

INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: STORIES AND SOLUTIONS

HEARING BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OVERSIGHT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND OVERSIGHT,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:24 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Bill Delahunt (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. DELAHUNT. This hearing will come to order. The usual practice is for the chair and the ranking member to make opening statements. But I am informed that our colleague and good friend and leader on this issue has another commitment. So we are going to welcome Congresswoman Schakowsky. And Jan, if you would proceed with your statement.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And first let me tell you how much I appreciate your leadership on this issue. And I am grateful to all of the cosponsors, men and women alike, that are on this bill, because it isn't just a women's issue. The hearing is critical because it is too easy to dismiss violence against women as a product of cultural differences or as a byproduct of war, or as a women's issue. The reality is that violence against women is a humanitarian tragedy, a vicious crime, a global health catastrophe, a social and economic impediment, and a threat to national security. The numbers speak for themselves. One in three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused over the course of her lifetime.

But the stories of individuals are even more powerful. We could talk about Barbara from Mexico, who was a volunteer working with street children when she was detained without charge and reportedly physically and sexually abused by Mexican police. Or Claudina from Guatemala, a 19-year-old student studying to become a lawyer, whose murder, despite evidence of rape, was not investigated.

You don't have to look far to find cases of violence against women. FBI statistics show there were 89,000 cases of reported rape here in the United States last year. However, women in conflict zones face a particularly desperate situation. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the systematic use of rape as a low-tech,

low-cost weapon of war has become a defining characteristic of the longstanding conflict in the East. Hundreds of thousands of women have been raped. Rape is used to destroy communities and to instill a sense of despair within a population.

One woman, Luma Furaha, told about being gang-raped by over 50 armed men. After nine surgeries, she has still not physically recovered.

Another, 50-year-old Zamuda, describes her rape by saying, "They wanted to destroy me, destroy my body, and kill my spirit."

It is very hard to talk about these stories, but it is really necessary to do so. It is not just the DRC, the Congo, it is also Sudan and Chad, where thousands of the women who have fled the conflict in Darfur have continued to face sexual violence as refugees. And Eastern Europe, where trafficking of women remains prevalent. And in homes throughout the world, where women are beaten by members of their own families.

Studies show that sexual violence and the attached social stigma hinder the ability of women to fully participate in and contribute to their societies. Survivors of violence are less likely to hold jobs and more likely to live in poverty than other women.

One study conducted in Nicaragua and cited by the World Health Organization found that women who had been abused earn an average of 46 percent less than those who had not, even when controlling for other wage-affecting factors.

Women often must overcome devastating health consequences as a result of sexual violence. Women and girls who survive sexual violence face an increased risk of poor reproductive health, including complications during pregnancy and birth, and they are at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

Studies have also linked abuse and rape to higher rates of serious psychological problems, including drug and alcohol abuse, nervous system disorders, and posttraumatic stress syndrome. U.N. statistics indicate that rape survivors are nine times more likely to attempt suicide than individuals who have not experienced sexual violence.

Mr. Chairman, U.S. leadership on this issue is critical, as you know. I commend the Obama administration, the leadership of Secretary Clinton, and Ambassador Verweir for clearly stating that fighting international violence against women will be a priority.

Still, we need to do more. And I am so proud to work with you, Mr. Chairman, on the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA), which will soon be reintroduced. This unprecedented legislation firmly establishes the prevention of violence against women as a foreign policy priority. And it requires the integration of this goal into every aspect of our diplomatic and developmental policy. IVAWA authorizes a multi-year comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women in a select number of targeted countries. The funding will cover a full spectrum of programs, including judicial reforms, health care, education, economic empowerment, and changing social norms. It includes tools to ensure accountability and oversight to determine the effectiveness of U.S. efforts.

In addition, IVAWA recognizes the particular dangers faced by women in conflict and post-conflict situations and authorizes train-

ing for military and police forces operating in these dangerous zones to effectively address violence against women and girls.

Mr. Chairman, violence against women affects us all. As co-chair of the Women's Caucus, I feel strongly that we must do more to help the women throughout the world whose lives have been forever altered by violence, and the families, communities, countries, and even entire regions of the world that will never be stable, open, and prosperous as long as violence against women is perpetuated.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Schakowsky follows:]

Statement of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky
Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight
Hearing on "International Violence Against Women: Stories and Solutions"
October 21, 2009

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this hearing today, and for your long-standing commitment to this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Today's hearing is critical because it is too easy to dismiss violence against women as a product of cultural differences. Or as a byproduct of war. Or as a "women's issue."

The reality is that violence against women is a humanitarian tragedy, a vicious crime, a global health catastrophe, a social and economic impediment, and a threat to national security. Violence against women knows no borders, nor class, race, ethnicity, or religion. It is a truly global plague, affecting women and girls at all stages of life. The numbers speak for themselves: one in three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused over the course of her lifetime. But the stories of individuals are even more powerful.

We could talk about Bárbara, from Mexico, who was a volunteer working with street children when she was detained without charge and reportedly physically and sexually abused by Mexican police. Or Claudina, from Guatemala, a 19-year old student studying to become a lawyer, whose murder, despite evidence of rape, was not investigated. Or Shadi, from Iran, a women's rights activist who was beaten and abducted on her way to prayers.

You don't have to look far to find cases violence against women. FBI statistics show that there were 89,000 cases of reported rape here in the United States last year. While there is some evidence to suggest that women in developing countries face higher rates of abuse than those in developed nations, domestic violence is a leading cause of injury among women of reproductive age here in the United States as well as abroad.

However, women in conflict zones face a particularly desperate situation. According to Amnesty International, over 142,000 women have fled Darfur for neighboring Chad over the past six years. And while they ran from violence and rape in their homeland, thousands continue to face sexual violence as refugees. Not only do women risk rape and abuse every time they travel outside the camp to gather food, water, and firewood, but sexual violence also routinely occurs within the camps, despite the presence of UN security and humanitarian workers.

Take Aisha, a married, 26-year-old mother, who was raped and beaten while returning to her refugee camp. When asked about the attack nearly a year later, Aisha found it difficult to speak of her abuse and said she still faces vivid flashbacks. Or Fatima, a 20-year old mother, who was attacked while gathering wood. Fatima says she was not raped, but she did not want to talk about the attack in front of any member of her family, presumably because of the shame faced by survivors of sexual violence.

Aisha and Fatima are just two of the thousands of women who fled violence and abuse in Darfur only to face further attacks in Chad.

The situation is perhaps even more dire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the systematic use of rape as a low-tech, low-cost weapon of warfare has become a defining characteristic of the long-standing conflict in the east. Rape is used to destroy communities and to instill a sense of despair and hopelessness within a population. Hundreds of thousands of women have been raped; in some villages, as many as 90% of the women have been raped. Patrick Cammaert, who served as UN force commander in the DRC, has said that it is "more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier."

Since the most recent offensive began in January 2009, the situation has reportedly become even worse. This year alone, Oxfam has received 4,500 reported rape cases in the eastern DRC provinces of North and South Kivu, and this figure only represents those women who come forward. It is likely that thousands more are too afraid, or too ashamed, to tell their stories.

Last year, a number of survivors of rape in DRC broke through the silence and came forward, through UNICEF, to talk about what they have faced. One woman, Lumo Furaha, told about being gang raped by over 50 armed men. After nine surgeries, she has still not physically recovered, but she says she is hoping that telling her story will help her find what she calls "a brighter future."

Another woman, 50-year-old Zamuda, spoke out of hope that telling her story could prevent what happened to her from happening to others. She said, "I don't understand, the men did it with objects, it wasn't from any physical desire. The only answer I have is that they wanted to destroy me; to destroy my body and kill my spirit."

These are not just stories of individual women; they are stories of families, of communities, even entire countries facing endemic violence against women. My good friend, Jane Saks, co-directed a powerful photo exhibit called Congo/Women. One of the women featured in the exhibit, named Sarah, stated "The man had a gun and he had the power. I just wanted to survive." Sarah's world is one where violence is power. This is the reality for too many women throughout the world.

It is very hard to talk about these stories. But I think it is necessary. And it's not just DRC, Sudan, and Chad. A reported 500,000 women were raped in 1994 in Rwanda, and tens of thousands of rapes occurred during the warfare in Bosnia and Croatia. And the problem extends far beyond conflict zones: to Eastern Europe, where trafficking of women and girls remains prevalent; to regions in Africa, where an estimated 3 million girls are at risk of female genital mutilation every year, and to homes throughout the world, where women are beaten by members of their own families.

Many women throughout the world face sexual harassment and violence in their workplaces. The International Labor Rights Forum, which has surveyed women in Kenya, the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Ecuador, and Mexico, found that between 50 and 90% of women in these

countries reported some form of sexual harassment in the workplace, even rape on the job. Women reported being threatened by supervisors to keep quiet if they want to keep their jobs.

Even after the horror of the initial attack, many women who survive sexual violence face further abuse from their own families and communities. Too often, the victim herself is blamed for the violent crime perpetrated against her. Even when not explicitly blamed, many women who survive rape and other sexual crimes are shunned by their families and cast out of their villages. Other women are too afraid to tell their stories, hiding the truth about their attack for fear of being stigmatized. Fear and cultural taboos against speaking about sexual violence often prevent women from seeking desperately needed medical treatment in the aftermath of an attack.

Beyond the immediate effects on the survivors, sexual violence affects entire communities. Studies show that sexual violence and the attached social stigma hinder the ability of women to fully participate in and contribute to their societies. Survivors of violence are less likely to hold jobs and are more likely to live in poverty than other women. One study, conducted in Nicaragua and cited by the World Health Organization, found that women who had been abused earned an average of 46% less than those who had not, even when controlling for other wage-affecting factors. Many survivors seek to avoid public places, including school and the workplace. There is evidence linking sexual harassment and violence to low female enrollment and high dropout rates from secondary schools.

Women, together with their families and communities, often must overcome devastating health consequences as a result of sexual violence. Women and girls who survive sexual violence face an increased risk of poor reproductive health and they are at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDs.

In addition, women who have been sexually abused, particularly young girls who have been forced into early sexual activity, are more likely to develop complications during pregnancy, as well as serious health problems like obstetric fistula. The latter, a childbearing injury that may occur when emergency obstetric care is not available during childbirth, generally causes incontinence. Left unable to control her urine or feces, the woman is often abandoned by her family and community. Though obstetric fistula is both preventable and treatable, an estimated two million women remain untreated in the developing world and between 50,000 and 100,000 new cases occur every year.

Studies have linked abuse and rape to higher rates of serious psychological problems, including drug and alcohol abuse, nervous system disorders, and post-traumatic stress syndrome. UN statistics indicate that rape survivors are nine times more likely to attempt suicide than individuals who have not experienced sexual violence.

Mr. Chairman, U.S. leadership on this issue is critical. Two recent United Nations resolutions have made major strides toward a real recognition of this issue and linking sexual violence against women to international peace and security. Both Security Council Resolutions 1820 and 1888 were sponsored by the United States. These two resolutions represent a major step forward toward an international consensus that women's rights are human rights, and that the entire international community has a responsibility to address violations, wherever they occur.

There is also a growing international legal consensus surrounding the seriousness of using systematic sexual violence against women as a weapon of war. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) issued a series of landmark decisions, finding rape to be a crime against humanity and a tool of both genocide and torture. Further, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court codifies rape as both a crime against humanity and a war crime.

I commend the Obama Administration, and the leadership of Secretary Clinton and Ambassador Verveer, for clearly stating that fighting international violence against women will be a priority. The Secretary's recent trip to Goma, in the DRC, where she announced \$17 million to assist survivors of sexual violence in the region, is an important statement of the Administration's commitment to addressing this issue.

Still, we need to do much more. I am proud to work with you, Mr. Chairman, on the International Violence Against Women Act, or IVAWA, which will soon be reintroduced. This unprecedented legislation firmly establishes the prevention of violence against women as a foreign policy priority, and requires the coordination, across our government, on integrating this goal into every aspect of our diplomatic and development policy.

IVAWA's approach is particularly groundbreaking because it takes a comprehensive, holistic approach toward the problem of violence against women. While there are already many programs that address specific facets of this international problem, IVAWA is crucial because it creates a central coordinating mechanism, linking all American efforts to combat international violence against women.

To be specific, IVAWA authorizes a multi-year, comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to violence against women in a select number of targeted countries. The funding will cover a full spectrum of programs, including judicial reforms, health care, education, economic empowerment, and changing social norms. To ensure accountability, the legislation designates funding for research and evaluation of supported programs to determine the effectiveness of U.S. efforts.

In addition, IVAWA recognizes the particular dangers faced by women in conflict and post-conflict situations, and authorizes training for military and police forces operating in these dangerous zones to effectively address violence against women and girls.

Mr. Chairman, violence against women affects us all. As co-chair of the Women's Caucus I strongly feel that we must do more to help the women, throughout the world, whose lives have been forever altered by violence, and the families, communities, countries, even entire regions of the world that will never be stable, open, and prosperous so long as violence against women is perpetuated.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, thank you, Congresswoman. And thank you sincerely for your terrific leadership on this issue. You have been involved in this issue during the course of your public career. So thank you.

And I will make a statement at this point in time, and then I will ask my colleague and friend, the ranking member, Mr. Rohrabacher from California, to make his opening statement. And then we will go directly to the Ambassador.

Violence against women should concern all of us, for no other reason than it is unjust, it is uncivilized, and it is immoral. The reality that domestic violence is perpetrated almost exclusively by men against women, as the Congresswoman so rightly alluded to, does not make it a women's issue. It is a male problem. It is important to understand as well that if violence against women is acceptable, then violence, wherever and to whomever it is directed against, is acceptable.

I saw this firsthand, because before coming to Congress, I was the elected district attorney in the metropolitan area of Boston. And I had the statutory responsibility for investigating crimes committed within the maximum security prisons in Massachusetts. And I became very familiar with the social history of inmates incarcerated in those facilities. Invariably, the men there who had committed acts of violence were the legacy of violent families, where violence was accepted and violence was the norm. It is my own opinion that when violence against women is implicitly sanctioned and not punished, violent behavior in general is encouraged, whether the victim is an individual, a community, or even a nation.

It was Secretary Clinton—and I want to acknowledge her leadership on this issue as well, she has really provided us with the kind of leadership that we can all be proud of—but it was Secretary Clinton who stated, and I am quoting here, that acts of violence against women don't "just harm a single individual or a single family or village or group; they shred the fabric that weaves us together as human beings. It endangers families and communities, erodes social and political stability, and undermines economic progress." I completely concur.

Tragically, examples of extreme violence against women abound. Rape is now routinely utilized as a tactic of war. Brutal violence is also rampant in countries that don't face armed conflicts, whether in the home, or at the workplace, or openly, as we have observed, on the streets.

In Guinea, the New York Times referred to women as "prey." Reports show that armed soldiers beat, raped and killed women in broad daylight.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the violence is so profound that Major General Patrick Cammaert, former U.N. peacekeeping operations commander, opined that it is more dangerous to be a woman there than a soldier.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women estimates that nearly 1 billion women globally will be beaten, raped, mutilated, or otherwise abused during their lifetime. Disturbingly, nearly 50 percent of all sexual assaults worldwide are committed against girls under 15 years, most often at the hand of family members. That is 1 billion with a B. The international community

and the United States must take a stand to protect the women around the world. We must act not only because it is the right thing to do, but because our own security, American security is implicated.

