

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5905

To combat international violence against women and girls.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BASS of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STARK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. OLVER, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To combat international violence against women and girls.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “International Violence Against Women Act of 2012”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
2 this Act is as follows:

- 3 Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- 4 Sec. 2. Findings.
- 5 Sec. 3. Statement of policy.
- 6 Sec. 4. Office for Global Women’s Issues.
- 7 Sec. 5. Comprehensive international strategy and assistance to reduce and pre-  
8 vent violence against women and girls.
- 9 Sec. 6. Assistance to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls  
10 internationally.
- 11 Sec. 7. Ensuring accountability of the United States response to violence  
12 against women and girls internationally.
- 13 Sec. 8. Enhancing United States training of foreign military and police forces  
14 and judicial officials on violence against women and girls.
- 15 Sec. 9. Addressing violence against women and girls in humanitarian relief,  
16 peacekeeping, conflict, and postconflict settings.

17 **3 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress makes the following findings:

19 (1) Approximately 1 out of every 3 women  
20 throughout the world will be beaten, experience  
21 physical or sexual violence, or be otherwise abused in  
22 her lifetime. The World Health Organization (WHO)  
23 has reported that up to 70 percent of women in  
24 some countries report having been victims of domes-  
25 tic violence at some stage in their lives.

26 (2) The status of women is an indicator for the  
27 overall direction of society, serving as a valuable ba-  
28 rometer for social unrest and instability.

29 (3) Addressing women’s and girls’ rights can  
30 improve security as World Bank data shows a strong  
31 correlation between gender inequality and violence  
32 within a state.

1           (4) Violence against women and girls dramati-  
2 cally impedes progress in meeting all of our global  
3 health goals, including efforts to stem maternal mor-  
4 tality and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Approximately  
5 1 in 4 women are abused during pregnancy, which,  
6 according to WHO, has been linked to miscarriage,  
7 preterm labor, low birth weight, fetal distress, and  
8 death. Women who have experienced violence are  
9 also at higher risk for contracting HIV, and women  
10 living with HIV may be up to 3 times more likely  
11 to experience violence than other women. Fear of vi-  
12 olence also prevents women from accessing HIV/  
13 AIDS information and receiving treatment and  
14 counseling.

15           (5) Increasing women’s access to economic op-  
16 portunities is crucial to preventing and responding  
17 to domestic and sexual violence. Microfinance-based  
18 interventions and increased asset control reduce lev-  
19 els of intimate partner violence and provide eco-  
20 nomic independence for survivors.

21           (6) Displaced, refugee, and stateless women and  
22 girls in humanitarian emergencies, conflict settings,  
23 and natural disasters face extreme violence and  
24 threats because of power inequities, including—

1 (A) being forced to exchange sex for food  
2 and humanitarian supplies; and

3 (B) being at increased risk of rape, sexual  
4 exploitation, and abuse.

5 (7) Rape and sexual assault against women and  
6 girls are used to torture, intimidate, and terrorize  
7 women and their communities.

8 (8) Research shows that working with men and  
9 boys to change attitudes towards women can have a  
10 profound impact on reducing violence against  
11 women.

12 (9) According to the United Nations Children’s  
13 Fund (UNICEF), child marriage—

14 (A) is a harmful practice that deprives  
15 girls of their dignity and human rights;

16 (B) can result in bonded labor or enslave-  
17 ment, commercial sexual exploitation, and vio-  
18 lence against the victims;

19 (C) significantly increases the risk of ma-  
20 ternal death and morbidity, infant mortality  
21 and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually  
22 transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and

23 (D) is perpetuated by poverty, a lack of  
24 educational or employment opportunities for  
25 girls, parental concerns to ensure sexual rela-

1           tions within marriage, the dowry system, and  
2           the perceived lack of value of girls.

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4           It is the policy of the United States to—

5           (1) systematically integrate and coordinate ef-  
6           forts to prevent and respond to violence against  
7           women and girls internationally into United States  
8           foreign policy and foreign assistance programs;

9           (2) promote women’s political, economic, edu-  
10          cational, social, cultural, civil, and human rights and  
11          opportunities throughout the world;

12          (3) support and build capacity of indigenous  
13          nongovernmental organizations that are working to  
14          prevent and respond to violence against women and  
15          girls internationally, particularly women’s non-  
16          governmental organizations and groups involving  
17          male advocates;

