

fundamental human rights. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 125, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 194) supporting the goals of International Women's Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 194

Whereas there are over 3,000,000,000 women in the world, representing 51 percent of the world's population;

Whereas women continue to play the prominent role in caring for families within the home as well as serving as economic earners;

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

Whereas women leaders have recently made significant strides, including the 2009 appointment of Johanna Sigurdardottir as the first female Prime Minister of Iceland, the 2007 election of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the 2006 election of Michelle Bachelet as the first female President of Chile, the 2006 election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf as the President of Liberia, the first female President in Africa's history, and the 2005 election of Angela Merkel as the first female Chancellor of Germany, who also served as the second woman to chair a G8 summit in 2007;

Whereas women account for 80 percent of the world's 70 million micro-borrowers, 75 percent of the 28,000 United States loans supporting small businesses in Afghanistan are given to women, and 12 women are chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas in the United States women are graduating from high school at higher rates and are earning bachelor's degrees or higher degrees at greater rates than men with 88 percent of women between the ages of 25 and 29 having obtained a high school diploma and 31 percent of women between the ages of 25 and 29 earning a bachelor's degree or higher degree;

Whereas despite tremendous gains over the past 20 years, women still face political and economic obstacles, struggle for basic rights,

face the threat of discrimination, and are targets of violence all over the world;

Whereas worldwide women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, accounting on average for less than 10 percent of the seats in parliament, except for in East Asia where the figure is approximately 18 to 19 percent, and women do not hold more than 8 percent of the ministerial positions in developing regions;

Whereas women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half 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 female managers earned less than their male counterparts in the 10 industries that employed the vast majority of all female employees in the United States between 1995 and 2000;

Whereas 70 percent of the 1,300,000,000 people living in poverty around the world are women and children;

Whereas two-thirds of the 876,000,000 illiterate individuals worldwide are women, two-thirds of the 125,000,000 school-aged children who are not attending school worldwide are girls, and girls are less likely to complete school than boys according to the United States Agency for International Development;

Whereas worldwide women account for half 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 globally, each year over 500,000 women die during childbirth and pregnancy;

Whereas domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women between the ages of 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war;

Whereas worldwide, at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls has been beaten in her lifetime;

Whereas at least 1 out of every 6 women and girls in the United States has been sexually abused in her lifetime, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas worldwide, 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;

Whereas illegal trafficking in women and children 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 into the United States, according to the Congressional Research Service and the Department of State;

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

Whereas in times and places of conflict and war, women and girls continue to be the focus of extreme violence and intimidation and face tremendous obstacles to legal recourse and justice;

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; 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 House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes and honors the women in the United States and in other countries who have fought and continue to struggle for equality in the face of adversity;

(3) reaffirms its commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensuring the safety and welfare of women and girls, and to pursuing policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls both in the United States and in other countries; and

(4) encourages the President to—

(A) reaffirm his commitment to pursue policies to protect fundamental human rights and civil liberties, particularly those of women and girls; and

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I first want to thank Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY and the other cosponsors of this resolution for honoring the contributions and achievements of women around the world, and the importance of promoting and protecting their rights.

Today, women all over the world are becoming leaders in science, medicine, arts, politics, and even the military. Despite this progress, it is a sad fact that women and girls continue to constitute the vast majority of the world's poor, chronically hungry, refugees, HIV-infected, uneducated, unemployed and disenfranchised. All too often, women are subject to physical violence and discrimination as a result of their gender. Women are also the targets of cruel cultural practices, including genital mutilation, forced and early marriages, humiliating and harmful widow practices, bride burnings and honor killings.

On average, women continue to receive less pay for work of equal value, and many continue to face discrimination in hiring and admission to educational institutions. It is not enough to simply declare the equality of women and condemn their mistreatment. We must, in all sectors of society, address the structural factors that prevent women and girls from enjoying the same rights and opportunities as boys and men.

We must also eliminate the criminal and cultural practices that destroy the lives and freedom and health of women. Statistics demonstrate that when women's quality of life improves, their

children are happier, healthier and better educated. Entire communities and countries benefit from these improvements. Successful, educated and respected women also become powerful role models for future generations.