Keep in mind that a statement by the Joint Chiefs of Staff emphasizes that one of the most effective forces in defeating extremism is female education. Women hold the key for our progress and development around the world. Women hold the key for our very own security. And as the Congresswoman indicated, the issue knows no boundaries. It is not an issue of the developing versus the developed world. It is not a question of imposing one culture over another, because every person deserves to live a life free of violence. And I have no doubt that this issue can be addressed successfully. And in time we will see—and it will take time—dramatic and even unexpected results.

As I mentioned earlier, I served as the district attorney for over 20 years. And in 1978, we created the first domestic violence unit in the Nation. That program, I am proud to say, has been replicated all over the country and even internationally. The results were truly remarkable. Domestic violence homicides averaged somewhere between seven and eight annually every year in my district. Some female died because of abuse and violence directed against her. After the program was implemented, not a single domestic violence homicide occurred in my district for more than a decade. So we can do it.

On a larger scale, USA Today indicated that the rate of reported rapes in the United States has hit a 20-year low. And violent crime in general is decreasing. I believe that this is partially due to the more aggressive response we as a Nation, as a society, have taken toward violence against women. And like I said, I am confident that we can achieve remarkable results internationally if people of good will and political leaders everywhere make this a priority. I believe we have an unparalleled opportunity at this moment in time.

The U.N. recently adopted resolutions 1888 and 1889 condemning continued sexual violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations, in addition to combining its four agencies pertaining to women into one comprehensive agency.

Domestically, President Obama created the White House Council on Women and Girls. He appointed a senior adviser on violence against women, and created the position of ambassador-at-large for global women's issues. By doing so, the administration put women's rights at the forefront of its domestic and foreign policy, where they should be.

Now it is time for Congress to act. That is why in the coming weeks I plan to introduce, with my colleagues, the International Violence Against Women Act. This legislation would systematically integrate and coordinate efforts to end violence against women in our foreign policy, promote women's human rights and opportunities worldwide, support and build the capacity of local NGOs working to end the violence, and finally, enhance training in humanitarian relief in crisis settings. This legislation, as I suggested, is the right thing to do, it is the moral thing to do, and it is the smart thing to do.

And this past September, on September 29th, 2009, we marked the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. I have this memory of testifying on several occasions before our now-Vice President Joe Biden, who really led that particular effort. And there is no reason, there is no reason why we should not be commemorating the first anniversary of the International Violence Against Women Act next year.

With that, let me turn to my friend and colleague from California, the ranking member of this committee, Congressman Dana Rohrabacher.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I appreciate you focusing the attention of this committee on this very significant issue. It is a significant issue because it deals with a fundamental issue that we need to confront that has been ignored for far too long with our relations of many countries around the world.

I am someone who prides himself on being an advocate of human rights. And today we had a great discussion on human rights in Burma. But it should escape no one's attention that almost all of the regimes that deny fundamental rights of all of their people are also those regimes that are most egregious violators of the rights of women.

We just looked at Burma today. And the fact is in Burma the horrendous crimes that are being perpetrated as part of an overall strategy by the government of repression is just unbelievable. And we need to confront it and confront it publicly and aggressively. It shouldn't be an issue. That is just one of the side issues that we are just talking about with governments like this. We need to confront those governments in the world. And we have in the past not been confronting them because we have believed that, well, this is part of their Islamic faith, that women have to be relegated to a certain status, and their rights as compared to men's rights are different in those societies.

I happen to believe that rights are given to all people by God. All people. And the fact is that there are no rights that are good rights over here and not rights over here because of some societal trends or some history of their traditions. No. If we believe that people have human rights, the rights of women to have equal treatment and to be free from violent attack, just like men in their society, that should be right on the top of our agenda when we discuss human rights and other issues with these countries.

And I happen to believe that we should not be treating countries that have very poor human rights records in the same way, with the same respect that we treat countries with more democratic and more, I would say, respectful of the human rights of their population.

So today I would hope that we address at least the issue of Islam and what we should do about women's rights in Islamic countries. Just because a country is producing oil doesn't mean we should ignore the type of oppression that goes on with half of their population.

I am a father of three children. My wife and I were blessed with triplets 5½ years ago. She has done all the work, of course. No, actually I do a lot of work. I have changed more diapers than any-

body in this room, I want you to know. But let me just note—I have one boy and two girls—I am totally committed to my girls having the same rights and the same opportunities and the same freedom that my boy has. And that is the kind of world we want to work at, and we want all the little girls of the world to know that, and not grow up with a predetermined positioning that they have put on them by “tradition,” or by their own governments.

And especially when we talk about the violence on women, women who are arrested in various countries throughout the world, so many of them face rape while they are in prison. This is another intolerable situation that we have not come to full grips with that we need to. If we believe in human rights, we need to put the condition and the treatment of women in prisons and elsewhere in these societies high on our list of negotiating points. And again, we haven’t done that.

So I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, that this is the type of dialogue that will, we hope, create the momentum so that that type of issue is put on the top of the list and not the bottom of the list when talking with these less-than-free countries.

So with that said, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I am looking forward to the testimony today, getting some of the details, but also finding perhaps some of the opportunities we have as Americans to prove to the whole world, not just half the world that happens to be male, but the whole world that we do believe in liberty and justice for all.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Dana.

And now we will proceed, I am going to welcome the Ambassador to the witness table.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, could I have a short opening statement?

Mr. DELAHUNT. I spoke to the ranking member, and there are some time constraints. But we will go back to the customary no rules once we have had a chance to hear from our witnesses.

I am especially pleased to welcome Ambassador Verveer, who is the first ambassador-at-large for global women’s issues, which I am sure is reflective of all of the work I know that she has done on these issues during the course of her life, during the course of her public service. She works to coordinate foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic, and social advancement of women around the world. Welcome, Ambassador, and please proceed with your testimony.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE MELANNE VERVEER, AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE, OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN’S ISSUES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ambassador VERVEER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the committee, for bringing us together to continue to address one of the most serious global challenges of our time: Violence against women and girls. And I also want to thank Congresswoman Schakowsky, who has been a leader on these issues for a very long time.

The time to take concerted action to end international violence against women is now. Today we have a far greater understanding of the global variables involved in this problem, why we must in-

tensify our efforts against this worldwide scourge, and of the consequences if we fail to seize this opportunity. We need to chart a new era of international cooperation on this global pandemic, to create partnerships among governments, multilateral institutions, the private sector, civil society, and individuals.

And I want to applaud Nicole Kidman for bringing her considerable celebrity, generosity, and commitment to working on behalf of UNIFEM, which has been such a strong leader on these issues for a long time.

Violence against women cannot be relegated, as you said, Mr. Chairman, to the margins of foreign policy. It cannot be treated solely as a women's issue, as something that can be dealt with later after we take care of the more pressing issues of our time. Violence against women and girls is a humanitarian issue, it is a development issue, it is a national security issue.

As Secretary Clinton has observed, there cannot be vibrant civil societies if half the population is left behind. Where violence and the threat of violence prevents women from participating fully, freely, and equally in their societies, in those places good governance, the rule of law, and economic prosperity cannot fully take root.

Around the world the places that are the most dangerous for women also pose the greatest threats to international peace and security. The correlation is clear: Where women are oppressed, governance is weak, and extremism is more likely to take hold.

The current scale, savagery, and extent of violence against women and girls are enormous. It affects girls and women at every point of their lives, from sex-selective abortion, which has culled as many as 100 million girls, to withholding adequate nutrition, to FGM, to child marriage, to rape as a weapon of war, to human trafficking, to so-called honor killings, to dowry-related murders, and so much more.

Rape is fueling HIV/AIDS infection among adolescent girls, which continues to climb at a rate that should concern us all. And life everywhere is touched by violence. It occurs in homes, at schools, in the workplace, and all across society. This violence cannot be explained, as you said, Mr. Rohrabacher, as cultural or as a private matter. It is criminal. And it is every Nation's problem, and it is the cause of mass destruction around the globe. And we need a response that is commensurate with the seriousness of the crime.

Now, the statistics that tell the extent of this humanitarian tragedy are well known. But behind those numbing quantitative data are qualitative data, the stories of actual people. We are telling their stories here in the hopes of keeping alive around the world a simmering sense of collective outrage that can and must spark into global action so that other women will be able to lead different kinds of life stories with happier endings.

Mr. Chairman, you have entitled this hearing, "Stories and Solutions." Stories of real lives should move us to action. And real solutions, ways of successfully combating this violence, should be lessons that we take to scale, lessons without borders.

Addressing violence against women and girls means ending stories like Waris Dirie's, one of 2 or 3 million girls and women each

year who are subject to FGM. She underwent the procedure in Somalia when she was five. She survived. But two of her sisters and a cousin died. Tostan, an NGO in Africa, has worked effectively to reduce the practice of female genital cutting, which is deeply ingrained in many societies. And there both men and women at the village level work together to become aware of the harmful effects and then take action to end it and ensure the health and well-being of the girls in their villages.

It also means not having any stories like Shamsia Husseini. Parts of her face were eaten away by acid last year after a man, a stranger, decided that attacking her might prevent her from going to school in Afghanistan and getting an education. It didn't. She stayed in school despite the fact that her scars interfere with her eyesight. She is one of 2.6 million girls in Afghanistan in school, a vast improvement from 2001, when the Taliban prohibited any education for girls. But girls are still just one-third of the number of boys in school. Whether the numbers of girls continue to grow will say much about Afghanistan's future.

Confronting violence means being able to rewrite stories such as that of a young Yemeni girl, Najoud. She is a vivacious child with a big smile whom I got to know. She was married at the age of eight to a man considerably older. She walked out of her house after 2 months of rapes and beatings and found her way to a courthouse, intending on getting a divorce. She was lucky to find a caring female lawyer who took her case, as well as that of other girls whose fathers had married them off, sometimes just to be free of the burden of caring for a daughter. Yemen has, subsequent to her case, been debating whether or not to raise the age of consent for marriage.

Girls there still marry at a very young age. For these girls, not just from Yemen but from South Asia, from Africa, from elsewhere, their childhoods are effectively curtailed, their education is terminated, their emotional and social development interrupted. Maternal mortality is high for girls who have babies, and they face the highest risk for fistula and chronic physical disability. With interventions, however, solutions to provide incentives to parents to keep their daughters in school, ending school fees, or providing families with commodities like a bag of flour, a can of oil, or other necessary staples, or feeding children in school, other girls like Najoud will be spared potentially the horrors of child marriage.

And the stories of violence against women include those of an estimated 5,000 who are killed each year to cleanse the family's so-called honor of the shame of the victim's or other people's alleged indiscretions. Mukhtar Mai from Pakistan was one woman such targeted, gang-raped on the orders of a local village council, because her brother allegedly held hands with a girl from a nearby village. It was expected that she would commit suicide because the attack on her had dishonored her family. She didn't. And this illiterate young woman mustered the courage to take her case to court. She won a modest settlement, which was used to build two schools, one for boys and one for girls. She enrolled herself in the school for girls. And when asked why she did this with her small settlement, she said, "Nothing will ever change in my village until we have education here."

Women and children are also at risk in zones of conflict, when legal and social norms fall away and armies and militias act without fear of accountability or judicial penalty. In August I traveled with Secretary Clinton to Goma. At the Heal Africa Hospital we met a woman who told us she was 8 months pregnant when she was attacked. She was at home when a group of men broke in. They took her husband and two of their children in the front yard and shot them, before returning into the house to shoot the other two children. And then they beat and gang-raped her and left her for dead. Her story, unfortunately, is far too common.

And in the DRC's eastern provinces, 1,100 rapes are reported each month. Rape is used in armed conflict as a deliberate strategy to subdue and destroy communities.

Secretary Clinton took this issue to the U.N. Security Council, and 2 weeks ago spoke on behalf of a U.S.-sponsored resolution focused on protecting women against sexual violence in armed conflict. That counsel was unanimously adopted. Now we need to work to ensure that we see results.

The stories I have outlined represent a humanitarian tragedy and more, a tragedy for all of our efforts to build a better world. These abuses not only destroy the lives of individual girls and women, families and communities, but they rob the world of the talent it urgently needs.

There is a powerful connection between violence against women and the unending cycle of women in poverty. Women who are abused or who fear violence are unable to realize their full potential and contribute to their country's development. There are enormous economic costs that come with violence against women. Ending violence against women and girls is a prerequisite for their social, economic, and political participation and progress.

There is a common thread among these stories. Each of them is fundamentally a manifestation of the low status of women and girls around the world. Ending the violence requires elevating their status and freeing their potential to become agents of change for good in their communities.

We need a greater response to this global pandemic. In my written testimony, I have submitted numbers of ways that we are trying to address this challenge and how much more there is we can all do. Women are critical to progress and prosperity. And when they are marginalized and mistreated, humanity cannot progress. When they are accorded their rights and afforded equal opportunities, they lift up their families, their communities, and their nations.

It is time that violence against women and girls became a concern of all of us. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ambassador Verveer follows:]

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Statement Prepared
Hearing before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on
International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight
"International Violence Against Women: Stories and Solutions"
October 21, 2009

I am honored to appear before you today to examine one of the most serious global challenges of our time: violence against women. Thank you for taking the time to address this important issue and for holding this hearing that builds on the October 1 Senate Committee on Foreign Relations hearing on the global costs and consequences of violence against women, and on the May 13 Senate Joint Subcommittee hearing on rape as a weapon of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. We are continuing to build momentum to make a clear and concrete difference in the lives of women and girls who are affected by gender-based violence or who are at risk of violence.

I would like to reiterate that violence against women cannot be relegated to the margins of foreign policy. It cannot be treated solely as a "women's issue," as something that can wait until "more pressing" issues are solved. The scale and the scope of the problem make it simultaneously one of the largest and most entrenched humanitarian and development issues before us; they also make it a security issue. When women are attacked as part of a deliberate and coordinated strategy, as they are in Sudan, the DRC and, most recently, Guinea, and as they are and have been in elsewhere around the world, the glue that holds together communities dissolves. Large populations become not only displaced, but destabilized. Around the world, the places that are the most dangerous for women also pose the greatest threats to international peace and security. The correlation is clear: where women are oppressed, governance is weak and terrorists are more likely to take hold. As the Secretary has said, you cannot have vibrant civil societies if half the population is left behind. Women's participation is a prerequisite for good governance, for rule of law, and for economic prosperity – and gender-based violence and the ever-present threat of violence prevents women's participation in these sectors of society.

The elimination of gender-based violence has long been a goal of the United States. The Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have worked together on many of these issues throughout the world. Through their development programs, USAID addresses violence against women by: mobilizing women/girls and men/boys to prevent and mitigate violence, working with communities to change the norms that perpetuate the acceptability of violence and to challenge harmful gender-based attitudes and practices; supporting policies and programs for prevention and response, increasing access to psychosocial, legal and health services for victims; supporting protection for women and children in conflict and humanitarian emergencies, and sanctions against perpetrators of gender-based violence.