18          (4) prevent and respond to violence against  
19          women and girls internationally through multise-  
20          ctoral methods, working at individual, family, commu-  
21          nity, local, national, and international levels and in-  
22          corporating service, prevention, training, and advo-  
23          cacy activities and economic, education, health, legal,  
24          and protective intervention services;

1           (5) enhance training and other prevention and  
2 response to violence against women and girls inter-  
3 nationally in humanitarian relief, conflict, and post-  
4 conflict settings;

5           (6) enhance training by United States personnel  
6 of professional foreign military and police forces and  
7 judicial officials to include specific and thorough in-  
8 struction on preventing and responding to violence  
9 against women and girls internationally;

10          (7) more regularly engage men and boys as  
11 community leaders, partners, and advocates in end-  
12 ing violence against women and girls;

13          (8) support efforts to end child marriage as an  
14 important part of preventing violence against girls  
15 by promoting education and skills building for girls,  
16 community programs, and increased economic oppor-  
17 tunities for women to achieve development objec-  
18 tives; and

19          (9) ensure that private security firms con-  
20 tracted for service in conflict, humanitarian, and  
21 postconflict settings appropriately report on, and re-  
22 spond to, violence against women and girls inter-  
23 nationally.

1 **SEC. 4. OFFICE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall  
3 establish in the Office of the Secretary of the Department  
4 of State an Office for Global Women's Issues (in this sec-  
5 tion referred to as the "Office"). The Office shall be head-  
6 ed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues  
7 (in this section referred to as the "Ambassador-at-  
8 Large"), who shall be appointed by the President, by and  
9 with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Amba-  
10 sador-at-Large shall report directly to the Secretary and  
11 shall have the rank and status of Ambassador-at-Large.

12 (b) PURPOSE.—In addition to the duties described in  
13 subsection (c) and those duties determined by the Sec-  
14 retary of State, the Office shall coordinate efforts of the  
15 United States Government regarding gender integration  
16 and empowerment of women in United States foreign pol-  
17 icy.

18 (c) DUTIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador-at-Large—  
20 (A) shall coordinate and advise on activi-  
21 ties, policies, programs, and funding relating to  
22 gender integration and empowerment of women  
23 internationally, including those intended to pre-  
24 vent and respond to violence against women, for  
25 all bureaus and offices of the Department of  
26 State and in the international programs of

1 other United States Government departments  
2 and agencies;

3 (B) shall actively promote and advance the  
4 full integration of gender analysis into the pro-  
5 grams, structures, processes, and capacities of  
6 all bureaus and offices of the Department of  
7 State and in the international programs of  
8 other United States Government departments  
9 and agencies;

10 (C) shall direct, as appropriate, United  
11 States Government resources to respond to  
12 needs for gender integration and empowerment  
13 of women in United States Government foreign  
14 policies and international programs, including  
15 to prevent and respond to violence against  
16 women and girls internationally; and

17 (D) may design, support, and implement  
18 activities regarding empowerment of women  
19 internationally, including for the prevention and  
20 response of violence against women and girls  
21 internationally.

22 (2) COORDINATING ROLE.—The Ambassador-  
23 at-Large shall coordinate and consult with all rel-  
24 evant United States Government departments and  
25 agencies, particularly the United States Agency for



1 International Development, the Millennium Chal-  
2 lenge Corporation, and the Office of the Global  
3 AIDS Coordinator, on all policies, programs, and  
4 funding of such departments and agencies relating  
5 to gender integration and empowerment of women,  
6 including ending violence against women and girls  
7 internationally.

8 (3) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to  
9 the direction of the President and the Secretary of  
10 State, the Ambassador-at-Large is authorized to  
11 represent the United States in matters relevant to  
12 the status of women, including violence against  
13 women and girls internationally.

14 (d) REPORTS.—Subject to the guidance of the Am-  
15 bassador-at-Large, the heads of all bureaus and offices of  
16 the Department of State, as appropriate, shall evaluate  
17 and monitor all empowerment of women programs admin-  
18 istered by such bureaus and offices and annually submit  
19 to the Ambassador-at-Large reports containing an ac-  
20 counting of such programs and their effectiveness.

21 (e) PLANNING AND BUDGETING.—The Secretary of  
22 State and the Administrator of the United States Agency  
23 for International Development shall fully integrate gender  
24 into all diplomatic and development efforts of the Depart-  
25 ment of State and the United States Agency for Inter-

1 national Development, respectively, through the inclusion  
2 of gender in strategic planning and budget allocations, and  
3 the development of indicators and evaluation mechanisms  
4 to measure the impact of United States policies and pro-  
5 grams on women and girls in foreign countries.

