

International Violence Against Women Act (“IVAWA”)

Section-by-Section Summary

To combat international violence against women and girls.

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents.

Section 2. Findings.

Section 3. Statement of Policy.

It is the policy of the United States to:

- systematically integrate and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally into U.S. foreign policy and assistance programs; and
- prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally through multi-sectoral methods.

Section 4. Definitions.

A. Eligible Countries: means countries that are not classified as high-income in the most recent edition of the World Development Report for Reconstruction and Development published by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

B. Violence Against Women: means any act of violence against women and girls that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women.

Title I—International Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls

Subtitle A—Official Positions and Institutional Changes

Section 101. Office for Global Women’s Issues.

A. Establishment. An Office for Global Women’s Issues (the “Office”) is established in the office of the Secretary of the Department of State. The Office shall be headed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues. The Ambassador-at-Large is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

B. Purpose. The Office shall coordinate U.S. Government efforts regarding gender integration and the empowerment of women in U.S. foreign policy.

C. Duties. The Ambassador-at-Large shall coordinate and advise on activities and policies relating to gender integration and empowerment of women internationally. The Ambassador-at-Large shall coordinate with all relevant U.S. Government departments and agencies.

D. Reports. The heads of all bureaus and offices of the Department of State, as appropriate, shall evaluate and monitor all women's empowerment programs administered by them and annually submit to the Ambassador-at-Large a report containing an accounting of those programs.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation. The Office shall provide advice and guidance, as necessary, to U.S. Government departments and agencies to monitor women's empowerment programs and outcomes and impacts of such programs. The heads of departments and agencies with international programs shall provide to the Office annually information on the women's empowerment programs and outcomes of such programs.

F. Authorization of Appropriations. **\$10,000,000** is authorized for each fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

Section 102. Office for Women's Global Development.

A. Establishment. There is established an Office for Women's Global Development (the "WGD Office") in the United States Agency for International Development ("USAID"). The Office is headed by the Director of Women's Global Development (the "Director"). The Director is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. He or she reports directly to the USAID Administrator and has the rank and status of Assistant Administrator.

B. Purpose. The WGD Office coordinates and guides all USAID efforts to integrate gender into U.S. foreign assistance policies and programs. It replaces the Office of Women in Development currently in USAID.

C. Duties. The Director shall coordinate with the Ambassador-at-Large and oversee agency-wide monitoring and evaluation on gender integration activities and strategies.

D. Reports. The heads of relevant USAID missions, offices and bureaus shall annually submit to the Director reports containing data and findings on gender integration activities and strategies for preventing and responding to violence against women and girls internationally. Reports are available to Congress upon request.

E. Congressional Briefings. Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and semi-annually thereafter, the Director or Administrator should brief

Congress on the integration of gender and response to violence against women and girls internationally in USAID strategies and programming.

F. Authorization of Appropriations. **\$15,000,000** is authorized for each fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

Subtitle A—Official Positions and Institutional Changes

Section 111. Comprehensive International Strategy to Reduce and Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.

A. Development and Implementation of Strategy. Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall develop and commence, with assistance from the Ambassador-at-Large and Director, implementation of a comprehensive, 5-year international strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally.

B. Coordination. The Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall coordinate with relevant U.S. Government departments and agencies and experienced representatives of civil society.

C. Content. The strategy shall identify between 5 and 20 eligible countries that have severe levels of violence against women and girls. The strategy should create a comprehensive and holistic strategy that includes at least 2 or more sectoral activities for each country plan. Relevant sectors include work in:

- Health programs and survivor services;
- Civil and criminal legal and judicial protections;
- Changes in public attitudes;
- Promotion of access to economic opportunities; and
- Improvement of educational opportunities for women and girls.

Section 112. Assistance to Reduce International Violence Against Women and Girls.

A. Coordinating Existing Aid Programs. The Ambassador-at-Large and Director shall seek to coordinate efforts and measures to prevent violence against women and girls internationally under existing foreign assistance programs.

B. Authority. The Secretary of State and USAID Administrator are authorized to provide assistance to NGOs, multilateral institutions and foreign countries for program activities.

C. Allocate New Funding. The Secretary of State in coordination with the USAID Administrator is authorized to allocate funds to achieve a comprehensive international strategy.

D. Use of Funds. NGOs receiving funds should have designated expertise in violence against women and girls internationally or the empowerment of women. The Secretary of State and USAID Administrator shall brief Congress upon request on mechanisms to ensure funds awarded to NGOs meet the above criteria.

E. Grants to Women's Nongovernmental Organizations and Community-Based Organizations. The Secretary of State or USAID Administrator may award funds to community-based women's NGOs and community-based organizations in recipient countries to carry out the purposes of this section. When possible 10% of funds shall be awarded to community-based women's groups in the eligible country. If the country does not have sufficient capacity, a plan should be provided for how recipients will work with local NGOs to increase their capacity.

F. Award Process. Awards are provided through an open, competitive and transparent process where possible.

G. Conditions. Entities receiving funds shall allocate a reasonable amount of funds for the collection of data and the evaluation of program effectiveness. The safety of women and girls should be the primary concern in deciding how to design and monitor the programs.