The violence against women and girls that we're currently seeing is a global pandemic. It cuts across ethnicity, race, class, religion, education level, and international borders. It affects girls and women at every point in their lives, from sex-selective abortion and infanticide, to inadequate healthcare and nutrition given to girls, to genital mutilation, child marriage, rape as a weapon of war, trafficking, so-called "honor" killings, dowry-related murder, and the neglect and ostracism of widows – and this is not an exhaustive list. This violence is not "cultural," it is criminal. It is every nation's problem and it is the cause of mass destruction around the globe. We need a response that is commensurate with the seriousness of these crimes.

The statistics that tell the extent of this humanitarian tragedy are well-known. One in three women worldwide will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime, and in some countries, this is true for 70 percent of women. A 2006 United Nations report found that at least 102 member states had no specific laws on domestic violence; others that do have laws too often fail to fully implement or enforce them. Working from normative projections of sex ratios, we know that there are millions – some estimate as many as 100 million – girls who are missing from the world because of sex-selective abortion, infanticide, or because they're denied the nutrition and healthcare they need to survive past the age of five. Around the world, women and girls are the worst-affected by HIV/AIDS, with rape and the fear of relationship violence adding fuel to women's rising infection rate.

Behind all these statistics are stories of actual people. This qualitative data is invaluable for putting faces on the numbers and keeping alive, around the world, a simmering sense of collective outrage that can and must spark into global action. In some cases, these stories have led to solutions – or partial solutions – that have created a framework or suggested a way forward so that other women will be able to have different life stories with happier endings.

Global Stories and Solutions

FGM. The United Nations estimates that two to three million girls and women each year are subjected to genital mutilation. Worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, that means that an estimated 100 to 140 million girls and women are currently living with the devastating physical and psychological consequences of this custom. The cutting is often performed in unsanitary conditions, without anesthesia. Girls who do not die of infection face a lifetime of medical complications and increased risk of maternal mortality. Stories such as Waris Dirie's are typical: She underwent FGM when she was 5 and survived, although two of her sisters and cousins died from the procedure. Less typically, she fled her Somali home at age 13 to escape a marriage to a 60 year-old man. She went on to become a supermodel and actress and now campaigns as an FGM activist. Through her role as UN Special Envoy on FGM issues, she hopes to educate the world about the violence to which so many girls are subjected.

Confronting FGM requires concerted action at the level of the community. Tostan, an NGO in Africa, has effectively worked with community leaders, both male and female, to educate about the harmful health effects of the practice. Since 1997, Tostan has helped convince 3,792 communities in Senegal, 364 in Guinea, 23 in Burkina Faso, and some in other African countries such as Somalia, to abandon this physically and psychologically violent custom. The

successful methods of Tostan are a lesson without borders and can and should be introduced elsewhere.

Denial of education. Access to education is critical for positive long-term outcomes in life. To deny girls the right to an education is to rob them of a brighter economic future and the right to develop their full potential. In some parts of the world, this denial also involves immediate physical violence.

In November, 2008, Shamsia Husseini and her sister were walking to their school in Kandahar province in Afghanistan, when a man pulled alongside them on a motorcycle and asked whether they were going to school. He then pulled Shamsia's scarf from her head and sprayed her face with acid. After she recovered from the immediate attack, Shamsia was left with scars across her eyelids and most of her left cheek, where the acid ate away her skin. Her vision is now blurry, making it hard for her to read. But the acid attack against Shamsia and 14 others – students and teachers – failed to deter her or others from getting their education: the school now has 1,300 girls in attendance.

In 2001, only one million Afghan children were enrolled in school, and all of them were boys; the education of girls was banned. Today, approximately 7 million Afghan children attend school, of which 2.6 million, or roughly a third, are girls. Whether these numbers continue to grow and the ratios equalize will say much about Afghanistan's future.

Ensuring access to education for girls around the world requires the support of key figures in the local communities, particularly from the girls' fathers and from religious leaders. Shamsia's parents support her education, and have told her to keep going to school regardless of the risks. As the principal of the school said, following the attack, "if you don't send your daughters to school, then the enemy wins...I told them not to give in to darkness. Education is the way to improve our society."

In Afghanistan, the United States supports projects through local partners to mobilize this kind of community support. In one project, 844 religious leaders, government officials, media representatives, and civil society members are receiving training in human rights precepts within the context of Islam. One local Mullah who attended the first training had initially declared his belief that human rights, including girls' education, were a western ideal that went against the teachings of Islam. After participating in the training, he declared that his views had changed. Since the event, he has often spoken about rights-based issues during Friday prayers. He has a regular one-hour program on Sharq Television, and has spoken on-air about the rights of women, children and families.

In India, through organizations such as the Father and Daughter Alliance, fathers are getting involved to support girls' education. FADA is establishing fathers' associations in slum areas that work to promote these men's interest and involvement in their daughters' schooling.

Government incentives can also be effective in persuading reluctant parents to educate their daughters. In some places within countries such as Bangladesh and India, the government offers a free monthly ration of rice or wheat to families for sending their daughters to school.

Child marriage. Girls who are married before they are physically and psychologically mature face damaging consequences from multiple causes: their childhoods are effectively curtailed; their education is terminated; their emotional and social development is interrupted. Physically, prepubescent girls are damaged from their marital rape, and, if they become pregnant, they experience greater risk of both death and chronic disability such as fistula than do older mothers. Worldwide, child marriage has been slow to change, according to UNICEF's "State of the World's Children" report. In the South Asia region, about 49 percent of women in their early 20s were married before the age of 18.

In Yemen, eight-year-old Najoud Ali was given in marriage in February, 2008, to a much older man. When she ran crying from the bedroom on her wedding night, her husband caught her, brought her back, and raped and beat her. Two months later, Najoud walked out of the house and found her way to the city's courtroom. When she was finally noticed by a lawyer and Najoud told her she'd come for a divorce, the lawyer took the child to her house to play with her 8-year-old daughter, and secured the divorce two days later. Since then, the lawyer has won divorce cases for two other girls in Sanaa – one age nine, the other 12 – who came forward after being inspired by Nujoud's bravery. Yemen has subsequently passed a law raising its minimum age for marriage.

Yemen has laws against child marriage, but the practice persists: about 52 percent of Yemen's girls marry before the age of 18, often as the second or third wives of far older men. Impoverished families are often eager to marry off girls, who are seen as an economic burden to educate and feed and who can be given in marriage as a way to relieve debts. Prevailing cultural traditions also dictate that the best wives are children who can be shaped into docile and dutiful spouses.

Laws against child marriage are a good start, but we also need public awareness and public pressure to ensure the laws are enforced. In Yemen, an extensive public awareness campaign, including songs and television spots with titles like "The Victimized Daughter of the Tribe" and "Traditions and Rituals" has helped educate people about the dangers posed by early marriage and pregnancy.

Government programs that eliminate school fees, or that provide school meals or uniforms free of charge, have been effective at removing the obstacles that keep poorer families from educating their daughters, and incentive programs that provide families with staple foods for keeping girls in school can help reduce the appeal of marrying them off.

Honor killing. The United Nations estimates that at least 5,000 so-called "honor" killings take place each year around the world, intended to cleanse the family's "honor" of the shame of the victim's perceived indiscretions. In Jordan, it is estimated that an average of 20 women are killed every year under these conditions. In Pakistan, statistics on "honor crimes" are

unreliable due to underreporting, but 571 killings of women for “honor” were reported in 2008. “Honor” killings have also been reported in a number of Mediterranean and Persian Gulf countries, and in western countries within migrant communities.

Mukhtar Mai, a woman from a rural village in Pakistan, was gang-raped on the orders of a local village council in response to a so-called “honor-related” crime. In the ordinary course of things, she would have been expected to commit suicide in response to this government-ordered attack against her. Instead, this illiterate, brutalized, and shunned woman found the strength to take her case to court. With her small settlement she built two schools – one for boys and one for girls, in which she enrolled herself. She said nothing in her village would ever change without education.

Education, the only tool that reliably changes attitudes, remains the best long-term and lasting solution to so-called honor crimes. At the same time, we need to ask governments to exercise the political will to ensure that penalties for these acts are commensurate with the seriousness of the crimes: in one such victory, a Jordanian man was recently convicted of murder for stabbing his sister because he believed she was having a romantic relationship out of wedlock. He was sentenced to 15 years in jail, which marks a dramatic change from previous sentences, which have ranged from six months to seven and a half years. Jordan has taken positive steps both in combating “honor” killings as well as domestic violence more generally.

Human trafficking. Millions of girls and women are bought and sold as commodities and trafficked into prostitution, or enslaved as indentured servants or sweatshop workers. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that there are at least 12.3 million adults and children who are victims of forced labor and commercial sexual servitude.

Trafficked women are tricked and misled as to the true nature of their work duties or their working conditions. At times they are told they will be working as domestics or as waitresses at upmarket restaurants. The promised jobs turn out to be nothing more than modern-day slavery, with appalling working conditions: A growing number of South and East Asian domestic workers have been subjected to beatings, starvation, and other forms of physical and mental abuse by their employers. The well-publicized case of Filipinas Marilyn Vinluan and Desiree Eman has brought international awareness to this problem. Vinluan escaped her Emirati-Lebanese employer after being beaten. Eman also ran away from her previous employer after working for eight months without pay or adequate nourishment. Melda, a thirty-three-year-old Filipina working in Saudi Arabia, was raped twice by her male employer, who threatened to kill her if she said anything to his wife. When she was finally able to leave, all her salary was withheld by the staffing agency to pay the job placement fee.

These problems are not confined by region. In India, bonded laborer Jayati and her husband worked 16-hour days at a rice mill in India for more than 30 years. Their children were forced to quit school and work alongside them in the mill, and their grandchildren were born into bonded servitude. In 2005, Jayati and her family were finally freed with the help of NGOs and local authorities.

Addressing trafficking in all its forms requires a reach beyond what either governments or NGOs can provide individually; the most successful approaches involve partnerships between them. Combating trafficking requires a multi-disciplinary approach: prevention, in the form of economic alternatives, skills-building, and government policies that mitigate trafficking vulnerabilities; protection of and assistance to survivors, in the form of integrated “one-stop” shops of legal, medical, immigration, and rehabilitative services; and prosecution, in the form of strong anti-trafficking laws that are enforced, judicial capacity-building and an end to impunity for both traffickers and those who create the demand for trafficking.

Rape as a strategy within conflict areas. Legal and social norms fall away in conflict zones, and armies and militias act without fear of accountability or judicial penalty. Some 1,100 rapes are reported each month in the DRC’s eastern provinces, with an average of 36 women and girls raped every day. In Burma, which has long-standing internal conflicts with ethnic minorities, women and girls are subject to sexual violence and other forms of assault, including rape by members of the armed forces that targets rural ethnic minority women. The displaced women in Sudan’s Darfur region risk rape when they leave camps to collect firewood – rape by some of the same perpetrators that caused their displacement and by other militia and bandits. In refugee camps in eastern Chad and in Kenya, women risk attack by local people protecting their resources as well as by armed groups. Rape is used in conflict situations as a purposeful strategy to subdue and destroy communities, and an atmosphere of impunity prevails.

Behind these numbers, too, are individuals: people such as the 13-year-old Shan girl, Nang Ung, who was detained by Burmese troops on false charges of being a rebel. According to a 2004 report by the Women’s League of Burma, she was tied up in a tent and raped for 10 days by five to six troops each day. The injuries she sustained from the repeated rapes were so severe that she never recovered. She died a few weeks after she was freed.

In August, I traveled with Secretary Clinton to Goma. In a Goma hospital, we met a woman who told us that she was eight months’ pregnant when she was attacked. She was at home when a group of men broke in. They took her husband and two of their children to the front yard, and shot them, before returning into the house to shoot her other two children. Then they beat and gang-raped her and left her for dead. But she was not dead. She fought for her life and her neighbors managed to get her to the hospital which was 85 kilometers away.

New outbreaks of sexual violence following civil breakdown continue to make headlines. On September 28, at least 100 women were publicly raped and beaten by security forces under the authority of a military junta at a peaceful rally in Conakry, the capital of Guinea in West Africa; due to the stigma associated with rape and sexual violence, the numbers may actually be higher. Reports described soldiers removing wounded women from hospitals so that they wouldn’t be seen, and wouldn’t provoke international outcry. Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders have disseminated accounts from witnesses, who allege that armed officials played a role in the massacre and rapes.

The most effective solution for women who are trapped in regions of conflict is to bring the conflict to an end. Women must be involved in these peace negotiations, both because their perspectives and experiences are critical to stability and inclusive governance, and because their needs and concerns must be addressed.

Prosecution for those who perpetrate these brutal crimes is essential. First and foremost, the atmosphere of impunity must end. These crimes must be recognized not as isolated and aberrant incidents of rape, but as part of a strategy of brutalization and, potentially, as crimes against humanity. Police and soldiers must receive better training, and there must be more focus on initiatives to strengthen the rule of law and provide victims with access to justice while offering them protection throughout the judicial process.

The United States has been working productively within the United Nations for better implementation of Resolution 1325, which requires parties in conflict to respect women's rights and to support their participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction, and Resolution 1820, which reinforces many of the aspirations of 1325 and also establishes a clear link between maintaining international peace and security and preventing and responding to sexual violence used to deliberately target civilians. Last month, Secretary Clinton introduced the U.S.-sponsored Resolution 1888, to end sexual violence against women and children in conflict-related situations. The resolution, which was adopted unanimously, strengthens existing UN tools to address sexual violence as a tactic of war, including the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary General and the ready-deployment of a team of experts to work with governments to help them take measures to end sexual violence in conflict-related situations, improve accountability, and end impunity. The Security Council also adopted Resolution 1889, to increase the role and contribution of women in conflict resolution and peace-building.

The stories outlined in this testimony represent a humanitarian tragedy. The abuses not only destroy the lives of individual girls and women, families, and communities, but also rob the world of the talent it urgently needs. There is a powerful connection between violence against women and the unending cycle of women in poverty. Women who are abused or who fear violence are unable to realize their full potential and contribute to their countries' development. There are enormous economic costs that come with violence against women. A 2003 report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that, in the United States alone, \$1.8 billion each year is lost in productivity and earnings due to gender-based violence. These types of losses are repeated around the world.

Ending violence against women is a prerequisite for their social, economic, and political participation and progress. Girls in Afghanistan cannot get an equal education if they are subject to acid attacks and their schools are burned down. Women can't succeed in the workplace if they are abused and traumatized, nor can they advance if legal systems continue to treat them as less than full citizens. And female politicians can't compete for office on an equal playing field when they receive threatening "night letters" or fear for their families' safety. Beyond the tragedy of actual violence, countless other women constrain their lives and withdraw from civil

society because of the even larger problem of the ever-present *threat* of violence. In this way, even beyond the victims, violence controls women's lives.