6 (f) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall seek to co-  
8 ordinate with United States Government depart-  
9 ments and agencies and should provide advice and  
10 guidance, as necessary, to United States Govern-  
11 ment departments and agencies engaged in inter-  
12 national programs, to monitor and evaluate em-  
13 powerment of women programs and outcomes and  
14 impacts of such programs, including programs such  
15 departments and agencies administer for prevention  
16 and response to violence against women and girls  
17 internationally.

18 (2) REPORT.—The heads of United States Gov-  
19 ernment departments and agencies with inter-  
20 national programs described in paragraph (1) shall  
21 provide to the Office on an annual basis information  
22 on empowerment of women programs and outcomes  
23 and impacts of such programs, including for preven-  
24 tion and response to violence against women and  
25 girls internationally, in order to contribute to the de-

1       velopment and implementation of the comprehensive  
2       strategy required under section 5.

3       (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4       authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
5       essary, under the heading “Diplomatic and Consular Pro-  
6       grams”, to carry out activities under this section. Funds  
7       appropriated pursuant to this subsection are in addition  
8       to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

9       **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY AND**  
10                                   **ASSISTANCE TO REDUCE AND PREVENT VIO-**  
11                                   **LENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

12       (a) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF  
13       STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the  
14       enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the  
15       assistance of the Administrator of the United States Agen-  
16       cy for International Development, shall—

17               (1) develop a comprehensive, 5-year inter-  
18               national strategy to prevent and respond to violence  
19               against women and girls internationally;

20               (2) submit the strategy developed under para-  
21               graph (1) to the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
22               the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
23               the House of Representatives; and

24               (3) make the strategy available to the public.

1 (b) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—In devel-  
2 oping the strategy under subsection (a), the Secretary of  
3 State shall consult with—

4 (1) Federal departments and agencies that have  
5 expertise in preventing and responding to violence  
6 against women and girls or administering inter-  
7 national programs; and

8 (2) representatives of civil society organizations  
9 with demonstrated experience in combating violence  
10 against women and girls or promoting women’s  
11 health or women’s development issues internation-  
12 ally.

13 (c) CONTENT.—The strategy developed under sub-  
14 section (a) shall—

15 (1) identify eligible countries (not classified as  
16 high-income countries in the most recent edition of  
17 the World Development Report for Reconstruction  
18 and Development, published by the International  
19 Bank for Reconstruction and Development) with sig-  
20 nificant levels of violence against women and girls  
21 that have the government or nongovernmental orga-  
22 nizational capacity to manage and implement gen-  
23 der-based violence prevention and response program  
24 activities and should, when possible, be geographi-

1 cally, ethnically, and culturally diverse from one an-  
2 other;

3 (2) select at least 5 of the eligible countries  
4 identified under paragraph (1) in which to develop  
5 a comprehensive and holistic individual country plan  
6 that incorporates at least 2 of the program activities  
7 listed in subsection (d);

8 (3) assess and describe the current or potential  
9 capacity of the government of each eligible country  
10 selected under paragraph (2) and civil society orga-  
11 nizations in each such eligible country to address  
12 and respond to violence against women and girls;

13 (4) identify and coordinate with Federal depart-  
14 ments and agencies that—

15 (A) have existing programs relevant to the  
16 strategy;

17 (B) will be involved in new program activi-  
18 ties; and

19 (C) coordinate with broader United States  
20 strategies around development;

21 (5) describe the monitoring and evaluation  
22 mechanisms established for each eligible country,  
23 and their use in assessing overall progress in preven-  
24 tion and response;

1           (6) project general levels of resources needed to  
2           achieve the stated objectives in each eligible country,  
3           including an accounting of—

4                   (A) activities and funding already ex-  
5                   pended by the Department of State, the United  
6                   States Agency for International Development,  
7                   other Federal departments and agencies, other  
8                   donor country governments, and other multilat-  
9                   eral institutions; and

10                   (B) leveraged private sector resources;

11           (7) include capacity-building and technical as-  
12           sistance for community-based women’s nongovern-  
13           mental organizations and community-based organi-  
14           zations with demonstrated experience relating to  
15           prevention and response, including combating vio-  
16           lence against women and girls internationally;

17           (8) identify and coordinate with existing non-  
18           governmental and multilateral programs, initiatives,  
19           and groups with demonstrated experience in preven-  
20           tion and response internationally, particularly co-  
21           ordinating with women’s organizations and commu-  
22           nity-based groups;

23           (9) integrate gender analysis into the strategy  
24           for each country to ensure that the roles of women,

1 girls, men, and boys are appropriately addressed;  
2 and

3 (10) include, as appropriate, strategies designed  
4 to accommodate the needs of stateless, internally  
5 displaced, refugee, religious, or ethnic minority  
6 women and girls.