H. Authorization of Appropriations. **\$175,000,000** is authorized for each fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

Section 113. Ensuring Accountability of the United States' Response to Violence Against Women and Girls Internationally.

A. Briefing. Not later than 2 years after submission of the comprehensive international strategy and every other year thereafter, the Secretary of State, assisted by the USAID Administrator and Ambassador-at-Large, shall brief Congress on implementation of the strategy and progress to prevent and address violence against women and girls. The briefing should include:

- Description of successful efforts in prevention and response to violence against women and girls internationally;
- Recommendations related to best practices, effective strategies and improvements to enhance prevention and response to violence against women and girls internationally; and
- Impact of activities funded by the strategy in preventing and reducing violence against women and girls internationally.

B. Amendments. State Department Human Rights Reports should include where applicable the nature and extent of violence against women and girls.

C. Transparency. Reports provided to the Ambassador-at-Large by State Department bureaus and the Director by relevant USAID agencies shall be available to Congress.

D. Research and Data Collection. The Ambassador-at-Large in consultation with relevant parties shall work to improve the quality and coordination of existing data collection and evaluation of current programs that deal with violence against women and girls internationally.

E. Use of Funds. Funds made available in this section may be used to collect and analyze new or existing data on violence against women and girls internationally and conduct relevant research.

F. Authorization of Appropriations. **\$20,000,000** is authorized for each fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

Section 114. Enhancing United States Training of Foreign Military and Police Forces and Judicial Officials on Preventing and Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls.

A. Purpose. Ensure that U.S. programs to train foreign military and police forces and judicial officials include instruction on preventing violence against women and girls internationally.

B. Authorization. The Secretary of State is authorized to provide guidance to the Secretary of Defense concerning where appropriate:

- Incorporation of training and response to violence against women and girls into basic training curricula;
- U.S. assistance to units involved in regional and multilateral peacekeeping operations so that training includes prevention and response to violence against women and girls internationally; and
- Assessment in relevant briefings.

C. Authorization of Appropriations. Such sums as may be necessary are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

Section 115. Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls in Humanitarian Relief, Peacekeeping, Conflict and Post-Conflict Operations.

A. Definitions. Inter-Agency Standing Committee: means the committee established in response to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991).

B. Activities of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development. The Ambassador-at-Large is authorized to provide guidance to the USAID Administrator and Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration who shall take account of the guidance to extent practicable and shall:

- Provide assistance to programs and governments where appropriate that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in humanitarian relief, conflict and post-conflict settings and that adhere to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings. Numerous elements should be included;
- Ensure that activities to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls internationally are incorporated in to any multilateral or bilateral Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration efforts;
- Designate and deploy, as appropriate, specialists in violence against women and girls as an integral part of USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Teams; and
- Create a mechanism to ensure that all grantees deployed in humanitarian relief, conflict and post-conflict operations comply with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and appropriately respond to violence against women and girls.

C. Authorization of Appropriations. **\$40,000,000** is authorized for each fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under subsections that prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in humanitarian relief, conflict and post-conflict operations.

D. Activities of the Department of State. Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, acting through the Ambassador-at-Large, should brief Congress on activities and efforts to achieve the goals outlined above and require all private military contracting firms hired by the State Department to conduct activities in humanitarian relief, conflict and post-conflict settings to conform with certain criteria delineated.

E. Coordination of U.S. Government Agency Efforts. When U.S. military personnel are deployed in humanitarian relief, conflict, or post conflict settings the Secretary of State is authorized to provide guidance to the Secretary of Defense on preventing and responding to violence against women and girls. The Secretaries of State and Defense are jointly authorized to provide training in prevention and response to violence against women and girls to U.S. forces and establish mechanisms for reporting and appropriate public outreach for reporting incidents.

F. Enhancing U.S. Leadership and Advocacy in the United Nations. The Secretary of State should make available U.S. financial, material, human and

other resources to assist U.N. efforts to meet staffing needs and efforts to combat violence against women and girls internationally. Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs and the United States Representative to the United Nations, in consultation with the Ambassador-at-Large, shall submit to Congress a report on U.S. efforts to support the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820 and 1888.

G. Emergency Measures For Critical Outbreaks of Violence During Conflict or Post-Conflict Operations. The Secretary of State should immediately inform Congress upon a critical outbreak of violence against women and girls. In consultation with the Ambassador-at-Large, the Secretary should identify emergency measures to respond to the outbreak within 90 days and brief Congress, upon request, on those responses. Violence is considered to be a critical outbreak if credible accounts depict a widespread pattern of violence against women and girls that is escalating in the number of victims or brutality and takes place with impunity.

H. Authorization of Appropriations. Such sums as may be necessary are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to carry out activities under this section.

Title II—Other Provisions

Section 201. Support for Multilateral Efforts To End Violence Against Women and Girls. **\$10,000,000** is authorized for each fiscal years 2011 through 2015 to for the International Organizations and Programs Account to support the U.N. Development Fund for Women Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women.

Section 202. Funding Limitation. Assistance made available under this Act may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries, except for provisions of law that limit assistance to organizations that support or participate in a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization, including section 7079 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8, 123 Stat. 909).