In honor of our family members, our female colleagues and our Speaker, not to mention women across the country and around the world, I am proud to support this resolution and urge all my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H. Res. 194, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the important contributions to all levels of society and social advancement of women around the globe.

I would like to focus my comments on three areas referenced in the resolution on which so much more needs to be done to ensure women and girls worldwide achieve their full potential. One is with respect to the horrible phenomenon, the criminality, of human trafficking. The resolution cites reported estimates that between one and two million women are trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor, and domestic servitude each year. Some NGO estimates are far higher than that number. Women are robbed of their dignity, fundamental human rights, and forced into bondage and sexual servitude. They are modern-day slaves.

In 2000, I was the prime sponsor of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 which, together with its reauthorizations, including Chairman BERMAN's legislation reauthorizing the law last year named after the great British parliamentarian William Wilberforce, who stopped the slave trade in London, has made the United States a leader in addressing the egregious human rights violations of trafficking and motivated other countries and governments to do the same. Yet much work remains to be done if we are to eliminate this scourge. Too much demand, enabled by crass indifference, unbridled hedonism and misogynistic attitudes, has turned women and girls into objects, valued only for their utility in the brothel or in the sweatshop. Society has helped perpetuate this heinous crime by failing to utilize all the means at our disposal to combat it.

Legislation that I will soon introduce, along with DON PAYNE from my own home State of New Jersey, entitled the "International Megan's Law," would address this omission with respect to sex tourism to exploit children. It would seek to protect girls and boys around the world from sexual exploitation by establishing a notification system between governments when a known high-risk sex offender is traveling or intends to travel internationally.

Government representatives from other countries, including Thailand,

Brazil, the United Kingdom and Australia, have expressed a desire to cooperate with the United States to address the degrading exploitation that occurs as a result of sex tourism. Girls are the primary victims in this often overlooked form of trafficking.

Another key area in critical need of improvement is that of maternal health. Most of us are familiar with the appalling statistic that in sub-Saharan Africa, the lifetime risk of maternal death is 1 in 16, compared with 1 in 2,800 in developed countries. It is unacceptable and awful in the extreme that most of these maternal deaths are preventable.

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During the Africa Subcommittee's hearing about safe blood that I chaired in the 109th Congress, we heard from Dr. Neelam Dhingra of the World Health Organization. Dr. Dhingra informed us that the most common cause of maternal death in sub-Saharan Africa is severe bleeding, which can take the life of even a healthy woman within 2 hours if not properly and immediately treated. She gave us the astonishing statistic that in Africa severe bleeding during delivery or after childbirth contributes to up to 44 percent of maternal deaths, many of which could be prevented simply by having access to safe blood. A sufficient quantity and quality of immediately available and usable blood must become the norm and not the exception. I congratulate CHAKA FATTAH from Philadelphia, a Member of Congress, for his work in promoting safe blood.

Another unacceptable risk for many women giving birth in the developing world, especially Africa, is obstetric fistula. Fistula, Mr. Speaker, can be treated and repaired through a relatively minor surgical procedure that costs, on average, \$150 per surgery. Still, large numbers of women, an estimated 2 million, endure tremendous pain and numbing isolation that comes from being the walking wounded, incontinent and ostracized, and not able to get to a hospital—like the famous hospital in Addis, which performs these wonderful interventions. I visited that hospital and saw dozens of women who got fistula repair, and the smiles on their faces were amazing. With just a small investment of health care dollars, the lives of women throughout Africa could be dramatically changed.

Helping mothers and helping babies goes hand in hand, Mr. Speaker. There is no dichotomy. When women receive proper prenatal and maternal health care, they are less likely to die in childbirth, and when unborn babies are healthy in the womb, they emerge as healthier, stronger newborns.

Birth is not the beginning of life, it is merely an event in the baby's life that began at fertilization. Life is a continuum with many stages. I believe, Mr. Speaker, human rights should be respected from womb to tomb, and that no violence is acceptable against any-

one, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, disability, or condition of dependency. We need to recognize this biological fact in policy, funding and programs, and treat both mother and baby, including the unborn child, as two patients in need of respect, love and tangible assistance. We need to affirm them both.