7 (d) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—The strat-  
8 egy developed under subsection (a) for an eligible country  
9 shall contain a country plan that incorporates at least two  
10 of the following program activities:

11 (1) Development and enforcement of civil and  
12 criminal legal and judicial sanctions, protections,  
13 training, and capacity.

14 (2) Development and implementation of pro-  
15 grams, including programs targeting men and boys  
16 and media campaigns, that work to change social  
17 norms and attitudes so that violence against women  
18 and girls is neither condoned nor tolerated.

19 (3) Ensuring accessible quality educational and  
20 literacy opportunities for women and girls.

21 (4) Promotion of access to economic oppor-  
22 tunity projects, including increasing distribution,  
23 credit, property, and inheritance rights for women  
24 and girls.

1           (5) Enhancing the capacity of the health sector  
2           to prevent and respond to violence against women  
3           and girls.

4           (6) Supporting the elimination of obstacles  
5           faced by women to political participation to encour-  
6           age democratic principles.

7 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIO-**  
8                                   **LENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS INTER-**  
9                                   **NATIONALLY.**

10           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the  
11 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
12 national Development are authorized to provide assistance  
13 pursuant to the comprehensive international strategy de-  
14 veloped under section 5 for eligible countries identified and  
15 selected under such section, including to support program  
16 activities described in subsection (d) of such section. As-  
17 sistance under this section shall be provided through De-  
18 partment of State and United States Agency for Inter-  
19 national Development implementing agencies, including  
20 local and international civil society organizations, multilat-  
21 eral institutions, and governments of eligible countries, in  
22 accordance with existing procedures.

23           (b) COORDINATION OF EXISTING ASSISTANCE PRO-  
24 GRAMS.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator  
25 of the United States Agency for International Develop-



1 ment shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate  
2 programs, projects, and activities under this section with  
3 other programs, projects, and activities to prevent and re-  
4 spond to violence against women and girls internationally  
5 under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.  
6 2151 et seq.) and other foreign assistance laws, as applica-  
7 ble.

8 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—Any funds made available  
9 under this section to nongovernmental or civil society or-  
10 ganizations should be made available to organizations  
11 that—

12 (1) have demonstrated experience regarding vio-  
13 lence against women and girls internationally or  
14 have entered into a partnership with an organization  
15 with such experience; and

16 (2) have demonstrated capabilities or experience  
17 in a particular program activity described in section  
18 5(d).

19 (d) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—The Secretary of  
20 State and the Administrator of the United States Agency  
21 for International Development shall brief Congress upon  
22 request, on the transparent mechanisms used to ensure  
23 that funds made available under this section through non-  
24 governmental organizations are awarded to organizations  
25 described in subsection (c).

1           (e) GRANTS TO WOMEN’S NONGOVERNMENTAL OR-  
2 GANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZA-  
3 TIONS.—To the extent possible, 10 percent of the amount  
4 of assistance provided to an eligible country under this  
5 section should be provided to community-based organiza-  
6 tions, including community-based women’s nongovern-  
7 mental organizations. The Administrator of the United  
8 States Agency for International Development shall brief  
9 Congress, upon request, on efforts made to assist such or-  
10 ganizations to be eligible for such assistance.

11           (f) AWARD PROCESS.—Assistance provided under  
12 this section shall be provided through an open, competi-  
13 tive, and transparent process to the extent possible.

14           (g) CONDITIONS.—A recipient of assistance under  
15 this section—

16               (1) where possible, shall allocate a reasonable  
17 portion of such grants for data collection and the  
18 evaluation of program effectiveness;

19               (2) shall be responsible for developing and re-  
20 porting on outcomes and impacts relating to pre-  
21 venting and responding to violence against women  
22 and girls internationally;

23               (3) should gather input from women’s non-  
24 governmental organizations or community-based or-  
25 ganizations in recipient countries, including organi-

1 zations with experience in working with men and  
2 boys to prevent violence; and

3 (4) shall consider the safety of women and girls  
4 as a primary concern in deciding how to design, im-  
5 plement, monitor, and evaluate programs.

