

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 465

Commending the efforts of women in the Republic of Colombia to promote peace.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2004

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. HONDA) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending the efforts of women in the Republic of Colombia to promote peace.

Whereas women comprise 51 percent of the population of the Republic of Colombia;

Whereas women represent the majority of the 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Colombia, and women head more than 30 percent of IDP households;

Whereas armed actors have threatened and assassinated leaders of organizations working for peace, human rights, and stability in Colombia;

Whereas sexual violence and other forms of abuse have been used as weapons of war against women in Colombia;

Whereas women in Colombia are taking leadership roles for peace at the local level, establishing informal agreements with armed actors, and forming “peace zones” to protect their communities;

Whereas women in Colombia represent diverse political parties and views, and are involved in governmental and nongovernmental leadership positions at the municipal, departmental, and national level;

Whereas women throughout Colombia are leading demands for an end to violence and a return to dialogue and negotiation;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) mandates the participation of women in peace processes and the representation of women at all decisionmaking levels for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict; and

Whereas paragraph 2(h) of the Declaration of the Special Conference on Security (2003) issued by the Organization of American States reaffirms the need to increase the decisionmaking roles of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and to integrate a gender perspective in matters of hemispheric security: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) commends the efforts by women and civil
4 society in the Republic of Colombia to mitigate vio-
5 lence in their communities, to advocate for a nego-
6 tiated solution to conflict, and to develop a common
7 agenda for peace;

1 (2) reaffirms the importance of including the
2 expertise, knowledge, and experiences of women in
3 Colombia in formal and informal peace dialogues,
4 negotiations, and in decisionmaking roles to resolve
5 conflict and promote peace and security in Colombia,
6 including the participation of women as planners,
7 implementers, and beneficiaries of disarmament, de-
8 mobilization, and reintegration programs and secu-
9 rity policies in Colombia;

10 (3) supports the protection of women and their
11 organizations and the defense of fundamental
12 human rights in Colombia; and

13 (4) calls on the Department of State, including
14 United States Agency for International Develop-
15 ment, the Department of Defense, and other appro-
16 priate Federal departments and agencies to inte-
17 grate a gender perspective in United States policies,
18 programs, and activities regarding the situation in
19 Colombia and to support through funding, training,
20 networking opportunities, and other activities the ef-
21 forts by women in Colombia to promote peace, re-
22 spect for human rights, and an end to conflict and
23 violence in Colombia.

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