

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2307

To prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2014

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KIRK, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To prevent international violence against women, and for other purposes.

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.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “International Violence Against Women Act of 2014”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.

TITLE I—INTERNATIONAL PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND GIRLS

Subtitle A—Official Designations and Institutional Changes

Sec. 101. Office for Global Women’s Issues.

Sec. 102. Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.

Sec. 103. Briefing.

Subtitle B—Strategy, Policy, and Programs

Sec. 111. United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

Sec. 112. Implementation of the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

Sec. 113. Monitoring the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) An estimated 1 out of every 3 women
4 throughout the world will be beaten, coerced into
5 sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

6 (2) Up to 70 percent of women in some coun-
7 tries report having been victims of domestic violence
8 at some stage in their lives.

9 (3) Sexual violence among adolescents and pre-
10 adolescents is alarmingly high. In 2010, the first na-
11 tionally representative survey of violence against
12 children in Tanzania found that nearly 3 in 10 fe-
13 males and 1 in 7 males experienced sexual violence
14 prior to the age of 18.

15 (4) The International Men and Gender Equality
16 Survey dataset shows that adult male respondents in
17 6 countries who had experienced violence as children
18 were significantly more likely to report perpetrating

1 intimate partner violence themselves than their peers
2 who did not experience violence as children.

3 (5) Violence against women and girls impedes
4 progress in meeting many United States global de-
5 velopment goals, including efforts to stem maternal
6 mortality and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Approxi-
7 mately 1 in 4 women are abused during pregnancy
8 which has been linked to miscarriage, pre-term
9 labor, low birth weight, fetal distress, and death.

10 (6) Country studies indicate that the risk of
11 HIV among women who have experienced violence
12 may be up to 3 times higher than among those who
13 have not. Women who have experienced violence are
14 also at higher risk for contracting HIV, and women
15 living with HIV may be up to 3 times more likely
16 to experience violence than other women. Fear of vi-
17 olence also prevents women from accessing HIV/
18 AIDS information and receiving treatment and
19 counseling.

20 (7) The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS
21 Relief (PEPFAR) supports significant work in the
22 field to mainstream gender-based violence into exist-
23 ing HIV programs. Addressing gender norms and
24 inequities is essential to reducing HIV risk and in-

1 creasing access to HIV prevention, care and treat-
2 ment services for women and men.

3 (8) Increasing women's access to economic op-
4 portunities and food security is crucial to preventing
5 and responding to domestic and sexual violence. In-
6 clusive finance and micro-enterprise reduce levels of
7 intimate partner violence and provide economic inde-
8 pendence for survivors.

9 (9) Prevalence of sexual violence is higher
10 among persons with disabilities, particularly for ado-
11 lescents and intimate partners with disabilities, and
12 for men and women with intellectual impairments
13 living in institutions.

14 (10) Displaced, refugee, and stateless women
15 and girls in humanitarian emergencies, conflict set-
16 tings, and natural disasters face extreme violence
17 and threats, including—

18 (A) being forced to exchange sex for food
19 and humanitarian supplies; and

20 (B) being at increased risk of rape, sexual
21 exploitation, and abuse.

22 (11) Rape and sexual assault against women
23 and girls are used to torture, intimidate, and ter-
24 rorize women and their communities.

1 (12) Early and forced marriage of the girl
2 child—

3 (A) is a violation of human rights as it de-
4 nies girls the right to decide when and with
5 whom to marry;

6 (B) is a harmful practice that deprives
7 girls of their dignity, bringing childhood and
8 adolescence to a premature and unnatural end;

9 (C) can end girls' education and can result
10 in bonded labor or enslavement, commercial
11 sexual exploitation, and violence against the vic-
12 tims;

13 (D) significantly increases the risk of ma-
14 ternal death and morbidity, infant mortality
15 and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually
16 transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; and

17 (E) is perpetuated by poverty, a lack of
18 educational or employment opportunities for
19 girls, parental concerns to ensure sexual rela-
20 tions within marriage, the dowry system, and
21 the perceived lack of value of girls.

22 (13) World Bank data shows that gender in-
23 equality directly corresponds to increased levels of
24 political and economic instability within States.

1 (14) Domestic violence is the most prevalent
2 form of violence against women and prevents women
3 from playing more active roles in the social, eco-
4 nomic, and political development of their commu-
5 nities. In humanitarian crises, this global scourge
6 becomes acute, preventing women from helping to
7 rebuild their countries.