6 **SEC. 7. ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE UNITED**  
7 **STATES RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST**  
8 **WOMEN AND GIRLS INTERNATIONALLY.**

9 (a) AMENDMENTS.—The Foreign Assistance Act of  
10 1961 is amended—

11 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)), by  
12 adding at the end the following:

13 “(g) The report required by subsection (d) shall in-  
14 clude, wherever applicable, the nature and extent of vio-  
15 lence against women and girls.

16 “(h) The report required by subsection (d) shall in-  
17 clude, for each country in which child marriage is preva-  
18 lent, a description of the status of the practice of child  
19 marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term  
20 ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, who  
21 has not attained the age of 18 but who has attained the  
22 minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or who has  
23 not attained the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the  
24 country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”; and

1           (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by add-  
2           ing at the end the following:

3           “(j) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-  
4           clude, wherever applicable, the nature and extent of vio-  
5           lence against women and girls.

6           “(k) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-  
7           clude, for each country in which child marriage is preva-  
8           lent, a description of the status of the practice of child  
9           marriage in such country. In this subsection, the term  
10          ‘child marriage’ means the marriage of a girl or boy, who  
11          has not attained the age of 18 but who has attained the  
12          minimum age for marriage stipulated in law or who has  
13          not attained the age of 18 if no such law exists, in the  
14          country in which such girl or boy is a resident.”.

15          (b) TRANSPARENCY.—Upon request, the Secretary of  
16          State shall provide to Congress the information made  
17          available under sections 5(b) and 6(b), including outcomes  
18          and impacts related to prevention and response to violence  
19          against women and girls internationally submitted by con-  
20          tractors, subcontractors, grantees, and subgrantees, un-  
21          less such disclosure would inhibit the security or effective-  
22          ness of such entities.

23          (c) RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION.—The Sec-  
24          retary of State, with assistance from the Administrator  
25          of the United States Agency for International Develop-

1 ment and in consultation with the Secretary of Health and  
2 Human Services and the Attorney General—

3 (1) shall seek to coordinate data collection and  
4 evaluations of international violence against women  
5 and girls programs; and

6 (2) may provide financial assistance for original  
7 research or analysis of effective interventions to pre-  
8 vent or respond to violence against women and girls  
9 internationally.

10 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized to be ap-  
11 propriated in this section may be used to—

12 (1) collect and analyze new or existing data on  
13 the scope and extent of all forms of violence against  
14 women and girls internationally, including under  
15 documented forms of violence and violence against  
16 marginalized groups;

17 (2) conduct research on effective interventions  
18 to respond to violence against women and girls inter-  
19 nationally, including efforts to scaleup effective pro-  
20 gramming; and

21 (3) support systemic data collection using inter-  
22 nationally comparable indicators, norms, and meth-  
23 odologies for measuring the scope, prevalence, and  
24 incidence of violence against women and girls inter-  
25 nationally.

1 **SEC. 8. ENHANCING UNITED STATES TRAINING OF FOR-**  
2 **EIGN MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES AND JU-**  
3 **DICIAL OFFICIALS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST**  
4 **WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

5 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to en-  
6 sure that United States programs to train foreign mili-  
7 tary, police, and judicial officials include instruction on  
8 prevention of and response to violence against women and  
9 girls.

10 (b) **GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary of State is authorized  
11 to provide guidance to the Secretary of Defense, as appro-  
12 priate, on how to—

13 (1) incorporate training on prevention and re-  
14 sponse to violence against women and girls into the  
15 basic training curricula of foreign military forces,  
16 police forces, and judicial officials under covered  
17 programs;

18 (2) ensure that assistance under covered pro-  
19 grams to units involved in regional or multilateral  
20 peacekeeping operations includes training on preven-  
21 tion and response to violence against women and  
22 girls; and

23 (3) engage community-based nongovernmental  
24 organizations in the monitoring of actions taken by  
25 foreign military forces, police forces, and judicial of-

1 officials to prevent and respond to violence against  
2 women and girls.

3 (c) COVERED PROGRAMS.—The programs referred to  
4 in subsection (a) include—

5 (1) programs carried out by the Secretary of  
6 Defense under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961  
7 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.); and

8 (2) programs authorized under section 1206 of  
9 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
10 Year 2006 (Public Law 109–163; Stat. 3456).

