indicators for success are present.
- Integrate this issue into relevant U.S. programs so that, for example, programs to build schools include efforts to ensure girls arrive safely and remain safe while at school; service providers working with persons with HIV and AIDS are trained to recognize signs of violence and support women who face violence; officers who train foreign security personnel include instruction on ending violence against women. This holistic approach will help end violence against women and girls, and improve outcomes for U.S. efforts to end global poverty, stop the spread of HIV and AIDS, and stem global insecurity.
- Integrate this concern when the U.S. responds to humanitarian crises so that U.S. efforts take into account, for example, how to protect women and girls who are especially vulnerable to attacks in camps for refugees or internally displaced people or support survivors of sexual violence.
- Instruct U.S. AID and the Department of State to focus on developing and conducting pilot programs over five years in a few select countries that are identified in the comprehensive strategy. The program development and implementation will occur in collaboration with local partners and include data collection that measures outcomes and clearly tracks any U.S. funds.
- Increase transparency and accountability by requiring the Department of State to collect reliable data and report publicly on programmatic impact on reducing violence against women and girls and track any U.S. funds allocated to implement the strategy and programs.

Help end violence against women and girls by improving U.S. diplomacy and making U.S. foreign assistance more effective and efficient. **Support the International Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 4594/S.2982).**