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

9 It is the policy of the United States—

10 (1) to take effective action to prevent and re-
11 spond to violence against women and girls around
12 the world, as a matter of basic human rights as well
13 as to promote gender equality, economic growth, and
14 improved public health;

15 (2) to systematically integrate and coordinate
16 efforts to prevent and respond to violence against
17 women and girls internationally into United States
18 foreign policy and foreign assistance programs, in-
19 cluding peacebuilding efforts and humanitarian relief
20 and recovery;

21 (3) to support and build local capacity in devel-
22 oping countries, including of governments at all lev-
23 els and nongovernmental organizations, especially
24 women-led organizations, to prevent and respond to
25 violence against women and girls;

1 (4) to consult, cooperate, coordinate, and col-
2 laborate with a wide variety of nongovernmental
3 partners with demonstrated experience in preventing
4 and responding to violence against women and girls,
5 including faith-based organizations and women-led
6 organizations;

7 (5) to employ a multisectoral approach to pre-
8 venting and responding to violence against women
9 and girls internationally, including activities in the
10 economic, education, health, nutrition, legal, and ju-
11 dicial sectors;

12 (6) to work at all levels, from the individual to
13 the family, community, local, national and inter-
14 national levels, to prevent and respond to violence
15 against women and girls around the globe;

16 (7) to enhance training by United States per-
17 sonnel of professional foreign military and police
18 forces and judicial officials to include specific and
19 thorough instruction on preventing and responding
20 to violence against women and girls around the
21 world;

22 (8) to engage men and boys as partners, as an
23 essential element of making sustained reductions in
24 violence against women and girls;

1 (9) to include the prevention of early and forced
 2 marriage as an important part of United States
 3 Government efforts to prevent violence against girls
 4 and promote gender equality and global health;

5 (10) to require that all United States contrac-
 6 tors and grantees establish appropriate policies and
 7 take effective measures to prevent violence against
 8 women and girls and sexual exploitation and abuse
 9 within their workforce;

10 (11) to exert sustained international leadership
 11 to prevent and respond to violence against women
 12 and girls, including in bilateral and multilateral fora;

13 (12) to implement the United States Strategy
 14 to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence
 15 Globally; and

16 (13) to implement the United States National
 17 Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security.

18 **TITLE I—INTERNATIONAL PRE-**
 19 **VENTION OF VIOLENCE**
 20 **AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**
 21 **Subtitle A—Official Designations**
 22 **and Institutional Changes**

23 **SEC. 101. OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall
 25 establish in the Office of the Secretary of the Department

1 of State an Office of Global Women’s Issues (in this sec-
2 tion referred to as the “Office”). The Office shall be head-
3 ed by an Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues,
4 who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the
5 advice and consent of the Senate. The Ambassador-at-
6 Large shall report directly to the Secretary and shall have
7 the rank and status of Ambassador-at-Large.

8 (b) PURPOSE.—In addition to the duties described in
9 subsection (c) and those duties determined by the Sec-
10 retary of State, the Ambassador-at-Large shall coordinate
11 efforts of the United States Government as directed by
12 the Secretary regarding gender integration and advancing
13 the status of women and girls in United States foreign
14 policy.

15 (c) DUTIES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador-at-Large—

17 (A) shall direct activities, policies, pro-
18 grams, and funding relating to gender equality
19 and the advancement of women and girls inter-
20 nationally, including those intended to prevent
21 and respond to violence against women and
22 girls, for all bureaus and offices of the Depart-
23 ment of State and in the international pro-
24 grams of all other Federal agencies;

1 (B) shall actively promote and advance the
2 full integration of gender analysis into the pro-
3 grams, structures, processes, and capacities of
4 all bureaus and offices of the Department of
5 State and in the international programs of
6 other Federal agencies;

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

14 (D) may design, support, and implement
15 activities regarding empowerment of women
16 internationally, including for the prevention of
17 and response to violence against women and
18 girls internationally;

19 (E) shall conduct regular consultation with
20 civil society organizations working to prevent
21 and respond to violence against women and
22 girls internationally;

23 (F) shall ensure that programs, projects,
24 and activities designed to prevent and respond
25 to violence against women and girls internation-

1 ally are subject to rigorous monitoring and eval-
2 uation, and that there is a uniform set of indi-
3 cators and standards for such monitoring and
4 evaluation that is used across all Federal agen-
5 cies;

6 (G) shall serve as the principal advisor to
7 the Secretary of State regarding gender equal-
8 ity, women's empowerment, and violence
9 against women and girls as a foreign policy
10 matter; and

11 (H) is authorized to represent the United
12 States in diplomatic and multilateral fora on
13 matters relevant to the status of women and
14 girls, including violence against women and
15 girls internationally.