I would like to conclude by raising the plight of women, and especially the girl child, who suffer from the coercive population control agenda of the Chinese Government.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was blocked from offering two pro-life, pro-child, pro-women amendments to the huge \$410 billion omnibus. One of those amendments would have restored the Kemp-Kasten policy for all organizations, including the U.N. Population Fund, if they had been found to be involved with coercive population control.

I held 26 hearings, Mr. Speaker, on human rights in China when I was the chairman of the Human Rights Subcommittee and met with numerous women during frequent human rights missions to China. There is no doubt that the U.N. Population Fund has supported, co-managed, and whitewashed the most pervasive crimes against women in all of human history.

China's one-child-per-couple policy relies on pervasive coerced abortion, involuntary sterilization, ruinous fines in the amounts of up to ten times the salary of both parents, imprisonment, and job loss or a demotion to achieve its quotas. In China today, brothers and sisters are illegal. Women are told when and if they can have the one child permitted by law. And rather than showing compassion and tangible assistance to unwed mothers, unwed moms, even if it's their first baby, are forcibly aborted. Let me say that again. There are no unwed moms in China, they are all forcibly aborted.

Women are severely harmed emotionally, psychologically and physically. Chinese women are violated by the state. The suicide rate for Chinese women is about 500 per day, according to the most recent Human Rights Report from the Department of State—it just came out 2 weeks ago—and that number far exceeds any other number.

Then there are the missing girls, upwards of 100 million girls missing in China as a direct result of sex selection abortions. This gendercide is a direct result of the one-child-per-couple policy combined with a preference for boys. That human rights abuse has to be made much more visible. The Chinese Government has to take corrective action. And all of us have to do our part to stop this gendercide of young girls, of little girls.

I urge unanimous support for H. Res. 194. It is an excellent resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 194, "Supporting the goals of International Women's Day". As a member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues this resolution is very

important to me and I thank my colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY for introducing this resolution.

H. Res. 194 recognizes and honors the women who have fought and continue to struggle for equality. There are over 3,000,000,000 women in the world, representing 51 percent of the world's population and yet, women remain vastly underrepresented in national and local assemblies, face political and economic obstacles, struggle for basic rights, face the threat of discrimination, and are targets of violence all over the world.

Despite tremendous gains over the past 20 years women still have great strides to make. How is it that women work $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world's working hours, produce half 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? Today, although women have reached great heights, women are still earning less than their male counterparts in the workforce. Two-thirds of illiterate individuals worldwide are women which is quite distressing.

Throughout the world, women are victims of violence and disease. Women have become victims of illegal human trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, domestic servitude, and/or sexual exploitation. We must pledge to stop this violence against women.

Domestic violence causes more deaths and disability among women between the ages of 15 and 44 than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and war. Worldwide, at least 1 out of every 3 women and girls have been beaten in her lifetime and at least 1 out of every 6 women and girls in the United States has been sexually abused in her lifetime. Furthermore, 70 percent of the people living in poverty around the world are women and children. In addition, women account for half of all cases of HIV/AIDS worldwide. These statistics are staggering and show why this resolution must be passed.

The United States House of Representatives must show a commitment to ending discrimination and violence against women and girls, to ensure their safety and welfare, and to pursue policies that guarantee their basic rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this extremely important resolution, H. Res. 194, "Supporting the goals of International Women's Day". Women's rights affect everyone, as we all have a mother.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers.

