

Bosnia. His death is a tragic loss not only for his family and those who knew him well, but for the people of Macedonia, the broader region of Southeast Europe, and, I believe the world at large.

I rise today to express my condolences and deep sympathy to the people of Macedonia, the family of President Trajkovski, and the families of the eight others who were killed. I submit a resolution, cosponsored by Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN, which honors the memory of President Boris Trajkovski and recognizes the significant contributions he made as President of Macedonia.

President Trajkovski was a principled man, a courageous leader, and someone that I have come to call a friend since I first met him during a visit to Stankovic refugee camp in Macedonia in 1999. His leadership was instrumental following the crisis in Kosovo in 1999, as Macedonia worked with the international community to meet the needs of thousands of refugees fleeing the neighboring province. President Trajkovski's deep respect for human rights and commitment to the rule of law played a significant role in the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2001, which successfully secured peace in the country following an outbreak of violence earlier that year. Following the signing of the peace accord, he remained committed to the implementation of the agreement—a process that continues today.

I have had the privilege of visiting with President Trajkovski regularly during the last several years, when I traveled to Macedonia in May 1999, February 2000, and again in May 2002, and on several occasions when he traveled to Washington, DC—often in conjunction with the National Prayer Breakfast. An ordained minister in the Methodist Church, President Trajkovski was a man of faith, principle, and character, and his leadership will be greatly missed as Macedonia continues to move toward membership in Europe's democratic institutions.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to President Trajkovski's wife, Vilma, his children, Sara and Stefan, and the people of Macedonia. While Boris Trajkovski will be sorely missed, he leaves a legacy of courageous and principled leadership, progress, and commitment to democratic reform that put Macedonia on a path toward membership in NATO and the European Union. That legacy lives on.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which honors the life of a man deeply committed to working toward a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Macedonia and Southeast Europe.

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 314

Whereas President Boris Trajkovski of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia played a vital role in efforts to promote peace, stability, and democratic reform in his country and throughout Southeast Europe;

Whereas President Trajkovski was tragically killed on Thursday, February 26, 2004, when a plane carrying the President and 8 others crashed in southern Bosnia;

Whereas the people elected Boris Trajkovski to serve as President in November 1999, and inaugurated him as the second Macedonian President on December 15, 1999;

Whereas President Trajkovski led the country during a tumultuous period in Southeast Europe, working with the international community to accommodate refugees following the crisis in neighboring Kosovo in 1999, and playing a significant role in the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2001;

Whereas President Trajkovski promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights, and encouraged economic, judicial, and military reforms necessary to move the country toward membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union; and

Whereas the Macedonian government continues to work to join Europe's democratic institutions, and peace and stability in the country is critical to the broader region of Southeast Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers its condolences and deepest sympathy to the people of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the family of President Boris Trajkovski, and the families of the other crash victims during this difficult period;

(2) recognizes the courageous leadership and the significant role that President Trajkovski played in efforts to promote peace, stability, and reform, including his work to secure the 2001 Ohrid Framework Agreement; and

(3) encourages the Macedonian government to continue efforts to implement the Ohrid Peace Agreement, and to move forward with reforms necessary to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 315, submitted earlier in the day by Senators BIDEN, LUGAR, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 315) designating March 8, 2004, as "International Women's Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceed to consider the resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I support this resolution commemorating an extraordinary holiday, International Women's Day; a day that is celebrated around the globe to mark women's

achievements and to recognize pressing gender inequities still to be erased.

There is no doubt that women have made tremendous strides toward equality and justice in the last century. International Women's Day provides an important chance to acknowledge women who have pioneered change and paved the way for millions of women and girls to access equal education, employment and opportunity. On the other side of the coin, International Women's Day provides an opportunity for us to make a new "to-do" list and highlight what remains to be done, both at home and abroad.