Preventing violence against women isn't just the right thing to do; it's also the smart thing to do. Multiple studies from economists, corporations, institutes and foundations have demonstrated again and again that women are key drivers of economic growth and that investing in women yields enormous dividends. We know from these studies that women reinvest up to 90 percent of their income in their families and communities. And yet none of these benefits are possible unless girls are able to learn without fear and women are able to have autonomy and decision-making over their own lives, and those are the very things that violence and the fear of violence take away. Violence against women is a policy imperative that deserves to be our highest priority.

There is a common thread among the stories I have presented: each of them is, fundamentally, a manifestation of the low status of women and girls around the world. Ending the violence requires elevating their status and freeing their potential to be agents of change in their community.

The State Department's Office of Global Women's Issues is deeply committed to implementing these solutions and to building the kinds of partnerships that will allow us to leverage international progress toward our goals. We will address violence against women by promoting the rule of law and equality under the law; by enhancing strong criminal and civil justice programs; by encouraging the implementation of laws; and by building public awareness of the benefits of educating girls and of providing them with economic opportunity and health care as well as of the benefits of changing societal attitudes.

We need to draw our lessons from those before us who have tried to put an end to violence. From them, we know what hasn't worked – and we know what does. We must put our focus on prevention, including on education and economic opportunities, on the protection of victims, and on the prosecution of those who perpetrate these crimes.

Women are the key to progress and prosperity in the 21st century. When they are marginalized and mistreated, humanity cannot progress. When they are accorded their rights and afforded equal opportunities in education, health care, employment, and political participation, they lift up their families, their communities, and their nations.

It is time that violence against women became a concern for us all.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you so much, Ambassador. And I have read your testimony and that of the other witnesses. And I would commend to all of my colleagues to read it. It is poignant, and it in some cases is heartbreaking in terms of the violence against women.

I am going to waive my opportunity to question. I will go to the vice chair of this committee first, and then I will go to Mr. Rohrabacher, and we will alternate.

Mr. Carnahan. And I would request my colleagues, because we are trying to get that third panel here in a timely way, I know there are some time constraints, if you could be succinct.

Mr. CARNAHAN. As always, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Ambassador. It is great to have you here, to have you speaking out on these issues.

I apologize for running late, so I didn't get to hear it all. But I wanted to start with a few questions, in particular with regard to what actions the U.N. has taken to combat violence against women. In fact, how effective have the U.N. Security Council resolutions been in combating violence against women? And what steps have other member states, including the U.S., taken to implement those resolutions? And I guess, finally, what are the best efforts that we could take to supplement those actions through the administration and through Congress?

Ambassador VERVEER. Thank you, Congressman Carnahan. In areas of peace and security, as you know, Resolution 1325 was adopted almost 10 years ago now. In fact, the observance will come before us next year. And it basically said that in matters of peace negotiations, reconstruction of societies, the kinds of discussions that get made about where one goes during conflict in terms of ending that conflict, that women need to be part of the solution. And I regret to say that so far the record is not a very positive one, and that we have got a great deal of work ahead of us if the observance next year will be worth celebrating. So we all need to do a lot better to push women's participation. Because where it has occurred in post-conflict societies, from Northern Ireland to Rwanda, et cetera, it has made an enormous difference for the peace holding and for the future security of all involved.

In the same ways, Security Council Resolution 1820 that the U.S. promoted last year, that was adopted, addressed issues of sexual violence as connected to serious matters of international peace and security and needing to be dealt with appropriately. What the United States sponsored this year was an effort to strengthen that resolution to ensure that a special representative will be appointed by the Secretary General, and we need to ensure that that happens quickly and that happens with somebody who is tremendously equipped to take on the job to be the Secretary General's responsibility on these issues of sexual violence against women, as well as to make available a pool of experts who can go into countries before the worst happens and ensure that they begin to take steps on matters of impunity and other serious issues concerning the rule of law that result in these kinds of terrible calamities.

In terms of other ways in which the United Nations has been active, as the chairman pointed out, there is an effort now to create

a stronger entity to deal with these kinds of issues and other matters related to women.

But UNIFEM, for example, has done tremendous work in its everyday work, but also with the trust fund that has been set up to which the United States has contributed. That has made such a difference on these issues. But clearly, the record is not one that any of us can take a great deal of pride in. There is a tremendous problem all over the world, and we need a much more serious, constructive, prioritized, strategic way to go at these issues, to engage them, to provide resources so that we can collectively do a better job.

Mr. CARNAHAN. And just, I guess, one other quick one to wrap up is: With regard to having a central office at the State Department to focus on these issues, can you just give me a short answer of how effective that has been in terms of coordinating these efforts?

Ambassador VERVEER. Well, in a very short time already, Congressman, we have been able to do what the President and the Secretary have asked; that is, to integrate these issues into the overall work of the Department. And that means on issues ranging from Afghanistan to Iraq to what we are discussing today, we have been very much engaged in a significant way, and are continuing to find better ways that we can ensure the kind of outcomes I am sure all of you would like to see.

Beyond that, the major initiatives of the administration that the Congress has been supportive of, like food security, climate change, the global health piece, all of them have a very serious lens applied to them on these issues with respect to women. So that the hopes are that we will get better outcomes because we are looking at them in a way where we can ensure that men and women are appropriately participating in ways that will help us achieve the kind of goals we want to see.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Ambassador. Mr. Rohrabacher?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I will be very quick. I think that what we see in the Congress so often is just hyperbole and people talking. They come in here and they are very concerned about an issue that is very significant, and everybody is trying to prove how sincere we are, and we are going to beef up the language on this and that resolution and all that. I don't think, although I do believe consciousness-raising is important, and that is an important thing, I think that at some point we have got to have accountability factors put into policy that will make our moral pronouncements real. And I was wondering if we have any of those in place at this time.

For example, do we permit Millennium account money or other assistance money to go to countries that have a standard of violation of women's rights that is unacceptable?

Ambassador VERVEER. Well, I don't think we have that as such, Congressman, but as you know, for example, the Trafficking Report rates countries on the basis of their providing appropriate actions with respect to that tremendously difficult challenge.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. What penalties do they pay if they get bad ratings?

Ambassador VERVEER. Well, there are penalties that are in there. I am not familiar with what has happened specifically on

them. But you make a good point. These issues have been raised in bilateral discussions. They are not off the table. You are right, rhetoric alone is not enough. And we have to do all that we can to move things forward.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I will tell you something. As I say, human rights is an important part of my agenda. But when you sit down over the years, all these people who claim to believe in human rights but they don't want to have any penalty for China to pay, even though it is the world's worst human rights abuser on a scale because of its bigness and also the nature of its regime, but there is never a penalty to pay. And when you sit down with a gangster, a thug who is abusing his people, when you bring up an issue, whether it is women's rights or other human rights issues and you just bring it up and then you walk away and there is nothing, no penalty to pay for it if he hasn't listened, you might as well not have brought it up, because what you have given him is a bad lesson. You have given him a lesson that what we are doing is just verbalizing things, and that is all that counts, is that we are able to verbalize something, not that we are really looking for any results because we haven't made any demand on you.

Do you have a list of demands? Maybe we can ask that.

Ambassador VERVEER. You know, Congressman, I don't mean to sort of take a pass on this, but I have been there in a very short time. But I can tell you in the time, in the last few months, I think we have brought a great deal to bear on the situation in DRC. Now, that is a terrible conflict that has been going on for a long time. But we have tried to bring an array of responses, including—I was with the Secretary when she raised these issues with President Kabila and other members of the government there, and has been consistently since working to try to bring about change on several levels. These things did not happen overnight, and we have to do all that we can with the arsenal of tools we have.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. It didn't happen overnight, but I have been hearing hyperbole here for 20 years. And let me just note, unless people have penalties, all of the good verbs and verbiage, that doesn't mean anything to these people. And we have a President who goes over and apologizes to Iran that we helped—that we unjustly interfered with their country so many years ago, and didn't bother to bring up the murder of their own activists, and especially the rape of women in Iranian jails. Didn't happen to bring that up. No, we were too busy apologizing.

Now, I will tell you, I think this is an important issue, and I think a lot of things about human rights are important. And if you want us to be taking things seriously, let's make demands on people who are violating women's rights and say, I am sorry, any country that doesn't meet a certain rating that you have now been determined that you violate women's rights and other human rights to this point, you are no longer eligible for this, this, and this.

And you know, maybe our Export-Import Bank doesn't want to do that because they like to loan money to dictatorships, because then they can have their country, you know, paying off these loans for the rest of their lives, or the interest on these loans.

So I would suggest that maybe as you go forward on your job that you come back to us with some specific suggestions of what we can do that will penalize people so they will know that our words mean something, rather than just expressions of some good feeling. So thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Are there any other questions for the Ambassador? Congresswoman DeLauro.

Ms. DELAURO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. And I particularly want to say thank you to you for allowing me to be able to participate on this committee hearing, because I am not a member of the subcommittee, but have done some work in the area. And I want to thank—I wasn't here for our colleague, Jan Schakowsky, but thank her and the Ambassador, and Mallika Dutt, Representative Smith, Nicole Kidman, all of you are working to raise the profile on this issue, and what it is we can do to address it.

Let me just say one or two things. I love the notion that we ought to come back now and deal with penalties. My question is where were we in Srebrenica? Where were we years ago when some of these things were there? And you know, our voice has to be constant, our voice has to be consistent. It doesn't make a difference where we are and who is in charge and so forth. It has to be a consistent voice.

I applaud the work that you and the Secretary are doing with regard to the issue of violence against women and, in fact, how it impinges on national security in so many ways, and that we have to address it.

I wanted to talk to you about the issue of—my view is poverty contributes to gender-based violence, and gender-based violence contributes to poverty. It keeps women from getting an education, women from earning an income. And I think the facts—and you would be a good person to talk to us about this—women who have economic opportunities experience less violence and have more options in the face of that violence. Research shows that when women get more resources they put their money into making sure their children have better nutrition, education, health care, strengthening families and communities over time. And the data is there.

So, in that context, what I am trying to get at, and you can deal with the issues of penalties, that is fine. But what I want to know is what is it that we can do as the United States Congress, in this instance the House of Representatives, in terms of what are the good economic opportunities, how do they translate into benefits to women internationally and the issue of violence? What are the innovative programs that we can engage in and that we can initiate that would have some impact internationally for women?

We can't take on the whole ball of wax. We are not going to solve it all at once. But discretely, what are the issues or the efforts that we can make, pass legislation, provide resources for, to address the issue and not to pontificate, not to lay blame, but take it on; and if we believe we have a moral responsibility to do something about what is happening to women overseas?

Ambassador VERVEER. Thank you, Congresswoman. And this fits very much with the theme of today's hearing, which is stories and solutions. And there is a very close relationship between poverty,

lack of opportunity, desperation, the low status of women, and the need to rectify that.

And you know, when you look at violence against women, it is not that there is one magic program that makes all the difference, but it is critical that education and economic viability are absolutely important tools to address this problem beyond the array of other protections that are required and rule of law programs to ensure that the perpetrators are prosecuted.

But in terms of economic development, we know what works. We have seen how small amounts of credit, microcredit, what it has done all around the world to change the lives of women and enable them to contribute to their families. We need to grow those micro-businesses to small- and medium-sized businesses and provide the kinds of incentives to get to the next place. And among the best things we can do is ensure that women's capacity, training and other capacity-building opportunities are there so that they can move to that place and be competent at it.

And one of the tremendous changes I think that has been occurring, and we have alluded to, is the need to come together in a more collaborative way, with the business community as a partner. You know, I don't think we would have a violence against women law in this country potentially yet if many Members hadn't been persuaded that there is a connection between violence and the diminution of our own economic productivity. We pay a price in terms of economic productivity.

Well, it works the other way too. Where there is this contribution to the economic life, women are less put in situations where they are abused. So we need to do more in terms for the prevention.

We usually talk about prevention in terms of raising awareness. Well, a lot of prevention is investing in creating economic opportunity here and overseas, obviously. But microcredit, capacity building, training for management and business, a lot of the kinds of programs that we are doing now in Afghanistan with respect to agriculture and animal husbandry, very small artisan kinds of projects, sustainable work, the kind of programs we are doing even in DRC to heal women to come back and provide for themselves economically. These do make a difference. Thank you for that.

Ms. DELAURO. If it would be helpful, it would be helpful to me, I suspect it would be helpful to the committee members, if we could work with you on the specifics of what those programs are. What in fact could be the increase in resources? Sometimes with these programs, you know, we are not talking about billions, you know, as we do with some programs here, but how you can truly make a difference, I think, with health issues, with the issues of fistula for women and how we can help deal with that problem.

You know, it is interesting to note in our own country in terms of health insurance, you know oftentimes violence against women can be considered a preexisting condition. So we have to think about what we are doing here as well. But it would be enormously helpful to get that kind of a blueprint, if you will, so that we can start to move forward on these issues.

Ambassador VERVEER. And we are also looking in a more concerted way at the array of programs that we do support to create

systems of metrics and measure outcomes so that we can actually show you the kind of benefit correlations that exist.

Ms. DELAURO. I think it is interesting to note that women are the world's farmers. You talked about agriculture. Most of the farmers in the world are women. And what we might be able to do—and I chair the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, which is why this is of interest to me—what we can do in order to assist with the productivity of the land.

Ambassador VERVEER. Right.

Ms. DELAURO. We have spent a lot of time on emergency funding, which we need to do on many occasions. But it is about productivity and land and agriculture so that they can become self-sustaining. I appreciate your work, but I need your help.

Ambassador VERVEER. That is really significant, because food security is a very big initiative that the Congress is involved in, administration is involved in. And the great majority of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, are women. If we don't have programs that respond to them where they are in terms of moving this out, whether it is training or credit or land reform, which is so critically important, we aren't going to have the kind of agriculture productivity that could result. So you are exactly right, these are all in our interest.

Ms. DELAURO. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think we have a final question from the gentleman from California, Mr. Royce.

Mr. ROYCE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ambassador, child marriage, honor killings, human trafficking, denial of education, far too prevalent in many corners of the globe. And my chief of staff has traveled and worked with these victims of human trafficking. The stories that she has told, returning from countries like Cambodia and India, are really horrific. Girls as young as three or four sold into prostitution because they have no value to their parents.

And one of the questions I was just going to ask you, the question refers to a Tier 3 country, which is Burma, one of the worst offenders in this regard. I know that the administration is going to have high-level negotiations with the Burmese officials.

Have you requested that this be at the top of the list in terms of the discussion points, ending this type of abuse that is going on in Burma today?

Ambassador VERVEER. Congressman, it is a very serious issue, and the engagement that has been discussed is predicated first and foremost on issues with respect to the opposition and human rights. So these issues are very much on the table.

And it is not just trafficking. And it is terrible, and I have been to the border, I know what happens in that part of the world. But it also has to do with the rapes that are occurring and the kind of human rights record that has been well documented.

Mr. ROYCE. Yes, systemic rapes in Burma. Thank you, Ambassador. Thank you, Chairman.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Congressman. And thank you, Ambassador, for your testimony. And I am sure that we will be communicating and addressing the concerns that have been expressed

by members, including the gentlewoman and my friend from California, Mr. Rohrabacher.

