



A breakthrough partnership bringing together the women's, faith, and development communities to fight global poverty by investing in women and girls.
www.wfd-alliance.org

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As faith communities, united under the umbrella of the Women, Faith, and Development Alliance, we are grateful for your ongoing, outstanding leadership on human rights and, in particular, your commitment to those women and girls around the world who experience abuse and violence in their lives.

We are writing on behalf of our communities to express our continuing, deep concern about the plight of women and girls around the world who suffer acts of violence every day. **As people of faith we are writing to demonstrate our support for the International Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 4594, S. 2982) and ask that you continue to use your leadership role to ensure that Congress takes decisive action to see to it that it is passed.**

One out of every three women worldwide will be physically, sexually or otherwise abused during her lifetime, with rates reaching 70 percent in some countries. This type of violence threatens the lives of millions of women and girls, is often devastating to their mental health, and impedes their ability to provide for their families and contribute to the economic development of their countries.

We believe that efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls should be a top priority in U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance programs. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, a public health epidemic and a barrier to addressing conflict, HIV/AIDS and extreme poverty. To help end it, the U.S. must exercise strong international leadership and provide dedicated resources to address the problem in a comprehensive fashion.

We affirm that gender equality is a prerequisite to sustainable global development, and agree on the need to collaborate to build the spiritual and political will necessary to empower women and girls and attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Our support of the **International Violence Against Women Act** is our first step towards that goal.

The passage of the **International Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 4594, S. 2982)** will be instrumental in providing the resources needed for development work and programs that benefit women and girls living in poverty around the world. Please use your leadership role to ensure that Congress takes decisive action to pass this important piece of legislation.

Signed,

FOUNDING PARTNERS

Washington National Cathedral

Women Thrive Worldwide

Religions for Peace

InterAction

Adventist Relief & Development Agency
ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal
American Islamic Congress
American Jewish World Service
Anglican Women's Empowerment
Asian Women's Self Help Association
Building Families, Inc.
Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Church Women United
Church World Service
Community of Christ
Council of Muslim Organizations
Disciples of Christ, Women's Ministries
FaithTrust Institute
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Interfaith Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Islamic Relief USA
Islamic Social Services Association USA
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Women International
Lutheran World Relief
Mennonite Central Committee
Mission Life Center
ML Ministries
Muslimat Al-Nisaa
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Muslim Women's Coalition
NA'AMAT USA
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the US
North American Division of Seventh-Day Adventists
Peaceful Families Project
The Presbyterian Church USA
Presbyterian Health Education & Welfare Association (PHEWA)
Safe Havens
Sisters of the Good Shepherd, National Advocacy Center
Union of Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Church of Christ, Justice & Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society
United Methodist Women, Washington Office of Public Policy
United Religions Initiative
Women of Reform Judaism
World Conference of Religions for Peace