Women's rights, or lack thereof, in the Middle East and South Asia assumed special prominence in the days and weeks after the tragic events of September 11. Americans became familiar with the Taliban's horrendous repression of Afghan women and girls. Two years after the United States removed the Taliban from power, Americans watched as the Afghan *loya jirga*, or grand council, met to adopt a new constitution—an opportunity to debate and create enforceable women's rights. Yet it remains to be seen whether the country's constitution establishes tangible improvements to the plight of Afghan women. In a similar vein, the fall of Saddam Hussein has given Iraqi women an opportunity to engage in public life and seek equal rights. Indeed, the interim Iraqi constitution sets aside 25 percent female participation in the interim government. But the challenges to women's rights in that region of the world abound, ranging from engrained religious and cultural norms to poverty from years of strife. I am convinced, however, that lasting stability and representational government depends upon the emancipation and full participation of women in the Middle East and South Asia. International Women's Day is a chance for us to reiterate that message, in those regions and around the world, that empowering women is the key to lasting peace and prosperity. And to that end, the United States should provide critical resources to help support and empower women and girls around the globe—an articulated priority to this administration, but as of yet an unmet goal.

A fitting tribute to International Women's Day would be ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, also known as the International Women's Rights treaty. It sets out basic women's rights—such as the right to an equal education and the right to own and inherit property. These rights are well settled in the United States, but unfortunately, they are not the norm in too many places around the globe. The treaty is stalled because of the administration's interminable treaty "review." After first telling the Committee on Foreign Relations that it supported the treaty, it has commenced a review of the treaty that has now lasted nearly 2 years. To

date, 174 countries have become party to the treaty. The United States stands with the likes of Iran, Afghanistan, Syria and Sudan as those few countries that have yet to become a party. This is not the company that our country—the place where the women's movement began—should keep. An administration that cares about the promotion of women's human rights should declare its unwavering support for the International Women's Rights treaty.

International Women's Day is also a perfect time for my Senate colleagues to recognize and address the plight of refugee women. I urge them to show their support for the Women and Children in Armed Conflict Protection Act of 2003, the "Protection Act", S. 1001. There are nearly 20 million people homeless today because of war and internal conflict—and the majority of them are women and children. A tragic irony is that women and kids who find their way into refugee camps sometimes face abuse and exploitation in the very place that is supposed to provide security and safety. The Protection Act of 2003 requires the United States government to develop a comprehensive strategy to protect women and children in all stages of conflicts, and sets out specific codes of conduct for agencies running refugee camps. In addition, the bill supports a variety of programs that are providing help to women in war-torn countries, programs that range from tracing lost relatives to providing legal aid for rape survivors. Most importantly, the bill backs up all of its directives with money—\$45 million per year—money that can make a real difference to women in such extreme crisis.

According to Government reports, some 800,000 to 900,000 people are trafficked across international borders worldwide to be enslaved as sweatshop workers, prostitutes, agricultural workers, or domestic servants—up to 20,000 of them are trafficked into the United States. A recent New York Times Magazine article profiled the gory details of sex trafficking in America's towns and suburbs. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act is the first Federal legislation that attacked head-on the very serious crime and aftermath of human trafficking. The legislation is wide in scope, tackling among other items, Federal penalties for trafficking, international ramifications for trafficking and the immigration needs of trafficking victims. But there remains much to be done. I want to make sure that we have provided law enforcement all of the legal tools and financial resources they need to go after criminals who engage in trafficking. I want to find out if criminal penalties—both here and abroad—are sufficient to deter traffickers. I want to explore if there are innovative things which can be done with extradition and witness protection to encourage fearful victims and witnesses to come forward to help make these cases. Women and girls are overwhelm-

ingly the victims of trafficking. Stepping up our attention to this crime means speaking up for international women's rights—a perfect endeavor on International Women's day.

I will close my remarks on International Women's Day with a topic that my fellow Senators know animates me—ending violence against women. One in three—that is how many women worldwide are raped, beaten or sexually abused in their lifetime. Violence against women is the quintessential global issue. It strikes in wealthy and poor countries, ravages war-torn countries and peaceful ones alike, and plagues disparate cultures. In a nationwide poll, women in the United States recently named domestic violence as their number one concern—number one. Guaranteeing women safety and immediate accountability for violence is the first step towards creating equal opportunities in the public realm—it is the sock that must go on before the shoes. Our attention and efforts to eradicate violence against women must not wane, and indeed, we need to redouble our efforts. Our International Women's Day and every other day, women all over the world deserve nothing less.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, this year marks the 95th anniversary of National Women's Day and the 93rd anniversary of International Women's Day. Since the first decades of the 20th century, when women in the United States, Western Europe, and Russia fought for the right to vote, tremendous progress has been made in advancing women's rights. Unfortunately, many women here at home and abroad still suffer.