And now we will proceed with our third panel. As our witnesses come to the table, let me provide the introductions. This panel is comprised of three unique voices on violence against women.

Testifying first will be Linda Smith. Congresswoman Smith was elected in 1994 to represent Washington's Third Congressional District. While still in Congress, she founded Shared Hope International, which builds partnerships with local groups to provide homes and shelters where women and children of abuse can seek refuge. She has also founded the War against Trafficking Alliance, and has been a passionate advocate for women affected by trafficking and abuse, both domestically and abroad. Linda, it is good to have you back. We are proud of the work that you have done. And keep it up.

Next we will be joined by Mallika Dutt, the founder and executive director of Breakthrough. Breakthrough is an international human rights organization that uses the power of popular culture, media, and community education to transform public opinion and attitudes. Breakthrough addresses critical global issues, specifically those dealing with the plight of women. Thank you for joining us here today.

Finally, I am happy to introduce Nicole Kidman. In addition to being an Academy Award-winning actress, since January 2006 she has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women. As UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, she has worked to raise awareness on the infringement of women's human rights around the world, with a particular focus on addressing the issue of violence against women. Welcome.

Ms. KIDMAN. Thank you.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And I guess I am supposed to add, or I should note that in 2009, the United States Government contributed \$4.5 million to UNIFEM's core budget to empower women and strengthen women's human rights, approximately 2 million for specific projects, and 2½ million to the UNIFEM-managed U.N. trust fund to end violence against women. Ms. Kidman, thank you also for your service. And we are interested to hear from all of you.

Let us proceed with Congresswoman Linda Smith.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE LINDA SMITH, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL (FORMER MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES)

Ms. SMITH. Thank you, Chairman Delahunt.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Linda, you forgot, you got to hit; when you are on that side of the table, you have got to hit that button.

Ms. SMITH. There we go. It has been 11 years. There we go.

Chairman Delahunt, Ranking Member Rohrabacher and distinguished members, it is an honor today to testify with such a distinguished group of presenters both before and on this panel. First I would like to say I will summarize my comments, but I would like to request that my full written testimony be submitted for the record, and that the research documents DEMAND and the National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking that are the foundation for my testimony be submitted for the Congressional Record.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Without objection.

Ms. SMITH. For nearly 11 years now, Shared Hope has been committed to building communities around the world that restore and empower women and children in crisis. We have particularly focused on trafficked women, but the line blurs in any kind of sexual violence. We do this through Villages of Hope, and we founded them around the globe. We don't put flags on them because bad guys like to pick up the product again.

Commercial sex is extremely violent. In all the countries that we work in and we researched, commercial sex is violent. A large portion of our budget at Shared Hope International is for the restoration, healing and treatment of diseases created and caused by commercial sex.

We found common forces throughout the world destroying the lives of girls like Renu. Renu is from Nepal. Renu spent 4 years in sexual slavery. When she was 14, she was told by her brother that she could go on a little trip with him to the village. He drugged her, moved her 1,000 miles south to Mumbai, India, where he sold her to a brothel. Her story shows that even though the country of India has laws, reports, and commitment to fight trafficking, this girl for 4 years was sold every day to 20 and as many as 40 men, every day, every day.

The laws did not hinder her sale for a reason: Because there is a local, active, culturally accepted sex market. This culture toward men buying sex has created a market that puts Indian and Nepalese girls in constant danger of kidnap, rape and the violence of commercial sex. And why? Because they are just providing a product to market.

This painful story varies only slightly from the core elements of trafficking in other countries. And I have girls that I restore now as much as 11 years who are in college, having children, married, but it is very similar. And now over the last 4 years, rescuing and restoring in the United States children the same age as the middle-school age of my grandchildren has become a part of my life.

Tonya's story demonstrates this. Tonya was only 12 years old when, on the way to school—she is a gifted child—she walked for 6 months, and the man approached her. Each day he approached her, he built a relationship. It was okay, he wasn't a stranger, he was a nice man. Well, one day she got in the car, it was probably something like raining, and she didn't appear again.

Well, she really did appear, because we found her in the system. But let me tell you some of her comments in the interview that I did with her after her pimp was arrested, and you will want to know he is in jail for a long time. Let me share with you just a little bit of her interview: It didn't take long before I experienced the real treatment, being beaten, stomped on, manipulated and sold all day every day. When I think about how it must have looked to people, a baby-looking girl like me with an older boyfriend, it makes me wonder why no one was ever there to stop it or even ask any questions at all. It is a very strange world when you are in it. It is a very strange world, she said. In a really screwed up way I had a family. Each time I was arrested and transferred from out of State back to Ohio, it was in handcuffs and

leg shackles, and I was surrounded by policemen that I felt were my enemies.

I felt like I was hearing from Renu right here.

Despite my age, I spent 8 months in prison when my pimp caught a Federal case. Yes, I am the one that went to prison, and I will say to you, yes, I am talking about America today.

Well, the severity of trauma bonding keeps girls like Tonya bound in these situations worldwide, but cultural and official inability to see them as victims and the continuing use of terminology such as “child prostitutes” prevents entire cultures from perceiving the victimization and, as a result, fails to prioritize the pursuit of demand reduction as a solution to this particular form of violence against women. Demand for commercial sex with unempowered women and children is one of the greatest reasons that violence against women thrives in many cultures.

Now, at the conclusion of the research, and we have researched now 4 years in the United States and around the world looking at markets, Shared Hope has accumulated information that strongly suggests a national crisis in the United States, a security crisis. Our youth, our middle-school kids, are at risk of extreme violence through prostitution. Astoundingly, the number of prostituted children in America is at least 100,000. Now, that is each year. The National Center for Missing and Exploited, who has written the foreword to a book I have written from the voices of these children, they say it is as high as 300,000. We can document that there is at least 100,000. The average age of these girls—the youngest that I have heard of is 11, many times they are 12—the average age is 13.

Sex trafficking is an international crime and an international form of violence against women, and America is a part of that international community. As a requirement of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, each year we do evaluate the other countries, and I commend Congress, any of you that worked to pass that bill. It passed right after I left. India’s evaluation in the TIP Report rates India lower for a couple of reasons, several reasons, but two are they don’t provide protection or justice to the domestic children trafficked within India, and they do not arrest the men that buy the children. They are a country on watch. Many of us think they should be a country that is a Tier 3 and stays there until they change.

Well, with the knowledge of 100,000 or more American children prostituted in commercial sex in the United States, the men that arrest them are not brought to justice—there was not even a charge brought against one under the Federal act until February of this year, and with no penalty, in most cases, at all for the facilitators, we must ask how would the United States fare if other countries rated us on the trafficking of individuals in the United States.

Now, as a woman, I am thankful I am in a country where I can sit here before a committee of men who are taking it easy—excuse me, taking it seriously, not taking it easy. That will be the quote.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I can assure you we are not taking it easy.

Ms. SMITH. I know you are not. And I am proud of America. But when I got done with the research—first of all, I thought I am

going to retire totally; I am not going to just retire and then retire, I am going to retire. Because I saw the undercover footage and faces of little girls as young as my granddaughters—they are now 13 and 14 years old, but they were a couple of years younger when I started this. But I couldn't because there was another little girl. It was a police arrest case. We went into the arrests of the children in the United States who were traffic victims, and we started looking at their cases. When we started looking at them, some folks gave us some inside, some arrest records. And should we have them? I don't know, but I got them. Adding that to the video of the undercover research we did, I decided I had to do something.

This example is a 12-year-old, which I found so very common around the United States. The declaration of arrest brought in that the officer wrote said this: After watching the truck slow down and the female approach the truck, then later finding the truck on a side street with the female in the truck, through my training and experience, I know this is a common practice for prostitution-related crimes. We then approached the vehicle and came on a juvenile, date of birth—she is 12—and a male, date of birth—he is 48—involved in a sex act.

Due to the above circumstances, the stated agreement for \$40 for a hand job, observation that he had \$45 in U.S. currency hanging from his left front pocket, had lotion on both hands, she stated she was engaging in prostitution, she was placed under arrest for soliciting prostitution and was transported to jail. Probable cause—I will not say which jail it was—probable cause exists to hold said person pending plea and trial.

The outcome of this arrest I had thought would be the 48-year-old man. Well, the little girl was handcuffed, she was put in the vehicle. The man was allowed to drive away. When I saw this, I thought, no way. So we went out to 11 more States, 11 more assignments under a Department of Justice grant, and we found the same in every city, every city, every environment in the United States.

Well, we submitted next steps for each city, but the latest research that we just had delivered to your offices is the National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Linda, I am going to ask you to wrap it up. We are going to take a good look at that data. Those stories are very, very powerful and they really speak for themselves.

Ms. SMITH. In conclusion, in conclusion, the devaluation of these children really makes it so America to stand, as we look at other nations, needs to look at ourselves. Yes, Renu is important in India, Tina is important in Fiji, but this little girl in this case is just as important. She is in jail again. They gave her back to her pimp by letting her out. She is, at 15, back in jail. The pimp is not in jail, and none of the 6,000 men a year that have bought her since have gone to jail.

With that, I want to thank you for listening to this very tough issue and taking a really tough stand. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Smith follows:]

Linda Smith (U.S. Congress 1994-98)
Founder and President, Shared Hope International
October 21, 2009
House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight

Honorable Committee Chairman Berman and Subcommittee Chairman Delahunt, Ranking Member Rohrabacher, and distinguished members of the Committee and Subcommittee, it is an honor to testify before you today on the matter of international violence against women.

Shared Hope International has been working to prevent, rescue and restore women and children in crisis, particularly the crisis of sex trafficking and its devastating effects. This work began in 1998 when I was called by a constituent to witness the enslavement of women and girls in brothels in Mumbai, India. Sex trafficking and the sexual slavery in which these women and girls of Mumbai are held is an agony suffered by millions of others around the world and represents an extreme form of international violence against women.

After witnessing the sex trafficking in Mumbai, I was compelled to organize Shared Hope International to provide a response to their desperate circumstances. Eleven years later, Shared Hope International has provided the resources and assistance to found seven holistic Villages of Hope, providing a substitute family and home to the victims of sex trafficking in India, Nepal, Fiji, Jamaica, the Netherlands, South Africa and the Dominican Republic. Currently, five of the seven Villages of Hope continue this critical restoration work abroad. These safe homes include the Women's Investment Network (WIN) which brings training and education to the women living in the Villages of Hope and other women living on the margins of their communities. Once defiled, many women no longer have a home to return to and become permanent members of the Village of Hope families.

The threat of physical violence through the commercial sexual exploitation of these women is very great. Just as dangerous are the health risks to the women that are a direct result of their sexual exploitation. HIV/AIDS is epidemic in the survivor community and in Shared Hope International's model of long-term restoration the cost of medical treatment and nutrition is an ever-increasing budget burden. Less measurable but equally harmful are the psychological harms. Sex trafficking and sex slavery victims suffer various forms of trauma designed to bond them to their trafficker through a conditioning process - a real, medical condition that takes extensive therapy to address. This trauma bonding keeps them in slavery even in a free world.

We've found common forces throughout the world destroying the lives of these children, like Renu in Nepal. Renu spent four years in sexual slavery in India, a country who has passed extensive trafficking laws making the buying and selling of trafficking victims a crime. Her story shows that even though India has a law against sex slavery that it did not in any way hinder her sale each and every day of the four years she was captive. Why? Because there is an active local sex market with a demand for young girls by the local men. This cultural tolerance towards men buying sex has created a market that puts young Indian and Nepalese girls in constant danger of kidnap and sexual violence as traffickers shop to meet the demand for more product.

It was my foster brother who took me when I was just 14, drugged me with some juice, and sold me into prostitution. I woke up far from home and found I had been bought by a man who also owned other girls. I was so frightened and confused, I was kept in a locked room and I could do nothing of my own will. Though my spirit had died, I remained alive in that place for 4 years. I remained alive though I wanted nothing more than to die and I tried to take my life several times.

Girls in the brothel suffer terribly. Many of us were locked in dungeons in utter darkness, unable to tell if it is day or night, unable to talk to anyone at all, our only contact—the men that use us. I was lucky because my brothel owner let us out on occasion after the point where she knew we could no longer have the will to run away.

But one day I took the little money I had hidden and I did run away—I fled to the train station and started a 4 day journey to my home, Nepal. All during the long trip I dreamed and hoped my family would accept me but it was not to be. In the Hindu culture, if a girl is out for even one night the village assumes the worst and will not accept her back. I was shunned and rejected, and alone.

Then I remembered I had a slip of paper with a phone number slipped to me by a Nepali Christian missionary who had visited me in the brothel. I called and was so happy to find out that she was now the housemother for a new home that Shared Hope had just opened with the Believers' Fellowship in my own country of Nepal! They made a home for me and accepted me and became my new family. As I began to heal with God's help and the love of His people, I was able to help other girls returning to Nepal from the brothels of Bombay. Eventually I moved to the Village of Hope outside of Bombay in order to work with Teen Challenge to minister to the women and girls coming out of where I had been held captive. Of my friends in the brothel there when I fled, I alone remained alive, and I know God has spared me for His purpose.

I work as a full-time senior staff among rescued trafficked victims. I teach the girls Hindi, math, general science, and also the Teen Challenge manual. I am very happy now and desire to become a channel of blessing to many people.

This painful story varies only slightly from the core elements of trafficking in other countries, including the United States. Tonya's story demonstrates this.

I grew up without being accountable to anyone. I never knew my father, and my mom was an alcoholic; she was around, but not there...all I know, I have learned from my own experiences. I wish there had been an adult in my life to just teach me what is right and tell me what to watch out for, or what could happen to me. I just didn't know. When I was 12 years old, a guy I thought was just a "dope boy" kept following me in his car when I walked to school. He was older and real cool, and he said I was really cute. He paid a lot of attention to me and eventually I got in the car with him. For a while we were girlfriend and boyfriend; we would go everywhere together. It didn't take long before I experienced the real treatment—being beaten, stomped on, manipulated and sold all day every day.

When I think about how it must have looked to people, a baby-looking girl like me with an older "boyfriend", it makes me wonder why nobody was ever there to stop it, or even ask any questions at all. I think in our society there is nobody that even wants to stop it. It's just normal. Everything is about sex everywhere you look in our culture, and sex with little girls is just another part of the picture. That's the way it seemed to me when I was 12, and when I realized that my boyfriend was a pimp, I thought, well, I guess that's just the way it is and I did what he told me. I thought I was making the choice, and that was pretty much what I would have to do to get along in life. Nobody ever told me—I didn't understand—what a choice really was.

People have asked me how I could have done what I did—sell my body on the street, in cars, in trucks, anywhere and everywhere and then deliver every last dollar to my pimp. Looking back on it from my vantage point today, I can't answer that question...I'm amazed myself, that I was so under the control of that man. He was the only person in my life that I felt connected to and I even felt like he was my only protection; therefore, I would have done anything to stay with him. The price was for me to sell the only thing I had, my body. He gave me a different name, a street name...it was Cookie. That was fine with me because Tonya would never do the things Cookie did; I was a different person when I was tricking.