I might point out the irony that, in a resolution that is commemorating International Women's Day, the sponsor of that resolution is not available to speak on the floor because she is at the White House commemorating International Women's Day. But Ms. SCHAKOWSKY's comments can be added into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 194, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING PLIGHT OF TIBETAN PEOPLE ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DALAI LAMA'S EXILE

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 226) recognizing the plight of the Tibetan people on the 50th anniversary of His Holiness the Dalai Lama being forced into exile and calling for a sustained multilateral effort to bring about a durable and peaceful solution to the Tibet issue.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 226

Whereas for more than 2,000 years the people of Tibet have maintained a distinct cultural identity, language, and religion;

Whereas in 1949, the armed forces of the People's Republic of China took over the eastern areas of the traditional Tibetan homeland, and by March 1951 occupied the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and laid siege to Tibetan government buildings;

Whereas in April 1951, under duress of military occupation, Tibetan government officials signed the Seventeen Point agreement which provided for the preservation of the institution of the Dalai Lama, local self government and continuation of the Tibetan political system, and the autonomy for Tibetans within the People's Republic of China;

Whereas on March 10, 1959, the Tibetan people rose up in Lhasa against Chinese rule in response to Chinese actions to undermine self-government and to rumors that Chinese authorities planned to detain Tenzin Gyatso, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people;

Whereas on March 17, 1959, with the People's Liberation Army commencing an assault on his residence, the Dalai Lama, in fear of his safety and his ability to lead the Tibetan people, fled Lhasa;

Whereas upon his arrival in India, the Dalai Lama declared that he could do more in exile to champion the rights and self-determination of Tibetans than he could inside territory controlled by the armed forces of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas the Dalai Lama was welcomed by the Government and people of India, a testament to the close cultural and religious links between India and Tibet and a mutual admiration for the philosophies of non-violence espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and the 14th Dalai Lama;

Whereas under the leadership of the Dalai Lama, Tibetans overcame adversity and hardship to establish vibrant exile communities in India, the United States, Europe, and elsewhere in order to preserve Tibetan cultural identity, language, and religion;

Whereas the Dalai Lama set out to instill democracy in the exile community, which has led to the Central Tibetan Administration with its democratically elected Executive and Legislative Branches, as well as a Judicial Branch;

Whereas on March 10 every year Tibetans commemorate the circumstances that led to the separation of the Dalai Lama from Tibet and the struggle of Tibetans to preserve

their identity in the face of the assimilationist policies of the People's Republic of China;

Whereas over the years the United States Congress has sent strong and clear messages condemning the Chinese Government's repression of the human rights of Tibetans, including restrictions on the free practice of religion, detention of political prisoners, and the disappearance of Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama;

Whereas in October 2007, Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama received the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his lifetime efforts to promote peace worldwide and a non-violent resolution to the Tibet issue;

Whereas it is the objective of the United States Government, consistent across administrations of different political parties, to promote a substantive dialogue between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama or his representatives in order to secure genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people;

Whereas eight rounds of dialogue between the envoys of the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China have failed to achieve any concrete and substantive results;

Whereas the 2008 United States Department of State's Country Report on Human Rights states that "The [Chinese] government's human rights record in Tibetan areas of China deteriorated severely during the year. Authorities continued to commit serious human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial detention, and house arrest. Official repression of freedoms of speech, religion, association, and movement increased significantly following the outbreak of protests across the Tibetan plateau in the spring. The preservation and development of Tibet's unique religious, cultural, and linguistic heritage continued to be of concern."; and

Whereas the envoys of the Dalai Lama presented in November 2008, at the request of Chinese officials, a Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy for the Tibetan People outlining a plan for autonomy intended to be consistent with the constitution of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Tibetan people for their perseverance in face of hardship and adversity in Tibet and for creating a vibrant and democratic community in exile that sustains the Tibetan identity;

(2) recognizes the Government and people of India for their generosity toward the Tibetan refugee population for the last 50 years;

(3) calls upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to respond to the Dalai Lama's initiatives to find a lasting solution to the Tibetan issue, cease its repression of the Tibetan people, and to lift immediately the harsh policies imposed on Tibetans, including patriotic education campaigns, detention and abuses of those freely expressing political views or relaying news about local conditions, and limitations on travel and communications; and

(4) calls upon the Administration to recommit to a sustained effort consistent with the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, that employs diplomatic, programmatic, and multilateral resources to press the People's Republic of China to respect the Tibetans' identity and the human rights of the Tibetan people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.