

HATCH and I have been working with artists, authors, and software developers to create an environment in which copyright is protected, so that we can all enjoy American creativity, and so that copyright owners can be paid for their work.

In the coming months we will be discussing numerous responses to this problem. One critically important part of the attack on this problem will be to bring the resources and expertise of the United States Attorneys' Offices to bear on wholesale copyright infringers. For too long these attorneys have been hindered in their pursuit of pirates, by the fact that they were limited to bringing criminal charges with high burdens of proof. In the world of copyright, a criminal charge is unusually difficult to prove because the defendant must have known that his conduct was illegal and he must have willfully engaged in the conduct anyway. For this reason prosecutors can rarely justify bringing criminal charges, and copyright owners have been left alone to fend for themselves, defending their rights only where they can afford to do so. In a world in which a computer and an Internet connection are all the tools you need to engage in massive piracy, this was an intolerable predicament.

Some steps have already been taken. The Allen-Leahy amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, on Combating Piracy of U.S. Intellectual Property in Foreign Countries, provided \$2.5 million for the Department of State to assist foreign countries in combating piracy of U.S. copyrighted works. By providing equipment and training to law enforcement officers, it will help those countries that are not members of OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, to enforce intellectual property protections.

Senator HATCH and I are investigating another needed response to this problem that would give the Attorney General the authority to bring a civil action against copyright infringers. This authority would not supplant either the criminal provisions of the Copyright Act, or the remedies available to the copyright owner in a private suit. Rather, it would allow the Government to bring its resources to bear on this immense problem, and to ensure that more creative works are made available online, that those works are more affordable, and that the people who work to bring them to us are paid for their efforts.

We hope to introduce a bill on this matter soon, and we look forward to continuing our efforts to bring our country's law enforcement tools into the 21st century, just as our technologies have advanced.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today, on International Women's Day, to recognize the contributions that women have made to our world.

Today, we commemorate the lives of women, the work that women have done, the sacrifices that women have made, and the progress that women have achieved.

The past year was a very important one for advancing the rights of women. In Iraq, American women in the armed services played an integral part to the war effort and Iraqi women have now been given a much greater role in governing their country.

In Afghanistan, women have rights and liberties not experienced for years. Women and girls are returning to schools and colleges and rejoining the workforce.

Unfortunately, for many women around the world, the past year has not improved their ability to control their own lives. In many countries around the world, women earn less than men for performing the same tasks. In some countries, women are prohibited from owning property or from receiving the same education as men. And many women do not have the same access to health care that men have.

On this day, we must reaffirm our dedication to women's rights; we must strive to ensure that all women and girls have every opportunity to improve their lives and to make their own choices.

On this day, I would like to recognize the accomplishments of one woman in particular.

In December of 2003, Shirin Ebadi, an Iranian defense lawyer, became the first Muslim woman to receive a Nobel Peace Prize. She received this honor for her dedication to democracy and human rights.

In 1975, Mrs. Ebadi was the first woman appointed to be a judge in Iran. After the Iranian revolution, she was forced to resign her post on the court. Since that time, she has fought for an interpretation of Islamic law that reflects the importance of human rights and democracy, not just for men, but for all Iranians. I wish to recognize Mrs. Ebadi's work on behalf of human rights and I wish to congratulate her on winning the Nobel Peace Prize. She is truly a great woman and a great human being.

I would also like to take some time today to focus on a number of areas where women have made recent progress and some areas that still require significant change.

The liberation of Iraq has been a great step forward for Iraqi women. Today, the Iraqi Governing Council has agreed on an interim constitution. The constitution, also known as the Transitional Administrative Law, has a number of provisions that protect women's rights. For example, the Transitional Administrative Law requires that no less than 25 percent of the members elected to the Transitional National Assembly be women. The new constitution also states that Iraqis are equal without regard to sex, sect or religion.

To ensure that the rights of women in Iraq are not violated, the Coalition

Provisional Authority and USAID worked together to establish a women's rights center. This is the first of five centers that will be established throughout Iraq. The center is open to all women and offers a range of opportunities including literacy classes and English-language training, nutrition and health classes, computer skills training, and courses on living in a democracy. The center will also provide assistance for widowed or impoverished women.

While there has been progress, we must remain vigilant in our defense of women's rights in Iraq.

Since President Bush declared major combat operations over, extremist Muslims have tried to suppress women's rights. In December, a group of Shiite members of the Iraqi Governing Council passed Resolution 137, a resolution that would have required the use of Sharia, or Islamic law that limits the rights and opportunities of women. Fortunately, the Iraqi Governing Council cancelled Resolution 137 on February 27, 2004.

With the fall of the Taliban, many people felt that the situation for women in Afghanistan would improve. While Afghanistan's new constitution contains human rights provisions and mandates better political representation of women, new rules on female education in the Afghan province of Herat prevent men from teaching women or girls. The rules also uphold strict gender segregation in all schools.

Repression of women is still commonplace in Afghanistan. Let me quote from a recent report issued by Human Rights Watch. The report says:

... one year after the Taliban's fall, women and girls in Afghanistan still face severe restrictions and violations of their human rights, for in many areas Taliban officials have been replaced by warlords, police officers, and local officials with similar attitudes toward women. In some parts of the country, the same officials who administered the anti-women policies of the Taliban remain in their positions. This has meant the reimposition of extremely repressive social codes that typically have a devastating impact on women.'

So much more needs to be done on behalf of women in Afghanistan.

Another year has gone by and the United States still has not yet ratified the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. As Americans, we can no longer afford to ignore this important document and put in jeopardy our status as a leader in advancing human rights for women and girls.