Sometimes the john would tell me they knew I was young and they wanted to help me get out; I always took it as a joke because they would go ahead and use me anyway. They acted like their pity or their money helped me. They never did anything to help me, and I stopped hoping that anyone ever would.

It's a very strange world when you are in it. In a really screwed up way, I had a family. It was a family of "wife in laws" that fought each other out of jealousy and competition for our pimp's attention. We were only allowed to talk to each other, never anyone outside the family. I was arrested 17 different times in all kinds of cities and every time I went to detention, they thought all they had to do is change where I was. So I ended up in group homes where people had serious drug and mental problems, but not my kind of problem...there was nothing to help me deal with the trauma of what happened to me. I wanted nothing to do with those places. Being with the "family" was at least something I was used to, so I ran away and back to my pimp every time. Each time I was transferred from out of state back to Ohio, it was in handcuffs and leg shackles and I was surrounded by policemen that I felt were my enemies. Despite my age, I spent 8 months in prison when my pimp caught a federal case. Yes, I'm the one that went to prison. I could never trust anyone. Sitting in a facility with criminals didn't help, it only made me more bitter.

What did help was to finally meet someone who had walked in my shoes and survived. This lady was real, not just in what she said, but because she had been where I was: I had a torn-soul to torn-soul relationship with her. So many others are out for the publicity, but girls like me can tell when someone is sincere, understands what it is like to be a slave, and really wants to help. I have a new life now, and I am going to study to become a doctor. The day that changed my life, I was walking to school. I was going to a special program because I was smart. A lot has happened to me and I'm wiser now, but I'm going to go back and pick up with that smart girl, and move ahead.

The severity of trauma bonding keeps them bound in these situations, but cultural and official inability to see them as victims and the continuing use of terminology such as “child prostitutes” prevents entire cultures from perceiving the victimization, failing to prioritize the pursuit of demand reduction as a solution to this particular form of violence against women.

In 2005, Shared Hope International received funding through the U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to undertake a comparative examination of the sex trafficking and sex tourism markets with an eye toward identifying demand reduction strategies in four diverse countries: Japan, Jamaica, the Netherlands, and the United States. What we found was that demand is driving the markets and thriving due to the culture of tolerance that exists globally for the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. Without a buyer of commercial sex from a trafficking victim, there would not be a market. Thus the report and accompanying awareness documentary was titled *DEMAND*. (See www.sharedhope.org/what/endeddemand3). This demand is the single greatest reason that violence against women will not cease in any culture.

An equally disturbing finding related to the look into America. Expecting to find large numbers of foreign national women trafficked to the United States for commercial sexual exploitation, we were stunned to discover much larger numbers of U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident minors being exploited through the commercial sex industry. American girls of all colors and ages were found stripping and being prostituted in the VIP rooms of gentleman’s clubs, prostituted through escort agencies and Internet erotic websites, and controlled by pimps in the streets of Atlanta, Las Vegas and the Washington, DC-Baltimore corridor. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) these girls are trafficking victims and anyone who has worked to restore their bodies, minds and souls from the trauma they have suffered can tell you they are victims of extreme forms of violence.

This discovery led to a research project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance to investigate the scope of this domestic minor sex trafficking problem and to determine what services were or were not being provided to rescue and restore the victims. Eleven locations were researched over three years and individual assessment reports issued for each. In all cases, we found American minor children arrested and/or detained for prostitution or prostitution-related offenses rather than treated for the violence inflicted upon them. Survivors tell of their trafficker’s extreme swings from love to violence which work to create the trauma bond that holds them prisoner. In all locations, a tolerance for the commercial sex industry and the demand for younger victims were driving the recruitment and trafficking of girls.

At the conclusion of the research project, Shared Hope International had accumulated information that strongly suggested a national crisis: our youth are at risk for extreme violence through prostitution. Furthermore, the large majority of adult trafficked women reported that they were trafficked originally when they were under 18 years old. Violence against women in any culture, nation, or community includes violence against girl children. This violence very often carries over into adult women’s lives. After years of providing protection for the girls and women in other countries, Shared Hope International decided to take action here in the United

States. We are advocates for prevention of and protection from this egregious form of violence against female children.

The United States is a recognized leader in the anti-trafficking battle and has signed and ratified the UN Protocol against human trafficking which provides that persons under 18 years of age who are used to perform commercial sex acts are victims of sex trafficking. This international standard is reiterated in the American anti-trafficking law, the TVPA 2000. The U.S. Department of State authors the *Trafficking in Persons Report* each year which measures the efforts of other countries in combating human trafficking in their respective countries. This evaluation has grown to include internal trafficking; countries that have not taken a firm position on preventing internal trafficking have been affected in the evaluation as a result. Also, Congress mandated an annual report issue from the Attorney General detailing human trafficking in the U.S and efforts under the U.S. Government to combat it. Several federal agencies also participated in the U.S. Mid-term Review for the Third World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in 2006 which generated a report demonstrating efforts are being taken but much more must be initiated to fight this problem effectively. (See www.sharedhope.org/csecmtrusa/csec.asp). With the knowledge that thousands of American minors are prostituted in the commercial sex industry, we must ask "How would the United States fare in such an evaluation?"

Shared Hope International compiled the eleven reports into *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children*. The report reveals the startling facts that at least 100,000 children are used in prostitution every year in the United States and the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old. We learned through our research that in Las Vegas, 226 juveniles came before the Juvenile Court judge in just 20 months; in Miami, 21 girls were prosecuted for prostitution in one year; and in Dallas, 165 juveniles were detained on prostitution and related charges in 2007. These are just the children that were discovered and the cases documented – the real numbers are certainly much larger. In nearly every case the child rather than the buyer is arrested. The minor, though defined by the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) as a victim, is arrested for the crime committed against her. This arrest and treatment of the victim as a criminal is a secondary violence committed against her, compounding the trauma of the sexual violence she has already endured at the hands of the trafficker and the multitude of buyers who have used her.

One stunning example is found in the following declaration of arrest completed by a police officer in 2006. The declaration states:

"After watching the truck slow down and the female approach the truck, then later finding the truck on a side street with the female in the truck, through my training and experience I know this is a common practice for prostitution related crimes. We then approached the vehicle and came on a juvenile (DOB 3-19-1994) and male (DOB 11-4-1959) involved in a sex act. Due to the above circumstances, the stated agreement for \$40 for a hand job, observation that he had \$45 in U.S. currency hanging from his left front pocket of his pants, had lotion on both of his hands, she stating she was engaging in an act of prostitution..... she was placed under arrest for soliciting prostitution and was transported to CCJH. ... probable cause exists to hold said person pending plea and trial."

The outcome of this arrest: a 12 year old girl was handcuffed, placed under arrest, and transported to the juvenile detention facility in Las Vegas. The man, nearly 48 years old, was allowed to drive away. This child is now turning 15 years old and is again in juvenile detention under prostitution-related charges. Her pimp reclaimed her after she was released the first time and the cycle of her exploitation and lack of justice continues.

A domestic minor sex trafficking victim like the girl in the case above who is purchased for sex with an average of five men per night on five nights each week for five years would be exploited by more than 6,000 buyers during her victimization through prostitution. Our research revealed hundreds of children arrested, charged and prosecuted for prostitution, despite their status as minors and, therefore, as victims of child sex trafficking. Appropriate protective shelter and services are critical for the protection and restoration of child sex trafficking victims - but they do not exist.

What can Congress do? There are two actions Congress can take to fight this form of violence against women and girls in our country. First, Congress can reaffirm the intent of the TVPA 2000 to protect all women and children from commercial sexual exploitation, including U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents. Second, Congress has the opportunity and obligation to send a strong message to the fifty states that Congress intends for these children to be treated as victims and be given all of the services and justice which the TVPA provides. Congress must appropriate the federal funds authorized in the TVPRA 2005 for services and pilot shelters. The lack of appropriate shelter is cited as the biggest problem first responders face in protecting the child victims of sex trafficking. There is no place for these children to receive adequate protection and specialized services that will break the cycle of violence and victimization. The first responders who want to help are currently limited to placing the victim in a runaway youth shelter or juvenile detention in the absence of a safe, secure facility to protect these children. The dichotomy between the funded and provided services and shelter for foreign victims and those mandated but not funded for domestic victims must be cured.

The devaluation of children's lives through their exploitation in commercial sex markets is resulting in a breakdown of communities in nations around the world, including our own. Honorable Chairmen, members of the committee, on behalf of these children and the thousands more whose stories we will never hear, we urge you to take aggressive action to protect the girls of every nation who will soon be women made vulnerable by the continuing violence they have endured.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you our findings on this important issue. I would like to applaud your leadership and commitment and thank you for holding this hearing.

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Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you. And you give us a certain perspective when we talk about responsibility and accountability in introspectively examining ourselves.

We will now proceed with Ms. Dutt.

**STATEMENT OF MS. MALLIKA DUTT, FOUNDER AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BREAKTHROUGH**

Ms. DUTT. Thank you, Chairman Delahunt, Congressman Rohrabacher, members of the committee, for giving me this opportunity to talk with you today about how we can all join hands in ending the pandemic of violence against women. I have been working on this issue for the past 25 years and have dealt with all of the forms that you have heard described today, whether it is female infanticide, domestic violence, dowry-related deaths, trafficking women; and for the last 10 years I have been running Breakthrough, which is, as Congressman Delahunt described, an international human rights organization that uses mass media prevention tools to really challenge violence against women.

And I would like to share with you a story of a campaign that we have been undertaking in India for the last year. Bell Bajao, which means "Ring the Bell," is a multimedia campaign that calls on men and boys to take a stand against domestic violence. It was launched last year with support from the UNIFEM-managed U.N. Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, and I commend the United States for their support of UNIFEM. And we entered into a pro bono partnership with an advertising agency called Ogilvy & Mather and the Ministry of Child and Women Development in India joined us as a dissemination partner.

Since the campaign launched last fall, we reached more than 130 million people in India alone through a combination of television, radio and print ads. And thousands of young men and women have joined community-based organizations around the country to take Bell Bajao into homes, communities, malls, workplaces, all kinds of spaces, with one simple message, that ending domestic violence is everyone's responsibility.

The stories that I want to share are a little bit different from the violations that you are hearing about. I want to tell you some of the stories of people taking action, because it has been very exciting for us to see how a call to action that is inclusive, that is bottom up, that includes men and boys actually can show results. So there are three short little stories that I want to share with you.

In a small town called Mandya, which is in the State of Karnataka in India, which is where the city of Bangalore is in which is probably a place that you might recognize and know, a group of teenagers, after watching the Bell Bajao ads, decided to go and listen to television in their neighbor's home every evening because they noticed that there was a pattern of his beating his wife when he returned home from work. And they continued to just go hang out at the neighbor's house every evening for a long period of time. And even after they stopped, they discovered that the beating had stopped, that they had actually intervened and taken an action that was positive.

In the city of Kanpur, which is a big city in the State of Uttar Pradesh, a protection officer who was responsible for the implemen-

tation of the Domestic Violence Act in India took a pledge after being exposed to the Bell Bajao campaign that he would redouble his efforts to prosecute as well as raise awareness. And in preliminary studies that we have done in areas of intervention, we have seen a 15–20 percent increase in reporting under the act since Bell Bajao came around, which has also been extremely encouraging.

I am going to read to you an e-mail that we got on our blog from a young woman called Christina Lobo, who lives in an apartment building in Mumbai. And she says,

“There is a women in my building who goes to hell and back once a week while all the neighbors sit quietly in their flats pretending to have heard nothing. Last week the screaming and crying started at 8 a.m. It stopped when her husband left for work. Come 8 p.m., the husband was home again, and then it started again. By 1 a.m. the screams were louder than ever.

“I couldn’t take it anymore and marched upstairs with my dog Kelly and rang the bell. Her husband shooed my dog out and told me not to interfere, but I haven’t heard any more screams since then. I hope it stays that way. I won’t hesitate to ring the bell again and call the cops, too.”

This campaign, Bell Bajao, Ring the Bell, is just one example of the kinds of initiatives that women are taking around the world to fight for their lives. In villages and towns in every corner of the world, women are challenging social and cultural norms and laws that make them second-class citizens. They are engaging in courageous acts to stop the pandemic of violence that permeates their lives and denies us all the talents and strength of half the world’s population.

I ask you to imagine how the voices of these hundreds of thousands of women could be strengthened if IVAWA became a reality. An American foreign policy made the ending of violence against women a priority in our diplomacy on foreign aid. As you consider the provisions for this new act, I urge you to keep in mind some of the following recommendations, which are lessons that we have learned from best practices of the work that we have been doing for the last 10 years.

Invest in partnerships with local organizations and encourage bottom-up initiatives that can work effectively in their own context and create long-term, sustainable change.

Maintain a focus on women’s empowerment while partnering with multiple stakeholders, men and boys, community leaders, religious institutions, business heads. It is everybody’s problem.

Make youth outreach and participation a key priority. That is a great way to transform cultural norms that permit violence against women, and also to build the next generation of human rights leaders.

Through strong leadership and local partnerships across a range of actors, the International Violence Against Women Act can have a direct and immediate impact on saving the lives of millions of women and girls. For a small investment the U.S. could see an enormous return, that of ensuring that women and girls can realize their potential and contribute more fully to society.

Thank you so much for the leadership that you have demonstrated in moving this agenda forward and for ensuring that women's rights, in fact, can be human rights. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Dutt follows:]

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Testimony Of Mallika Dutt
Executive Director and Founder, Breakthrough: building human rights culture
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OVERSIGHT
International Violence Against Women: Stories and Solutions
October 21, 2009

Text Begins

Thank you Chairman Delahunt, Congressman Rohrabacher, Chairman Berman and members of the Committee for allowing me to speak to you today about how we might all collectively work to end the global pandemic of violence against women, and create opportunities for half the world's inhabitants to claim their rightful place as full and active members of society.

For the past twenty-five years, I have dedicated much of my life to challenging the violence faced by women and girls around the world - who because of their gender, face myriad forms of violence through their life cycle whether it take the form of female infanticide, sexual and emotional abuse, dowry related murder, honor killings, domestic violence, or rape during times of war and conflict.

For the past decade, I have focused my efforts on challenging violence against women in India through the work of Breakthrough, an international human rights organization that uses multi-media tools and community mobilization efforts to change cultural norms and social practices that violate human dignity. I would like to share with you our most recent campaign, Bell Bajao (Ring the Bell) to demonstrate how a bottom-up approach that partners with local initiatives can be creative and effective in challenging gender-based violence.

Bell Bajao is a multi-media campaign that calls on men and boys to take a stand against domestic violence. Launched last year with support from the UNIFEM managed - UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, Breakthrough created Bell Bajao in a pro bono partnership with the advertising agency, Ogilvy & Mather. The Indian Ministry of Women and Child Development joined Breakthrough as a dissemination partner, and since September 2008, the campaign, which includes TV, radio and print advertisements, has reached approximately 120 million people.

Thousands of young men and women along with members of community-based organizations, who have been trained by Breakthrough to become catalysts for change in their own communities have taken Bell Bajao into homes, schools, work places, community centers, health centers and government offices. They conduct performances, puppet shows, and workshops on street corners, buses, train stations and shopping malls and have one simple message - that ending domestic violence is everyone's responsibility.