11 **SEC. 9. ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND**  
12 **GIRLS IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF, PEACE-**  
13 **KEEPING, CONFLICT, AND POSTCONFLICT**  
14 **SETTINGS.**

15 (a) ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
16 WITH USAID.—The Secretary of State and the Adminis-  
17 trator of the United States Agency for International De-  
18 velopment shall ensure that—

19 (1) assistance made available for humanitarian  
20 relief, conflict mitigation, and post-conflict recon-  
21 struction—

22 (A) prevents and responds to violence  
23 against women and girls;

1 (B) builds the capacity of local partners to  
2 address the special protection needs of women  
3 and children;

4 (C) supports survivors of violence through  
5 education, essential medical and psychosocial  
6 assistance, trauma counseling, family and com-  
7 munity reinsertion and reunification, and eco-  
8 nomic opportunity programs; and

9 (D) provides legal services for women and  
10 girls who are victims of violence;

11 (2) assistance made available for disarmament,  
12 demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration—

13 (A) provides protection and suitable sepa-  
14 rate facilities in demobilization and transit cen-  
15 ters for women and girls formerly involved in,  
16 or associated with, fighting forces;

17 (B) offers equitable opportunities for such  
18 women and girls, including access to schooling,  
19 vocational training, employment, and childcare;

20 (C) provides essential medical care and  
21 psychosocial support for such women and girls;  
22 and

23 (D) incorporates efforts to prevent future  
24 violence against women and girls by former  
25 combatants;



1           (3) specialists in violence against women and  
2 girls are designated and deployed, as appropriate, as  
3 an integral part of Disaster Assistance Response  
4 Teams to ensure the integration of prevention and  
5 response to violence against women and girls inter-  
6 nationally in strategies and programming; and

7           (4) contractors, grantees, and governments that  
8 carry out programs with United States assistance—

9           (A) train humanitarian workers in pre-  
10 venting and responding to violence against  
11 women and girls, including in the use of mecha-  
12 nisms to report violence against women and  
13 girls;

14           (B) conduct appropriate public outreach to  
15 make known to the host community the mecha-  
16 nisms to report violence against women and  
17 girls; and

18           (C) promptly and appropriately respond to  
19 reports of violence against women and girls and  
20 treat survivors in accordance with best practices  
21 regarding confidentiality.

22           (b) COORDINATION OF UNITED STATES GOVERN-  
23 MENT EFFORTS.—The Secretary of State shall regularly  
24 consult with the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney

1 General to coordinate design and implementation of pro-  
2 grams relevant to the purposes of this section.

3 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ACCOUNT-  
4 ABILITY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING AND PO-  
5 LICE FORCES AND THEIR CAPACITY TO ADDRESS VIO-  
6 LENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.—It is the sense of  
7 Congress that the Secretary of State should encourage the  
8 Secretary-General of the United Nations to continue to  
9 strengthen the ability of the United Nations Department  
10 of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field  
11 Support to prevent and respond to violence against women  
12 and girls by—

13 (1) requiring troop and police contributing  
14 countries to properly train their forces deployed in  
15 United Nations peacekeeping operations on the  
16 United Nations guidance regarding violence against  
17 women and girls, including sexual exploitation and  
18 abuse;

19 (2) ensuring effective implementation of the  
20 zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and  
21 abuse in United Nations peacekeeping and humani-  
22 tarian operations; and

23 (3) supporting the expansion of the role and  
24 number of female officers in all United Nations

1 peacekeeping missions, whether as military or police  
2 forces, civilian staff or military observers.

3 (d) EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO CREDIBLE REPORTS  
4 OF CRITICAL OR WIDESPREAD VIOLENCE AGAINST  
5 WOMEN AND GIRLS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, act-  
7 ing through the heads of relevant bureaus and of-  
8 fices of the Department of State, shall—

9 (A) identify critical or widespread incidents  
10 of violence against women and girls in situa-  
11 tions of armed conflict when such incidents  
12 occur, through consultation with other Federal  
13 departments and agencies, the United Nations,  
14 international organizations, and nongovern-  
15 mental organizations;

16 (B) determine emergency response meas-  
17 ures not later than 45 days after such identi-  
18 fication; and

19 (C) brief Congress, upon request, on the  
20 implementation of such emergency response  
21 measures and outcomes not later than 90 days  
22 after such determination.

23 (2) CONTENT.—The emergency measures devel-  
24 oped under paragraph (1) shall include a description  
25 of bilateral diplomatic efforts with—

1                   (A) the government of the country in  
2                   which the violence is occurring;

3                   (B) governments in the region in which the  
4                   violence is occurring; and

5                   (C) other donor governments.

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