In the last year, through America's increased involvement in foreign countries, our attention has been drawn to both the gains and shortcomings in the advancement of women's rights. In Afghanistan, although more girls are attending school than ever before in the country's history, tremendous security concerns remain. In rural areas especially, many women and girls choose to remain indoors because they are frequently targeted by armed warlords. This makes it impossible for them to attend school, go to work, or actively participate in the country's reconstruction.

Afghan women are also concerned with the widespread prevalence of forced marriage, and rape. In some cases, girls as young as 8 years old are forced into marriage with much older men. Although I am glad to see that the new Afghan constitution guarantees equal rights for all, I recognize the difference between putting high ideals down on paper and putting them into practice. Women's programs in Afghanistan have not been funded at proposed levels and it is unacceptable.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have been a strong supporter of Afghan aid, especially for women. I worked very hard to include an amendment to provide \$60

million for Afghan women's programs in the fiscal year 2004 Iraq/Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill, because it is of the utmost importance that women play an active role in the country's political and economic reconstruction.

In Iraq as well, we must demand that the promises made to women become a reality. The interim constitution sets a 25 percent quota for women in the transitional assembly, and the preamble of the document makes clear that Iraqis are equal without regard to sex, sect, religion or other considerations. However, this is far removed from what women's groups initially asked for. The 25-member Iraqi Governing Council has only three women members, only one woman sits in the Iraqi Cabinet, and of the 18 provincial governors, none are women. This has resulted in a vast shortage of women from all the decision-making bodies in the new Iraq.

In addition to following through with our commitment to women in Iraq and Afghanistan, we must also do a better job of drawing attention to the other millions of women around the globe who suffer from legal and political discrimination, domestic violence, inadequate medical care, illiteracy, and other social injustices.

The worldwide theme for International Women's Day this year is "Women and HIV/AIDS." This is because the disease is having an increasingly devastating impact on females. Throughout the world, girls and young women now make up nearly two thirds of those below the age of 24 living with HIV, and new infections are rising fastest among married women infected by their husbands.

In order to stem this trend, women must be involved in the solution. This will involve providing women with better education and better healthcare. The U.N. properly recognizes that no enduring solution to any of society's social, economic and political ills can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment of women.

In Africa alone, poor healthcare and poor education among women is one of the greatest challenges to development. Because women are the primary caretakers of children and the elderly, families face an additional burden when mothers are in poor health and poorly educated. Unfortunately, it has taken a global pandemic to remind us how important it is to support education and healthcare improvements for women.

Domestic violence is another enormous problem facing women. Not only abroad, but here at home as well, countless women are the targets of brutality simply because of their gender. The impact of domestic violence toward women is profound and it is often overlooked.

The World Health Organization asserts that domestic violence causes more deaths and disabilities among women between ages 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and

war. Every day, thousands of women are made to be victims of rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, honor killings, sexual trafficking, female infanticide, forced sterilization, and forced abortion. These things are very unpleasant to talk about, and for most of us, their occurrence is hard to comprehend. Many ask, how is it possible that in this age of technology and global communication, so many still suffer from the barbaric practices of the past?

As a global leader, the United States has a responsibility to bring attention to these types of questions, because progress can only be made by recognizing and addressing the unfortunate realities that still exist. In the upcoming year, as the international community seeks to rebuild Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as bring stability to other tenuous parts of the world, let us renew our focus on the importance of advancing the causes of women.

Today, as we recognize International Women's day, I am reminded of the inscription on the Women's Suffrage Monument in the Capital Rotunda. The inscription reads:

Principle not policy, Justice not Favor, Men, their rights and nothing more. Women, their rights and nothing less.