And the message seems to be getting through! Breakthrough has been flooded with calls, blog posts and emails from individuals around the country who have been moved to act by Bell Bajao. Let me share three of these stories with you. In a small town called Mandya, a group of teenagers who noticed that their neighbor beat his wife on a regular basis after he returned from

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work, decided to watch television in the neighbor's home every evening. The teenagers report that they don't hear the beatings any longer.

In the city of Kanpur, a Protection Officer, responsible for registering complaints under the India Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, signed a pledge to promote its active implementation and now regularly raises awareness about the Act. In preliminary research, Breakthrough is finding a 15% to 20% increase in complaints filed under the Act in a number of precincts.

Christina Lobo from Mumbai wrote this on the blog, "There is a woman in my building who goes to hell and back once a week while all the neighbors sit quietly in their flats, pretending to have heard nothing. Last week, the screaming and crying started at 8 am. It stopped when her husband left for work. Come 8 pm, the husband was home again and it started again. By 1 am, the screams were louder than ever. I couldn't take it anymore and marched upstairs with my dog, Kelly, and I rang the bell! Her husband shooed my dog out and told me not to interfere, but I haven't heard any more screams since then. I hope it stays that way. I won't hesitate to ring the bell again ... and call the cops, too."

Bell Bajao is but one example of the kinds of initiatives that women are spearheading globally to fight for their very lives. In villages and towns in every corner of the world, women are challenging social and cultural norms and laws that make them second-class citizens. They are engaging in courageous acts to stop the pandemic of violence that permeates the lives of women and denies us all the talents and strengths of half the world's population.

I ask you to imagine how the voices of these hundreds of thousands of women could be strengthened if the International Violence Against Women Act - known as I-VAWA - became a reality, and American foreign policy made the ending of violence against women a priority in our diplomacy and foreign aid.

As you consider the provisions of I-VAWA, I urge you to keep in mind the following recommendations:

- Invest in partnerships with local organizations and encourage bottom-up initiatives that can work effectively in their own contexts and create long-term sustainable change.
- Maintain a focus on women's empowerment while partnering with multiple stakeholders including men and boys, community leaders, religious institutions, and business heads.
- Make youth outreach and participation a key priority in order to transform cultural norms that permit violence against women and build the next generation of human rights leaders.

Through strong leadership and local partnerships across a range of actors, the International Violence Against Women Act could have a direct and immediate impact on saving the lives of millions of women and girls. For a small investment, the United States could see an enormous return— that of ensuring that women and girls can realize their potential and contribute more fully to society.

Thank you, Members of Congress for taking this important step towards ensuring that the fundamental right to live a life free from violence can become a reality for the world's women.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Ms. Dutt.
And, Ms. Kidman, please proceed.

**STATEMENT OF MS. NICOLE KIDMAN, ACTRESS, UNIFEM
GOODWILL AMBASSADOR**

Ms. KIDMAN. Thank you, Chairman Delahunt, Congressman Rohrabacher, Chairman Berman and members of the committee, for granting me this opportunity to speak in my role of Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

Violence against women and girls is perhaps the most systematic, widespread human rights violation in the world. It recognizes no borders, no race or class. I became UNIFEM's Goodwill Ambassador in 2006 to amplify the voices of women and shine a light on solutions that work and make a lasting difference.

Until recently violence against women and the instability it causes hid in the shadows. I think the attention today underscores a new recognition that the issue is urgent and really deserves to be center stage. And while I have learned a lot by working with UNIFEM, I am far from an expert. I am here just to be a voice. I rely on people I have met to make the case.

A year ago I was honored to talk with Marie Zaina from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Like the speaker who just spoke, Mallika Dutt, Marie's work on the ground merited a grant from the UNIFEM-managed United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. Through contributions, including essential funding from the United States for which UNIFEM is very, very grateful, the Fund promotes the implementation of existing commitments. There are laws in many countries to end discrimination against women, to punish rape, to outlaw spousal abuse, child marriage and more. But in the real world the laws go unenforced, and impunity is the norm.

I learned from Marie that she was a survivor of violence. Forced by her father into an abusive marriage as a young adult, she fled after her first pregnancy, found support to further her education through a religious organization, and confronted with the cruel impact on women and girls from the continuing conflict in the DRC—where rape is systematically used as a tactic of war—Marie took action. She started an organization to help victims of violence, mostly widows and orphans, many affected by HIV/AIDS. Over the years she built a national network of NGOs to care for survivors and empower women. And with the Trust Fund grant, her group expanded services to include medical care, counseling, legal and economic support. Marie fully understands the need for a comprehensive approach.

Another time when I visited Kosovo, I met and listened to women sharing experiences. One of them told me how she was

raped repeatedly and abused by soldiers, leaving her with lasting physical and psychological scars, and also leaving her pregnant. Yet she did not remain silent. Together with other women's rights advocates, she bravely took her testimony on how mass rape shatters lives and communities to the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia, a legal landmark for prosecuting rape in wartime as a crime against humanity.

Now, these champions need and deserve our support not with a box of Band-Aids, but with a comprehensive and well-funded approach that acknowledges that women's rights are human rights. It is time for policies that intentionally involve society's key communities, from health and education departments to the police and judiciary, to deliver on that commitment. The plan must build strong alliances with men and collaborate with faith-based and traditional leaders. To succeed, it requires political will at the highest levels.

Violence against women deprives countries of a critical resource in the struggle to end poverty and attain sustainability. Economists confirm that women's empowerment is an essential engine for development. If they cannot participate, the targets governments and the U.N. set will continue to be unmet.

So I commend the efforts that have gone into drafting of the International Violence Against Women's Act, and in particular, I appreciate the consultation with the real actors and the beneficiaries to incorporate best practices and effective approaches. Everyone I work with at UNIFEM and I believe that IVAWA, when passed, will be a beacon lighting the way forward for other countries.

My stories and the other stories here illustrate the impact of violence against women on individuals, families and communities, but IVAWA rightfully links the consequences of violence against women to global goals: Economic development, stability and peace, improving health and reducing HIV/AIDS.

If you are shocked, which I was, by the recent reports from Guinea with the searing images captured on cell phones showing gang rapes by government forces in broad daylight, do you wonder how those women can resume their lives when their perpetrators walk the street fearing no punishment for their crimes?

Violence against women is not prosecuted because it is not a top government and urgent social priority. We can change this. We can change it by exerting leadership, making wise investments and building local partnerships. Based on UNIFEM and the Trust Fund's "lessons learned," IVAWA represents an effective cross-cutting approach that elevates the issue so it will count and be counted.

I want to thank the Members of the Congress for listening. I commend them for their efforts to make ending violence against women the top priority it must become. After all, a life free of violence is our human right.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Kidman follows:]

**Testimony of Nicole Kidman
United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) Goodwill Ambassador**

**House Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight
“International Violence against Women: Stories and Solutions”**

21 October 2009

Thank you Chairman Delahunt, Congressman Rohrabacher, Chairman Berman and members of the Committee for granting me this opportunity to speak in my role as the Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM.

Violence against women and girls is perhaps the most systematic, widespread human rights violation in the world. It recognizes no borders, no race or class.

I became UNIFEM’s Goodwill Ambassador in 2006 to amplify the voices of women and shine a light on solutions that work and make a lasting difference. Until recently, violence against women and the instability it causes hid in the shadows. I think the attention today underscores a new recognition that the issue is urgent and belongs on center stage.

And while I’ve learned a lot working with UNIFEM, I am far from an expert. I rely on the people I’ve met to make the case.

A year ago I was honoured to talk with Marie Nyombo Zaina from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Like your next speaker, Mallika Dutt, Maire’s work on the ground merited a grant from the UNIFEM-managed United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Through contributions—including essential funding from the United States for which UNIFEM is very grateful—the Fund promotes the implementation of existing commitments. There are laws in many countries to end discrimination against women, to punish rape, outlaw spousal abuse, child marriage and more. But in the real world, the laws go unenforced and impunity is the norm.

I learned from Marie that she was a survivor of violence, forced by her father into an abusive marriage as a young adult. She fled after her first pregnancy, and found support to further her education through a religious organization. Confronted with the cruel impact on women and girls from the continuing conflict in the DRC—where rape is used systematically as a tactic of war—Marie took action. She started an organization to help victims of violence, mostly widows and orphans, many affected by HIV/AIDS. Over the years she’s built a national network of NGOs to care for survivors and empower women. With the Trust Fund grant, her group expanded services to include medical care, counseling, legal and economic support. Marie fully understands the need for a comprehensive approach.

Another time in Kosovo, I met and listened to women sharing experiences. One told me how she

had been repeatedly raped and abused by soldiers leaving her with lasting physical and psychological scars, and pregnant. In her community, this child brands her forever as an outcast. Yet, she did not remain silent. Together with other women's rights advocates, she bravely took her testimony of how mass rapes shatter lives and communities to the International Tribunal for Yugoslavia, a legal landmark for prosecuting rape in wartime as a crime against humanity.

These champions need and deserve our support. Not with a box of band aids, but with a comprehensive well-funded approach that acknowledges that *women's rights are human rights*. It is time for policies that intentionally involve society's key communities—from health and education departments, to the police and judiciary—to deliver on that commitment. The plan must build strong alliances with men and collaborate with faith-based and traditional leaders. To succeed, it requires political will at the highest levels.

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So I commend the efforts that have gone into the drafting of the International Violence Against Women Act, and in particular appreciate the consultation with the real actors and the real beneficiaries to incorporate best practices and effective approaches.

My friends at UNIFEM and I believe that IVAWA, when passed, will be a beacon, lighting the way forward for other countries. My stories illustrate the impact of violence against women on individuals, families and communities. But IVAWA rightfully links the consequences of violence against women to global goals: economic development, stability and peace, improving health and reducing HIV/AIDs.

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I want to thank the Members of Congress for listening and commend them for their efforts to make ending violence against women the top priority it must become. After all, a life free of violence is our *human* right.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you. Thank you very much, Ms. Kidman. And thank you for lending your voice to this particular issue and allowing us to utilize your celebrity. It does make a difference. Believe me, if we did not have a panel such as we have before us now and the testimony of Ambassador Verveer, as well as our colleague Ms. Jan Schakowsky, and all of the women in the U.S. Congress that are involved in these issues, and it was just Rohrabacher and Delahunt, this would be a very—and Burton—this would be a very empty room right now. So you are making a magnificent contribution to raising the awareness of, and the implications, the far—the profound consequences of this issue and how it impacts all of us. So let me say thank you to all of you.

And we are joined by another of our female colleagues who is an advocate on this issue. And let me go to Sue Davis from California and ask her if she has any questions and wishes to make a statement.

Mrs. DAVIS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I am delighted to be here. I really came to listen and to really thank you for being here as well. I am sorry I was not able to be here for the earlier panels, but perhaps you could talk a little bit about prioritizing, because I think sometimes we get a bit overwhelmed by this problem. And we see in many places, and I would cite my opportunity to travel to Afghanistan to meet with women there, trying to see that we have certainly a generational problem, sometimes a two-generational problem, but at the same time we want to try and really address what exists today.

I was very surprised in traveling there and meeting with a number of women, and Ambassador Verveer is aware of this, that women who feared for their security daily also spoke a language of empowerment. That really surprised me.

I know we need sustained efforts; we need comprehensive programs, as you said. How, if we have, you know, a very ambitious agenda of what we want to do, how would you help us to really prioritize what is the most significant? Sometimes we really want to address the educational piece so we reach people quite young, but, on the other hand, we know that people are suffering today, women are suffering, we have to reach them today. And whether it is microloans—sometimes, you know, it is economic empowerment. What could you tell us about how we could think through that priority?

Ms. KIDMAN. I mean, I will answer that. I think the reason I am here is to try and get attention for this bill and to get the bill passed. I think the bill has been put together by an enormous number of people. It is step by step. I don't think there is a single priority. I think it covers all bases. I am not fully versed in the whole bill, but there are experts who are, but I do believe that it is dealing with women as a whole. So it is dealing with education, it is dealing with providing health services and shelters, it is dealing with enabling the laws actually being upheld.

So I actually think it is comprehensive, and therefore, there isn't one particular thing that it is focusing on, but it is brilliantly laid out, from how it has been explained to me. And I know that it has taken 7 years to put together, so it is not something that has been done in a superficial way. That is my answer.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you.

Mrs. DAVIS. If you would choose to comment on that, if you wanted to add anything additionally.

Ms. DUTT. Well, one of the reasons that there is a key recommendation in IVAWA to focus on 10 to 20 countries for 5 years as a learning experience and to ensure that we document best practices is precisely because of the issue that you have just raised. Violence against women takes so many forms that one of the lessons that we have learned is that a comprehensive approach is really the best approach. And in order to be effective in that, the recommendation is that a large chunk of the money that is being recommended as part of this bill would focus on 10 to 20 countries which would be identified across a range of criteria, with a certain allocation for women in countries of conflict to deal with emergency and humanitarian situations. And sure there is much greater expertise in the room on these questions, but that is exactly why there is this recommendation around this focus.

Mrs. DAVIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. SMITH. Just briefly. I don't believe that we take women's rights seriously around the world, because we do not enforce the laws that would protect them. And we do turn our back and say other values are greater, whether it be economic or cultural. If we are serious around the world as Americans, we will be serious about our other policy that does have sanctions. If we are not serious about the sanctions, whatever they may be, then let us just remove the law and the policy, because we are not taken seriously.

Now, I have spent 11 years traveling, rescuing little girls, raising them around the world in every country, including the Netherlands, and if we say that men are allowed to do certain things because of culture, whether in Indonesia it is an 8-year-old wife, or whether it is in Tokyo because most men are buying sex, it is irrelevant what we do with the rest. We have to culturally say what I think I heard earlier from one of the members: We cannot tolerate because of religion, because of culture anything that demeans or harms women.

Trafficking in America—and I am going to say it in closing, and I know you are going to want me to close, Chairman—if we continue as Americans to have our middle-school children trafficked and sold to common men in the United States while we are crying out for human rights for other countries, we will not be seen as credible, and we will not have any of our foreign policy serious in protecting women.

We can put money into it all we want, but I don't think we are going to get very far. So I would challenge you again, be serious about our policy, put teeth behind the laws and rescue America's children also.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you, Linda.

Let me next go to my friend and colleague from Texas, Judge Poe.

Mr. POE. I want to thank all you all for being here. Mr. Chairman, "all you all" is plural to "you all." Get through the language barrier there.

Mr. DELAHUNT. What did you say?

Mr. POE. All five of you for being here today.

Probably the most influential person in my life was my grandmother. She lived to almost 100 years of age. She said a lot of wise things. But one thing she taught me, and I believed, was that you never hurt somebody you claim you love. She was right when she said that, and that is a true statement today.

She also said there is nothing more powerful than a woman that has made up her mind. I think we have a lot of women here in this audience testified, and, of course, our colleagues in the House, both Republicans and Democrats, who are females that have made up their mind about this issue. You would be glad to know, Mr. Chairman, that my grandmother was a Yellow Dog Democrat and never forgave me for being a Republican until she died, so you would like her.