Given that it has been over 20 years since President Carter signed the Convention, one might think that the delay in ratification is due to the fact we are dealing with a treaty that requires years of study and consideration.

Yet the Convention simply requires that participating states take all appropriate steps to eliminate discrimination against women in political and

public life, law, education, employment, health care, commercial transactions, and domestic relations.

The United States is one of the only leading democracies in the world that has yet to ratify this important treaty. In fact, our partners outside the Convention include Iran, North Korea, and Sudan. Are these countries with whom we share the values of democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights? Are those the countries we can count on in the international arena?

Women and girls around the world who turn to the United States for leadership in advancing their rights are mystified that we do not take the simple step of ratifying the Convention. When we do, the sky will not fall, the sun will rise in the morning, and the Constitution will still be the law of the land.

By ratifying the Convention, the United States will reclaim its leadership status as a champion of the rights of women and girls and send a strong signal to those states who abuse those rights.

On International Women's Day, I call on my colleagues in the Senate to move forward and ratify the Convention.

While women have made great strides internationally in recent years, abuse of women remains a global problem. Worldwide, it is estimated that 1 in 3 women is abused or sexually assaulted in her lifetime. And anywhere from 20 to 50 percent of women worldwide have experienced some type of domestic violence. These numbers are astounding.

Even in the United States, certainly a leader in promoting women's rights, a woman is battered every 15 seconds and battering is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44. On average, 3 women are murdered by their husbands every day in the United States. And as many as 750,000 women and children have been trafficked into the United States over the last decade. Certainly, we must do more at home to protect women from domestic and sexual abuse.

On International Women's Day, the United States must also reaffirm its commitment to combating HIV/AIDS, an epidemic that has had devastating effects on women and girls.

Transmission of HIV from men to women is twice as likely as transmission from women to men and the International Center for Research on Women has shown that there is a high correlation between violence against women and HIV infection.

The impact that this disease has had on the lives of women is shocking. In 2002, 2 million women were infected with HIV and 1.2 million women died from AIDS-related illnesses. Young women, ages 15–24, represent 66 percent of people with HIV in the 14 most-afflicted countries designated in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Teenage women in Sub-Saharan Africa are five or six times more likely to contract HIV than teenage males.

This is truly a women's issue that must be addressed.

Mr. President, on this day, we honor women. On International Women's Day, the United States and the international community must take a strong stand and issue a clear warning to those who attempt to rob women of basic rights—the world's governments will no longer ignore these important issues.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING DOTTIE POTTER

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of a dedicated journalist serving readers in my State of South Dakota. For years, Dottie Potter has served as a reporter covering important news impacting South Dakota's Native American population. As a writer for the Indian Country Today and the Lakota Nation Journal, Dottie is truly a credit to her profession.

She has worked hard over the years to educate the general population of the talents, accomplishments and skills of Native Americans in South Dakota. Dottie has helped educate and inform thousands of readers. I have always respected her professionalism and skill as a journalist, and her sensitivity to the issues affecting her readers.

Her tireless efforts to dig for details and to explore all sides of particular issues symbolizes her dedication to the field of journalism. She is a well-respected reporter in South Dakota. But she is also well-known for her empathy and care when writing human interest stories. Dottie has delivered stories to her readers on almost every topic, from those that involved the road to success for a favorite son or daughter to words of wisdom from a tribal elder to the plight of South Dakota Indian families.

Among the many awards she has received over the years, she received the South Dakota Education Association Golden Apple Award in October of 2002, in recognition of outstanding media coverage of public education issues and events in South Dakota.

Dottie now works on a personal story, a fight to overcome cancer. A reporter to the core, Dottie continues to make an impact on her community. With remarkable spirit and bravery, she still works as a reporter with Lakota Nation Journal as she educates, entertains and informs readers. Her fight against cancer serves as an inspiration to others.

I congratulate and commend Dottie Potter on her many years as a journalist. Her body of work serves as a long-standing tribute to her commitment to the Native American populations of South Dakota and the Nation.●

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On May 6, 1999, in Santa Clarita, CA, two men were charged with suspicion of committing a hate crime after they allegedly burglarized a residence and beat three gay men.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY F. DIAZ

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last month, this Nation suffered the tragic loss of one of its most effective and most compassionate advocates for women and children throughout the world.

Mary Diaz was only 43 when she died on February 12 in New York after a long battle of cancer. I know she will be profoundly missed by all who knew her and worked with her and were helped by her.

For the last 10 years, Mary was executive director of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, an affiliate of the International Rescue Committee. She was there whenever she was needed and wherever she was needed—in Serbia or Angola or Rwanda or Pakistan or Nepal or Haiti and in many other places, often putting her own safety at risk to see firsthand the hardships of women and children displaced by war or fleeing persecution.

After each of her travels, Mary would return and eloquently share the stories of those she saw who needed help the most. She met with lawmakers and government agencies to urge them to respond. She worked with President Clinton to create a fund for refugee women in Bosnia. Visiting Tanzania, she worked to change the rules allowing Burundian women to distribute food with the men. Even in the all too short time she had, Mary inspired us all with her dedicated and tireless work on behalf of the disenfranchised.

It is easy to see where Mary learned her passion for helping others. Her father was a doctor and her mother is a nurse. Her two brothers are doctors. One sister is an inner-city teacher and another is a librarian. After studying international relations at Brown University, Mary worked for a television station in Philadelphia and volunteered in her free time to help refugees settle in the city. As her interest in