16 (2) INFORMATION SHARING AND TRANS-
17 PARENCY.—The Office shall be the central reposi-
18 tory of data on all United States programs, projects,
19 and activities that relate to prevention and response
20 to violence against women and girls, and shall
21 produce a full accounting of United States Govern-
22 ment spending on such programs, projects, and ac-
23 tivities.

1 **SEC. 102. SENIOR COORDINATOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY**
2 **AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 United States Agency for International Development a
5 Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's
6 Empowerment, who shall report to the Administrator of
7 the United States Agency for International Development
8 and who shall conduct the activities of the Administrator
9 under this Act.

10 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Senior Coordinator for Gen-
11 der Equality and Women's Empowerment—

12 (1) shall direct activities, policies, programs,
13 and funding of the United States Agency for Inter-
14 national Development relating to gender equality
15 and women's empowerment, including those intended
16 to prevent and respond to violence against women
17 and girls;

18 (2) shall actively promote and advance the full
19 integration of gender analysis into the programs,
20 structures, processes, and capacities of all bureaus
21 and offices of the Agency as dictated by the USAID
22 Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy;

23 (3) shall direct Agency resources for gender
24 equality and women's empowerment, including to
25 prevent and respond to violence against women and
26 girls internationally;

1 (4) may design, support, and implement activi-
2 ties led by the Agency regarding gender equality and
3 women's empowerment, including for the prevention
4 and response of violence against women and girls
5 internationally;

6 (5) shall conduct regular consultation with civil
7 society organizations working to prevent and re-
8 spond to violence against women and girls inter-
9 nationally;

10 (6) shall serve as the principal advisor to the
11 Administrator regarding gender equality, women's
12 empowerment, and violence against women and girls;
13 and

14 (7) shall track and analyze monitoring and eval-
15 uation data and findings on international prevention
16 and response programs of the Agency, consistent
17 with Agency-wide monitoring and evaluation activi-
18 ties, and in order to assist in the preparation of the
19 comprehensive strategy developed under section 111.

20 **SEC. 103. BRIEFING.**

21 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Amba-
23 sador-at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall brief the ap-
24 propriate congressional committees on international vio-
25 lence against women and girls prevention and response

1 strategies, programming, and associated outcomes, and
 2 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
 3 an assessment of human and financial resources necessary
 4 to fulfill the purposes and duties of this Act.

5 **Subtitle B—Strategy, Policy, and** 6 **Programs**

7 **SEC. 111. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RE-** 8 **SPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOB-** 9 **ALLY.**

10 (a) GLOBAL STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later
 11 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
 12 and annually thereafter for five years, the Ambassador-
 13 at-Large, in consultation with the Senior Coordinator,
 14 shall develop or update a United States global strategy
 15 to prevent and respond to violence against women and
 16 girls. Such strategy shall be transmitted to the appro-
 17 priate congressional committees and made publicly avail-
 18 able on the Internet.

19 (b) INITIAL STRATEGY.—For the purposes of this
 20 section, the “United States Strategy to Prevent and Re-
 21 spond to Gender-Based Violence Globally”, issued in Au-
 22 gust 2012, shall be deemed to fulfill the initial require-
 23 ment of subsection (a).

24 (c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 60
 25 days after submission of the strategy under subsection (a),

1 the Ambassador-at-Large, in consultation with the Senior
2 Coordinator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
3 committees an implementation plan detailing how the
4 strategy will be implemented in the upcoming five fiscal
5 years, including the budget resources requested, and the
6 specific activities to be supported, by each Executive agen-
7 cy under the strategy.

8 (d) COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.—In devel-
9 oping the strategy under subsection (a), the Ambassador-
10 at-Large and Senior Coordinator shall consult with—

- 11 (1) the heads of relevant Federal agencies;
12 (2) the Senior Policy Operating Group on Traf-
13 ficking in Persons; and
14 (3) representatives of civil society and multi-lat-
15 eral organizations with demonstrated experience in
16 addressing violence against women and girls or pro-
17 moting gender equality internationally.

18 (e) CONTENT.—The implementation plan required
19 under subsection (c) shall—

- 20 (1) identify eligible low-income and lower-mid-
21 dle income countries with significant levels of vio-
22 lence against women and girls, including within dis-
23 placed communities, that have the governmental or
24 nongovernmental organizational capacity to manage
25 and implement gender-based violence prevention and

1 response program activities and should, when pos-
2 sible, be geographically, ethnically, and culturally di-
3 verse from one another;

4 (2) select 5 to 20 of the eligible countries iden-
5 tified under paragraph (1) in which to develop com-
6 prehensive and holistic individual country plans that
7 incorporate at least two of the program activities
8 listed in section 112(b);

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

14 (4) identify coordination mechanisms with Fed-
15 eral agencies that—

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

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

20 (C) are engaged in broader United States
21 strategies around development;

22 (5) describe the monitoring and evaluation
23 mechanisms established for each eligible country,
24 and their intended use in assessing overall progress
25 in prevention 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 agencies, other donor country
 8 governments, and other multilateral institu-
 9 tions; and

10 (B) leveraged private sector resources;

11 (7) integrate gender analysis into the strategy
 12 for each country; and

13 (8) include, as appropriate, strategies designed
 14 to accommodate the needs of stateless, disabled, in-
 15 ternally displaced, refugee, or religious or ethnic mi-
 16 nority women and girls.