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 315) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 315

Whereas all over the world women are contributing to the growth of economies, participating in the world of diplomacy and politics, and improving the quality of the lives of their families, communities, and nations;

Whereas discrimination continues to deny women full political and economic equality and is often the basis for violations of women's basic human rights;

Whereas worldwide, the lives and health of women and girls continue to be endangered by violence that is directed at them simply because of their gender;

Whereas worldwide, violence against women includes rape, genital mutilation, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, honor killings, sexual trafficking in women, dowry-related violence, female infanticide, sex-selection abortion, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, and forced abortion;

Whereas the World Health Organization asserts that domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women between ages 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war;

Whereas 130,000,000 girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, and it is estimated that 10,000 girls are at risk of being subjected to this practice in the United States and more than 160,000 girls and women in immigrant communities in the United States may have been victims of the traditional practice of female genital mutilation or are at risk of being subjected to it;

Whereas worldwide, at least 1 in 3 women has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime;

Whereas 1 in 6 women in the United States has experienced an attempted or completed sexual assault and 1 in 5 women reported she had been raped or physically or sexually assaulted in her lifetime;

Whereas in the United States, a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds;

Whereas over 300,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy;

Whereas more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day;

Whereas nearly 25 percent of American women report being raped or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date at some time in their lifetime;

Whereas in the United States, battering is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44;

Whereas it is estimated that 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas worldwide, 20 to 50 percent of women experience some degree of domestic violence during marriage;

Whereas worldwide, women account for 1/2 of all cases of HIV/AIDS, approximately 42,000,000, and in countries with high HIV prevalence, young women are at a higher risk than young men of contracting HIV;

Whereas worldwide, sexual violence, including marital rape, has been announced as a major cause of the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS among women;

Whereas 2/3 of the world's nearly 1,000,000,000 illiterate individuals are women;

Whereas worldwide, girls are less likely to complete school than boys;

Whereas 2/3 of children denied primary education are girls;

Whereas in most countries, women work approximately twice the unpaid time men do;

Whereas about 3 in 10 households are maintained by women with no husband present;

Whereas rural women produce more than 55 percent of all food grown in developing countries;

Whereas women comprise almost 15 percent of the active duty, reserve, and guard units of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas it is estimated that women and girls make up more than 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 poorest people in the world;

Whereas women work 2/3 of the world's working hours, and produce 1/2 of the world's food, yet earn only 1 percent of the world's income, and own less than 1 percent of the world's property;

Whereas worldwide women still earn less, own less property, and have less access to education, employment, and health care than do men;

Whereas between 75 and 80 percent of the world's 27,000,000 refugees are women and children;

Whereas illegal trafficking worldwide for forced labor, domestic servitude, or sexual exploitation involves between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 women and children each year, of whom 50,000 are transported to the United States;

Whereas as many as 750,000 women and children have been trafficked into the United States over the last decade;

Whereas March 8 has become known as International Women's Day for the last century, and is a day on which people, often divided by ethnicity, language, culture, and income, come together to celebrate a common

struggle for women's equality, justice, and peace;

Whereas the dedication and success of those working all over the world to end violence against women and girls and fighting for equality should be recognized; and

Whereas the people of the United States should be encouraged to participate in International Women's Day: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 8, 2004, as International Women's Day;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to—

(A) ending discrimination and violence against women;

(B) ensuring the safety and welfare of women; and

(C) pursuing policies that guarantee the basic rights of women both in the United States and in the world; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe "International Women's Day" with appropriate programs and activities.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 316, submitted earlier in the day by Senators AKAKA, ALLEN, SARBANES, CORZINE, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 316) designating April 2004 as "Financial Literacy Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am in support of this resolution designating April, 2004, as Financial Literacy Month, and asking the President to issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the American people to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. I thank Senators ALLEN, SARBANES, CORZINE, SANTORUM, KOHL, THOMAS, JOHNSON, KENNEDY, SCHUMER, LEVIN, LAUTENBERG, MURRAY, LANDRIEU, DURBIN, INOUE, and CRAPO for standing with me in advancing financial and economic literacy for our entire citizenry.

Last year, the Senate designated April, 2003, as Financial Literacy for Youth Month by adopting my resolution, S.Res. 48, to highlight the need for increased financial and economic literacy and education in our country. Since then, there has been wider recognition that we need to broaden the spotlight to include problems resulting from pervasive financial illiteracy among adults of all ages as well, no matter in which region of the country they live, in which sector of the economy they work, or for which side of the aisle they vote. All of us know at least one person in our lives who has suffered the sometimes tragic and often unavoidable results of not knowing how to create and stick to a budget,