Mr. DELAHUNT. She was a brilliant woman.

Mr. POE. That is right. I knew you would say that.

But anyway, as the chairman indicated, in my other life I was a judge. I saw the real world for 22 years, tried criminal cases, and saw thousands of young women come to the courthouse as victims of crime, and many of them had been brutalized by people they knew, men who they knew.

And I agree with you, Congressman Smith, the United States has to get its house in order and take care of what is taking place here not just in domestic violence, but the human trafficking that takes place in our own country. If a young female is trafficked in the United States, she is treated as a criminal. If she is from a foreign country and trafficked in the United States, she is treated as a victim. And we treat them differently. Women in the United States, young girls who are trafficked, they are arrested for prostitution, they are put in jail.

We have to reexamine that whole issue before we can really move forward with recognizing the importance of women's rights. I certainly believe that women's rights are a human rights issue, but it is also a public health issue. Our country talks about health care. We ought to talk about the health of America's women who continue to be assaulted by other people in this country. That is a health issue that I think is very important that we deal with.

People who have assaulted each other or assaulted people that they claim they care about brings to mind a lady not far from here by the name of Yvette Cade. Ms. Cade, a wonderful person, she was divorcing her husband. She went to court to represent herself to get a restraining order to make sure he left her alone while the divorce is pending. The judge denied her request. He got out of jail, he found her at her business, and he doused gasoline on her and set her on fire. Thank goodness Yvette Cade survived that assault again.

So our system has to adjust itself as well and fix some of the things that have taken place in our own criminal justice system and our own social awareness, and we need to make sure that it is never socially acceptable in this country to commit crimes against women because they are women.

I am fortunate to serve as the chairman of the Victims Rights Caucus, and this is one of the issues, along with other caucuses, the Women's Caucus here, that we need to bring awareness of. So I would like each of you to pick one thing you see that Congress

needs to do and can do to help this issue to prevent this violence against women on whatever scale you would like to talk about it. Pick one thing, just one, Congressman Smith. And I would like to go down the row here while each of you think what you would like us to do as a Congress.

Ms. SMITH. I want you to take it seriously and put it at the top of your own priorities on this committee—I know you can't commit the rest to Congress—but make the defense of the American women and girls as important as the defense of women around the world, while not decreasing your attention to foreign-born women.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Ms. Dutt.

Ms. DUTT. You know, the United States passed a brilliant piece of legislation not too long ago, which was the Violence Against Women Act, and today it is time to pass the International Violence Against Women Act. Thank you.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Ms. Kidman.

Ms. KIDMAN. I would agree. If you could help us to pass this act, that is what we need to do.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, thank you all.

And thank you, Judge Poe, for your remarks. They were insightful. Oftentimes Congressman Poe and I tend to disagree, but in this particular case we are on the same page.

And now I would like to go to my dear friend from Indiana Congressman Burton.

Mr. BURTON. You know, Mr. Chairman, no matter what you say, and I think the ladies that have spoken here today have covered the ground almost completely, but the one thing that probably has not been covered is what it is like to actually live this kind of a thing. The effect it has on the women and the children when they live through the horrors of wife and child abuse is unbelievable. I am not going to go into any details, but I just want you to know that I believe that men who abuse women and kids deserve the most severe penalties that can be applied by law, and in some cases I would even go further than that.

My father tried to kill my mother. He went to prison, and he mistreated me and my brothers and sisters and my mother for a long, long time. And the only reason I bring that up is because it is so horrible to wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning, hearing your mother screaming and throwing a lamp through the window, and going downstairs and seeing her clothes being tore off her, and your father beating her half to death, and not even knowing if she is alive. It is not even funny. And that sort of thing needs to be punished to the fullest extent of the law. I even believe, even though murder isn't involved many times, when they go so far, it should be a capital crime. They should be killed for what they do to their wives and children. I feel that very strongly.

So I just want to lend my support for the effort that these ladies are supporting today, and just to take it one step further and say that we ought to think not only about the women who are abused, but the people who are hurt that surround those women, in particular the children.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you. Thank you, Dan. And I think your point is very well taken because it has been my experience that those males that are incarcerated in our prisons throughout the

country, all too often learned violence at home. They saw the kind of violence that Congressman Burton just described, they saw it as the norm, they saw it as acceptable. They just didn't parachute in and become violent criminals themselves.

That is why if we are going to address the issue of crime in this country, we have to address the issue of violence against women and domestic violence. And as I indicated in my opening remarks, we have made progress, we have.

I think it is important to remember in this country that it wasn't too long ago that there was the so-called rule of thumb where a male in this country could beat his wife as long as the stick with which he used did not exceed the circumference of his thumb. And it wasn't all that long ago in a historical sense that women finally earned the right to vote. There had been restrictions on women owning property until relatively recently in an historical sense.

So it does take time, and it takes the courage of those women whose stories you related to us, all of them. And it is time that men woke up. And I feel confident that you have given us a wake-up call today.

Let me go to the vice chair of this committee, my friend from Missouri Mr. Carnahan. Russ.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank all of you for sharing inspiring stories and inspiring work. We have seen so many examples where peace and prosperity come around this world where women have been empowered, empowered with education, with economic programs, with enforcement rule of law.

We heard from Ms. Kidman about the importance of building strong alliances with men, and Ms. Dutt about the program you described that calls on men and boys to take a stand against violence. And I want to ask each of you how men and boys are reacting to these kind of programs and messages, and also in terms of really gaining in terms of social and legal accountability. And we will start with Ms. Smith and go to your left.

Ms. SMITH. I don't know that we had very many programs in the United States or around the world until we started talking about DEMAND less than, I am going to say, 2 years ago. It has not been an issue discussed a lot. In the United States there is a new group started about 2 years ago called The Defenders. They have somewhere around 3,000 members now quietly building coalitions around themselves, first taking a stand to not use commercial sex, pornography, stripping or pornography—or excuse me or prostitution. It seems to be something they do proudly. It seems to be something they do, but cautiously, because they are afraid of being labeled one of those men.

So I think with men like you standing and men like you making commitments, it will give courage to other men around the world. But I have been very encouraged by this group, and if you are not a Defender yet, you might want to go on line and become a Defender.

Mr. CARNAHAN. All right.

Ms. Dutt.

Ms. DUTT. You know this is our third multimedia campaign in India, and the prior ones focused on women and HIV/AIDS and men infecting their wives in marriage. And on the second one we

talked about the stigma and discrimination faced by HIV-positive women. And so Bell Bajao, Ring the Bell, was the first time that we created a campaign that was an inclusive call to action, where we just didn't lay out the perpetrators, that male perpetrators did these things to women, but we said, do you know what, you can be part of the solution. And it has just been extraordinary. I mean, it has been like a wildfire of young men just really answering the call to action.

We have this very extensive human rights training program where we work with both boys and girls, young men and women, to make them into human rights advocates in their communities. And I listen to these guys, and I listen to the ways in which they are not just dealing with the external community, but what they are doing at home, the conversations that they are generating with their mothers, with their sisters, how they are reexamining their relationships, how they talk about and treat women.

There is this group of guys who used to be—you know, in India we call sexual harassment “Eve teasing.” So these guys, this group of guys who were Eve teasers, who, after having gone through human rights training and with Bell Bajao, have just become these really staunch advocates of women's human rights.

So I think that it is really important to have accountability, to have the law and have the law work, but it is also really important to look at prevention and how we change attitudes and change norms to stop the violence from happening in the first place. And we have been very encouraged by the work that we have seen in the last year or so.

Mr. CARNAHAN. And Ms. Kidman.

Ms. KIDMAN. I mean, education. Educating boys and men is probably first and foremost, as we have all been saying. I know just recently we did a campaign in Australia for UNIFEM Australia where we had prominent men make pledges in the media to never commit violence against women and to protect women, and it was very impactful, just making—just saying the words. And there were certain words that we wrote out, and then they were printed in magazines with these pledges. And it was very powerful and very moving.

And I think those things seem small, but that is where the education starts. Also UNIFEM supplies men's networks. And I am traveling to Kenya in November where I will see some of those men's networks firsthand.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Thank you.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you.

And before I go to the ranking member, we are joined by our colleague from Texas Ms. Sheila Jackson Lee. And I know that we have time constraints, so, Sheila, if you have a statement or a comment, could you do it now?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to indicate to the witnesses how important this matter is to me. I was on the floor being Speaker pro tem, so I ask your indulgence of my presence here today. I have questions.

One, I would just accept the underpinnings of Ambassador Verveer's comments, and that is that women's issues and the violence against women cannot be put to the margins of our foreign

policy. I think an excellent statement. And I would add to that and say that we must be vigorous, we must be consummate, we must have vigilance, and I believe we must be aggressive.

Last evening I looked at a movie called "Tapestries," I believe, that talked about the myth, the horrible myth, that one could rid yourself of HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa, and it may be prevalent elsewhere, by having sex with young girls; and watched a woman who had managed to gather—this happened to focus on Zimbabwe—but managed to gather girls who had been so abused. And some horrific statement came across the screen, I think I am remembering it well, that the youngest victim was 3 days old, an infant child.

So my question, and if I could ask it—well, let me start with Ms. Kidman, and thank you all very much for this impact that you are doing. Tell me how effective you believe the United Nations is being in this effort. We are, in essence, collaborative jurisdictions, that is the United Nations and United States Congress, but we have oversight, we pay our U.S. dues, and so I would be interested in hearing how effective you think they are and how we could, as women Members of Congress, as men, be engaged in their effort, and when I say that, in helping to reaffirm how important that effort is.

I will ask the last two questions for our last witness. Good to see you, Congresswoman Smith.

I am going to you, Ms. Kidman. I am just going to throw my other questions on the table very quickly. If you would, with the other two panelists, just tell me whether or not we are in a surge of violence, or whether or not we have found a method to help cure it; or are we in a surge, and now we are seeking new ways? I was in Darfur as well sitting down with those women. So I am going to ask Ms. Kidman how she believes the United Nations is doing and what we can do to be helpful.

Ms. KIDMAN. Well, as ambassador for UNIFEM, I believe that the reason I got behind them is that I heard of—I heard a program on the BBC about the work that they were doing, and this was in 2005. And the thing that appealed to me was that it was solution-based, that it wasn't about going in and also trying to change the culture of different countries; it was going in and trying to work with the culture, with the people, and come up with solutions. And I then met with different women that are working for UNIFEM and actually sort of begged to be involved. I believe that they are incredibly—they are aggressive in a good way, they are compassionate, and they are all willing to work tirelessly, as I have seen, grassroots. And I think that is what is so appealing, and that is what is so effective.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. You think they need more resources, more personnel?

Ms. KIDMAN. Do we need more?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Yes. More resources, more personnel, more people?

Ms. KIDMAN. Yes, absolutely. We need a lot more, which is why I am here begging. But truly, I mean it is about we need the money, we need—because there are certainly the people who are willing to give their time. And I have heard that time is one of the

most important things that people have to be willing to give. I am willing to give my time. And I see these women willing to give their lives to dedicate to this. And it is incredibly inspiring, and I hope to continue to do it for the rest of my life.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. You are saving lives.

My last—is it Ms. Dutt and Ms. Smith, I didn't see the last name—question is about are we surging, are we plateauing?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Congresswoman, we are really running out of time here. And we want to be able to invite you and other members to a press availability. And I know there are severe time constraints.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. May I just close, Mr. Chairman, by thanking them and also thanking Secretary Clinton, who long years ago said women's rights are human rights, and President Obama for his focus and interest in this very important area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I thank you. And I ask my friend if he wishes to make any closing remarks.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much for bringing us all together.

Let me just suggest that we might think about how to set certain standards so we can actually do something real here, rather than just talk about how much we care about everybody. If we don't care enough to set real standards and enforce them, it doesn't mean a darn thing. Let's maybe perhaps, for example, people who are identified or countries that are identified as not respecting the rights of women, are guilty of crimes against women, maybe if some of the people in those countries, like their governmental leaders, shouldn't be granted visas to come into the United States, things such as that.

And finally, let me just end, Nicole, thank you for what you are doing today. First of all I am going to ask you a question. It is going to be a very pointed question, but I want you to know that I respect you for being active. Here you are, trying to help in the situation. But you mentioned earlier that education plays a role in this. Doesn't Hollywood play a role in this? Hasn't Hollywood played a bad role? Haven't women been portrayed in Hollywood as weak and as sex objects, and hasn't that contributed to the problem?

Ms. KIDMAN. Probably. But I also think they have contributed, or are trying to contribute to the solution. I mean you can always cite films, but I think as an individual I certainly don't undertake or don't want to participate in that. I mean I get offered films often that depict violence against women. And if I feel that it is exploitive or that it would actually demean women, then I am not interested and I pass. I can't be responsible for the whole of Hollywood, but I can certainly be responsible for my own career.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Thank you very much.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Good answer. Thank you very much.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And I would note that if we are going—I think Congresswoman Smith's testimony—if we are going to have standards, we better apply them to ourselves as well. So this is not just simply a foreign global problem, it is an American problem. You are absolutely correct. The data that you revealed would, I suggest,

could very well put us in an unfavorable light. But we are making progress.

Again, thank you all. Now, I understand we are going to invite all the press to an availability in room 2200, and I am told that there is a reception. So, please, all come.

[Whereupon, at 4:22 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X



MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING RECORD

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND OVERSIGHT

William D. Delahunt (D-MA), Chairman

October 19, 2009

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend the following OPEN hearing of the Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights and Oversight, to be held in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building:

DATE: Wednesday, October 21, 2009

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: International Violence Against Women: Stories and Solutions

WITNESSES: **Panel I**
The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives

Panel II
The Honorable Melanne Vermeer
Ambassador-at-Large
Office of Global Women's Issues
U.S. Department of State

Panel III
Ms. Mallika Dutt
Founder and Executive Director
Breakthrough

Ms. Nicole Kidman
Actress
UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador

The Honorable Linda Smith
President and Founder
Shared Hope International
(Former Member of the U.S. House of Representatives)

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee as noted above.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON IOHRO MEETING

Day Wednesday Date 10/21/2009 Room 2172 RHOB

Starting Time 2:27 P.M. Ending Time 4:25 P.M.

Recesses (_____ to _____)

Presiding Member(s) Bill Delahunt

CHECK ALL OF THE FOLLOWING THAT APPLY:

Open Session

Electronically Recorded (taped)

Executive (closed) Session

Stenographic Record

Televised

TITLE OF HEARING or BILLS FOR MARKUP: *(Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)*

International Violence Against Women: Stories and Solutions

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Delahunt, Russ Carnahan, Keith Ellison, Dana Rohrabacher, Ted Poe

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: *(Mark with an * if they are not Members of HIRC.)*

Lynn Woolsey, Jim Moran*, Rosa DeLauro*, Susan Davis*, Sheila Jackson Lee, Dan Burton, Edward R. Royce

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes No

(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: *(Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)*

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): *(Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)*

Subject	Yeas	Nays	Present	Not Voting

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____

or
TIME ADJOURNED _____


Subcommittee Staff Director