17 **SEC. 112. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED STATES**
 18 **STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO**
 19 **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the
 21 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
 22 national Development are authorized to provide assistance
 23 to prevent and respond to violence against women and
 24 girls internationally.

1 (b) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance
2 provided to each country selected under section 111(e)(2)
3 should include at least two of the following activities:

4 (1) Development and implementation of pro-
5 grams that work to change social norms and atti-
6 tudes so that violence against women and girls is
7 neither condoned nor tolerated.

8 (2) Promotion of accessible quality educational
9 and literacy opportunities for women and girls.

10 (3) Promotion of access to economic opportuni-
11 ties, including by increasing distribution, credit,
12 property, and inheritance rights for women and
13 girls.

14 (4) Development and enforcement of civil and
15 criminal legal and judicial sanctions, protections,
16 trainings, and capacity.

17 (5) Enhancement of the health sector capacity
18 to detect, prevent, and respond to violence against
19 women and girls.

20 (c) BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY.—Not less than 10
21 percent of the amount of assistance provided to an eligible
22 country under this section should be provided to commu-
23 nity-based nongovernmental organizations, with priority
24 given to nongovernmental organizations led by women.

1 **SEC. 113. MONITORING THE UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO**
2 **PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED**
3 **VIOLENCE GLOBALLY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In each strategy submitted under
5 section 111(a), the Ambassador-at-Large and Senior Co-
6 ordinator shall include an analysis of best practices for
7 preventing and addressing violence against women and
8 girls internationally, which shall include—

9 (1) a description of successful efforts by foreign
10 governments, multilateral institutions, nongovern-
11 mental organizations, educational organizations, and
12 faith-based organizations in preventing and respond-
13 ing to violence against women and girls;

14 (2) recommendations related to best practices,
15 effective strategies, and improvements to enhance
16 the impact of prevention and response efforts; and

17 (3) the impact of activities funded by the strat-
18 egy in preventing and reducing violence against
19 women and girls internationally.

20 (b) AMENDMENTS.—The Foreign Assistance Act of
21 1961 is amended—

22 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

23 (A) in paragraph (11)(C), by striking

24 “and” at the end;

1 (B) in paragraph (12)(C)(ii), by striking
 2 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
 3 and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 5 paragraph:

6 “(13) wherever applicable, the nature and ex-
 7 tent of violence against women and girls.”; and

8 (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

9 (A) by redesignating the second subsection
 10 designated as subsection (i) as subsection (j);
 11 and

12 (B) by adding at the end the following new
 13 subsection:

14 “(k) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO VI-
 15 OLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.—The report re-
 16 quired by subsection (b) shall include, wherever applicable,
 17 the nature and extent of violence against women and
 18 girls.”.

19 (c) MONITORING AND EVALUATION.—In coordination
 20 with relevant officials, and consistent with the monitoring
 21 and evaluation policies of their respective agencies, the
 22 Ambassador-at-Large and the Senior Coordinator shall
 23 develop a plan for monitoring and independent evaluation
 24 of programs, projects, and activities carried out under this
 25 Act. The plan shall—

1 (1) apply rigorous monitoring and evaluation
2 methodologies to focus on learning, accountability,
3 and policymaking, choosing from among a wide vari-
4 ety of qualitative, quantitative, summative, and
5 formative methods common in the field of social sci-
6 entific inquiry, including impact evaluations; and

7 (2) be included in the implementation plan re-
8 quired under section 111(c).

9 (d) RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION.—The Sec-
10 retary and the Administrator shall—

11 (1) produce original research or analysis of ef-
12 fective interventions to prevent or respond to vio-
13 lence against women and girls internationally;

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

19 (3) conduct research on effective interventions
20 to respond to violence against women and girls inter-
21 nationally, including efforts to scale up effective pro-
22 gramming; and

23 (4) support systemic data collection using inter-
24 nationally comparable indicators, norms, and meth-
25 odologies for measuring the scope, prevalence, and

- 1 incidence of violence against women and girls inter-
- 2 nationally.

